

Liv Rickman

From: Mark Bothwick
Sent: 27 March 2023
To:
Subject: Objection to Proposed Sea Defence Work on Bryher - For consideration at the Full Planning Meeting on 28th March 2023

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To whom it may concern,

We are writing to object in the strongest terms to the new proposals to commence sea defence work on Great Par on Bryher during the Summer season this year.

It was disappointing to hear that rather than being a consultation on the proposed works, the "consultation meeting" held on March 24th presented the work as a fait accompli, with the contractor already and accommodation already secured on St Mary's. This appears to have been all arranged without any consultation with island residents.

We are concerned that the proposed work is now due to start in April 2023, rather than September 2023 as was expected. We are particularly concerned of the impact this work will have on holiday lettings in that area. You will be aware that most visitors to the islands book their accommodation upto a year in advance, the suggestion that people with holiday lets simply advise guests of the works prior to any bookings being taken was ridiculous as most bookings have already been taken and deposits charged.

We run Bryher Shop and Post Office and are extremely concerned that this work will impact holiday let bookings for this season. Any reduction in bookings will have a huge impact on our business. We are not yet recovered from the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, this year is already looking very challenging with increased prices and an electricity bill which will cost us over £15,000 extra this year. We simply cant afford to lose anymore business. The loss of this volume of guests will also have a detrimental effect on the income of all the other businesses on Bryher .. the other shops, the cafes, the boatyards and the pub.

At this stage in the year, for many of the people on Bryher with lets in the area in question, but also for those with visitors across the islands, it would be extremely distressing and unprofessional to tell their regular guests that their holidays are going to be severely affected by the noise of 14,000 tons of rock being offloaded into the bay in front of them.. followed by several huge diggers transferring the rock up and down the beach from 8am to 6pm.

We were disappointed to hear that no consideration had been given to the areas of sea around Great Parr where key Bryher Business conduct much of their fishing activity through the summer months. Had someone engaged with the community this could have been highlighted earlier and taken into account.

We are extremely concerned to hear that the path from Great Par round to Popplestones will become a road to transfer stone to Popplestones. How will people access Gweal Hill with such large vehicles moving throughout the day, and how will the path be repaired to ensure that there is no irreparable damage? This path is difficult to navigate when it is wet as it is.

We appreciate that there is a need for this work however we feel that the proposals to start work in April, to run through the entire season until September are unacceptable. The only suitable option is to delay this work until September. This would allow those with holiday lets during that time to warn guests of the potential disruption .It would then allow them time to book an alternative holiday and we could re-let at a reduced rate for our final 6 to 8

weeks. This however does also have the risk of people cancelling holidays on the island which will undoubtedly have a knock on effect on our business, and others as we enter the winter.

We look forward to there being some sensible discussion with island residents and people who know Bryher and understand how critical the holiday season is to the survival of island businesses.

Best wishes

Aaron Haile and Mark Bothwick