

Liv Rickman

From: alex bagnall [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2024 12:21
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Subject: Re Planning Application P/23/095/FUL

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Dear Sir

I am writing to object to the planning proposal for a 75 metre long geo bag to be placed into the bank at Green Bay on Bryher.

The application in itself is puzzling as all the previous sea defence discussions raised great concern for the sea breaching the banks on the West side of Bryher and this proposal is in a rather sheltered, much less vulnerable area, facing Tresco which is not usually exposed to the full force of storms. One does get the feeling that a "token amount of money" has to be spent on Bryher somewhere and this area will raise the fewest objections.

The site suggested does not appear to be at any great risk of overtopping and if it did the water would not affect any homes or businesses and would flow along the path. The only slight risk would be to the boatyard and a wall built further along the path under the hedging and would provide sufficient protection for this at a much lower cost financially and visually. Dismantling over 75 metres of coastline seems a huge over reaction to the sea occasionally overtopping a bank. Once again it seems that the sea defence planners are trying to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

If there is a small budget available for Bryher in this area we have all been suggesting that ditches would provide a much better solution to channelling any oncoming tides. This would also improve drainage for the farmland behind the boatyard.

The area suggested for the geobag by the planners at the foot of Samson Hill is an undisturbed habitat for birds and plants. Oyster Catchers, egrets, plovers and seagulls nest at the foot of the bank and any disturbance to the area will take years to repair.

I presume no survey has been carried out to assess whether the area has any rare plants or is an area of archaeological interest. Any major activity on these islands should be assessed by archaeologists in case valuable areas are being lost. Burn pits and worked flints are often seen in the banks and I would hope someone would be employed in advance to assess the area before work commences. There are many burial sites on and around Samson Hill.

Many day visitors to Bryher like to follow the main coastal path around the island and any major engineering work will inevitably bring noise and disruption to the path with a large barge in the channel, diggers and workmen onsite. Visitors are unlikely to want to circumnavigate the island, this path being the only route, and thus may choose to avoid visiting Bryher during the construction months. This would affect the income of all the small businesses on the island.

Inevitably the geobag will eventually be broken down by the sea leaving several tonnes of non native stones on the beach and ripped geo bag pieces in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Could the planners please look again at this application,

Yours Sincerely

Alex Bagnall

Bank Cottage, Bryher