

Liv Rickman

From: Martin Nicolle
Sent: 31 January 2022
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Cc: Stephen Swabey; 'Fee Nicolle'
Subject: FW: Planning Ref P/23/095/FUL

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Attention Planning

Further to my email, Stephen Swabey, on behalf of the Applicant, emailed Planning on January 16 with a response to some of the comments that had been made. Can I please be allowed to now challenge or question some of the new assertions in this response email?

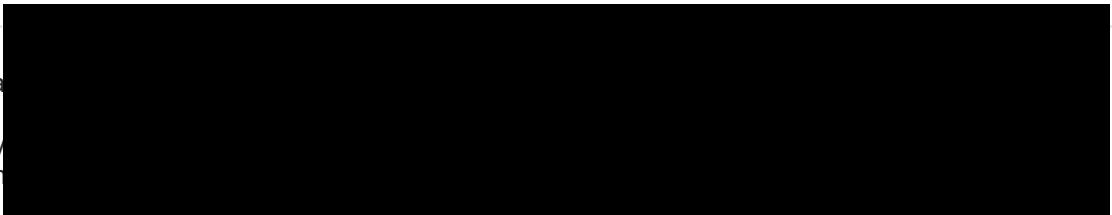
1. The Applicant states, by way of refuting my ditch suggestion, that ditches will not work and “can’t cope readily with large volumes of water arriving all at once, as happens with sea flooding”. We believe there is no evidential basis for the latter assertion, which, in any event, is hardly a scientific observation. We observed and filmed the flooding in 2014 around Bryher. It was NEVER a “sudden large volume of water arriving all at once”. It was overtopping, where larger waves slopped over, during a period of about 2 hours. Our observations here tie in with my experience for many years of seeing similar overtopping in Guernsey, near where I was brought up. The only circumstances where a large volume with arrive all at once is when a bank breaches or in a tsunami!!!! Neither is a factor here.
2. Applicant has not apparently addressed my suggestion that “another even cheaper and less intrusive solution would be to put a slightly raised bank to the South of the boatyard from the higher ground on Samson Hill and across the road to prevent any occasional overtopping in the area where the proposed geobag is sited from travelling to the boatyard. This could then be drained back into the sea.”
3. The applicant labours the point that the flooding in 2014, “stood for many weeks” and “introduced saltwater to the fresh groundwater body”. Is there a shred of evidence to support the latter assertion and even there is such evidence, is there anything to say that, in this area, it was in any way detrimental, especially in the long term?
4. Are we sure that the flooding that stood for many weeks in 2014 was not ground water or overtopping from Stony /Great Par on West side – the Hillside fields etc have, this year, been flooded for months?
4. Surely, any boatyard flooding would no longer stand for weeks with the new drainage leat added after 2014?
5. Does a “0.5 per annum event”, to which the Applicant refers, not mean in layman’s terms, one in 200 years? Do we have any justification spending public money on a defence which has a life span on 20 years (Applicant) for a one in 200-year event?

6. No financial justification has been provided to show that this “investment” or the environmental damage caused by it, is in any way justified. Is this available? Is any vulnerable infrastructure being protected?
7. Applicant (email January 17 to “Stella”) states that Applicant intends to land materials direct from the landing craft to the site in Green Bay and is only retaining the route round the Quay and across Green Bay as a “just in case”. Has any consideration been given to where materials can be landed in Green Bay, given that this is a main anchorage in summer and the boatyard has moorings all along the South side of the Bay? Given the importance of features on Green Bay (field boundaries etc) has a proper assessment been done of damage that will be caused by using the Quay route?
8. What fill materials are to be used and are we certain adequate local material will be available to cover the proposed structure without digging from the beach?

Regards

Martin and Fiona Nicolle

From: Martin Nicolle
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2011
To: 'planning@scilly.gov.uk'
Cc: 'Stephen Swabey'
Subject: FW: Planning application



Green Bay, Bryher

75m Geobag

We wish to object to the above application.

Councillors have a duty to protect our beautiful natural coastline, unless there are cogent arguments that any proposed change to this coastline is entirely necessary to preserve that coastline or sustainably protect infrastructure or property. In the proposals put forward for Bryher, all of which, with the exception of this one, have been quietly dropped, no sound evidenced arguments were, we believe, put forward to justify the hard defences proposed, rather

than look at softer alternatives such as draining any flooding efficiently or simply repairing and reinforcing the existing banks.

Again, it appears with this application, that there has been no consideration of using softer options, rather than simply going along with the 'experts' and raising the coastline with what potentially could become an unsightly 'hard' (geobag is still hard) engineered defence.

In simple terms, there are surely alternatives dealing with any water that occasionally overtops, rather than major works seeking to prevent it coming in. In this case, putting an additional simple drainage ditch to catch and return any overtopping to the sea along this stretch might seem a far less intrusive option? Another even cheaper and less intrusive solution would be to put a slightly raised bank to the South of the boatyard from the higher ground on Samson Hill and across the road to prevent any occasional overtopping in the area where the proposed geobag is sited from traveling to the boatyard. This could then be drained back into the sea.

It has been suggested that the boatyard at Green Bay will benefit but this to us seems suspect, because the boatyard is anyway in a low-lying location where flooding could occur over the bank anywhere along Green Bay or from the West at Great Porth (South) or Stony Porth. It will also be remembered that an additional leat was put in to drain the boatyard after the 2014 storms (concrete drain-pipe with stainless, one-way flap on beach).

Those living or with businesses closest to the proposed works should though have a major say. It would appear that there may have been little involvement from these parties?

We also question the lifespan of this geobag and what will happen to it when it degrades – more plastic waste in the sea?

I hope Councillors will not support unless they have before them the evidence – not just the speak of so-called experts.

Regards

Martin and Fiona Nicolle

Hanjague Bryher

TR23 0PR