

Friends of Penzance Harbour

c/o 17 Jack Lane, Newlyn, Penzance
Cornwall, TR18 5HZ

An Open Letter to
Mrs Doris Ansari
Chair of Cornwall County Council, and
Mrs Joan Tanner
Chair of Penwith District Council

19th February 2009

Dear Councillor,

Route Partnership management team requires political guidance

As the chair of an elected Council that is a partner in the Route Partnership you have a special responsibility to ensure that the activities of the Route Partnership's management team at County Hall are consistent with the wishes of local people.

Public exhibitions held by the Route Partnership in September 2008 and January 2009 have given the public the opportunity to study in detail and at length what is being proposed by the Route Partnership for Penzance harbour. Feedback from those exhibitions and other straw polls show that an overwhelming majority of the public are against the plans¹. Despite this, Tim Wood, Project Director for the Route Partnership, has said that they will be pressing ahead with plans to lodge a planning application for their harbour redevelopment scheme later in February².

It is wasting taxpayer's money and local authority time to prepare and process a planning application for a project that is opposed by the vast majority of the public. Opposition to the scheme is not based solely on matters that can be considered as part of the planning application process and these other issues need to be resolved before any planning application is made.

Given the extent of public opposition and the Project Director's apparent willingness to proceed regardless, it is essential that your Council intervenes and provides the project management team with political guidance. We hope you can provide leadership at this important moment, and would be interested to hear your plans in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

John Maggs
Friends of Penzance Harbour
www.friendsofpzharbour.org

¹ The feedback for the September exhibition showed 85-90% against, and for the January exhibition around 65% against. An exit poll conducted at the January exhibition by the Friends of Penzance Harbour showed more than 85% against. On February 9th Penzance Town Council voted unanimously to object to the Route Partnership's proposals; 100% opposition on the only occasion that the plans have been voted on by a democratically elected body.

² Reported in the *Cornishman*, 12/2/09 page 4.