

The Seahorse Trust



Reg. charity no. 1086027

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WORKING IN
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23 July 2012

TORBAY THIRD HARBOUR AND FAST FERRY

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to voice our opposition to the so called sustainable fast ferry service, proposed for Torbay and against the third Harbour being located at Torquay. I formally request our objections are read out at the Harbour committee meeting on the 23rd of July at which I will be attending although I understand I am, not allowed to speak.

The fast ferry service cannot be considered sustainable due to the carbon emissions, the infrastructure (and carbon footprint) needed to transport people to use it and the devastation that running a high speed ferry service in shallow water would bring due to sediment disturbance.

Not only would the service run at a loss due to its limited usage due to weather and lack of people, it would also put existing ferry services out of work because it will be subsidised by a large national organisation until the opposition is removed, once this happens the prices are bound to go up.

We would also like to voice our opposition to the proposed third harbour being placed at Torquay, although we 100% support its being built in Brixham.

As the councils own scoping documents says it has so many reasons why it should not be built in Torquay and Brixham should be the favourable location.

- Torquay has a very limited road infrastructure so huge investment would be needed to make an extension in Torquay be feasible.
- In the document it states that the people of Torbay will be in debt to the tune of £1 million within a year, hardly feasible in these financial times, how will this be paid, through the rates I suppose!!
- The document clearly states the employment figures used are too high and the financial benefits of the employment are too high, so these cannot be trusted.
- Brixham is the most favourable site because the northern arm will not go over protected habitats and the arm will provide a wide variety of new habitats for species.
- On the existing breakwater there is already a deep water berth that was used for the oil tankers that would be very suitable for cruise ships (if this is the real reason for a 500 berth marina!!!)
- The seahorses and the seagrass are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and cannot just be caught up and relocated as stated in the document. Seagrass grows where it does for various reasons, such as seabed topography, tidal flows and clarity of water. By trying to move them all of this would have to be taken into account and it has never been done successfully anywhere in the world.

This is just a short statement of objections and there are so many reasons why the ferry should not take place and why the harbour should be located at Brixham.

Should this go further then we will be listing all our full objections at every opportunity and at any enquiry set up and so we request that the ferry is opposed and the harbour development takes place in Brixham.

Neil Garrick-Maidment FBNA
Executive director

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