

ISLES OF SCILLY LINK

PENZANCE & ST MARY'S HARBOURS IMPROVEMENTS

www.ioslinkharbours.co.uk

Forthcoming exhibitions of the planning application proposals



Tuesday 30th September

10:30-19:30 hours
St John's Hall, Penzance

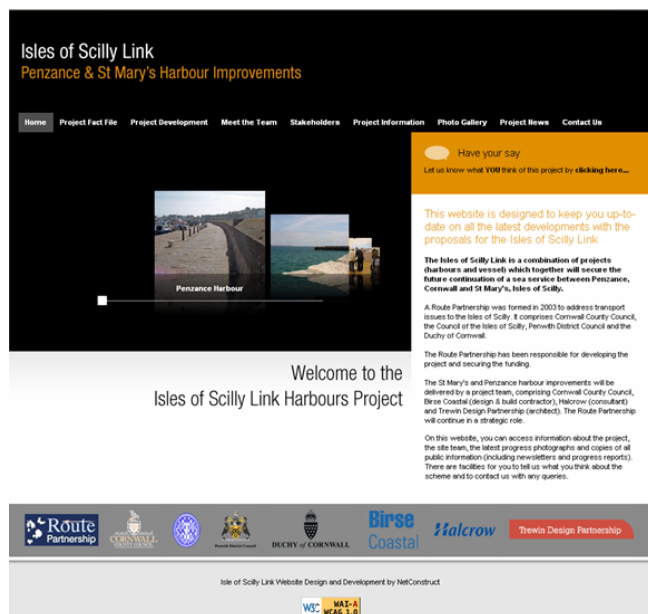
Thursday 2nd October

9.00-19:30 hours
The Old Wesleyan Chapel, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly

Photomontages, computer animations and details of the proposals will be available to view at these exhibitions. Representatives from the Route Partnership and the project team will be available to answer your questions on the proposals before they are submitted for Planning approval.

Project website

Log on to www.ioslinkharbours.co.uk, to access the latest project information.



Key milestones and update

- Penzance Harbour Revision Order Consent : Oct 2008 – *anticipated*
- Detailed Planning Applications: Oct 2008 – *planned*
- Construction on site: Apr 2009 to Dec 2010 - *planned*

If you would like this information in any other format or wish to discuss the proposals, contact the project team public relations manager, (t) 07976 539053, (e) caroline.mottram@birse.co.uk or visit the project website at www.ioslinkharbours.co.uk and follow the links to 'contact us'

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Welcome To The Second Project Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to keep the local communities of Penwith and the Isles of Scilly, informed of progress on the development of proposals to improve the harbours of Penzance, Cornwall and St Mary's, Isles of Scilly.

Project development ... latest news and progress

Site Investigations – These commenced in July 2008 and to date have included hand digging of the foreshore and a diving survey at St Mary's Harbour, coring of the seabed at Penzance Harbour and sonar surveys at both locations. Trial pits and boreholes will be undertaken within the existing quay at Penzance. These tests are providing information on the sea bed levels and composition and condition of the existing structure and are feeding into the design of the new quays.

Penzance Harbour



St Mary's Harbour



Quay Design Works – Wave modelling has been carried out to determine the height of the new sea walls and to test the quay designs with respect to overtopping by the sea. The rock revetment around the Penzance quay has been confirmed using the wave model.

Passenger and Freight Facilities: Penzance – We have been consulting with the Planning and heritage officers at Penwith District Council about the building design and the layout of the passenger and freight areas to develop a solution that is sympathetic to the Listed structures. We have also undertaken an historic assessment of the Penzance harbour to support the Planning application.

Passenger and Freight Facilities: St Mary's - Modifications to the existing Harbourside Hotel building are proposed to provide enhanced passenger facilities. We are consulting with the Council of the Isles of Scilly Planning department, Duchy of Cornwall and other relevant bodies to modify the freight building proposals previously submitted by the Duchy of Cornwall in August 2007. There are currently proposals to reduce the building size whilst ensuring it provides all the facilities the islanders require in a package acceptable to all.

Environment - Discussions are underway with Natural England, RSPB and others to develop the mitigation measures identified within the Environmental Statements for the Harbour Revision Orders. This includes mapping of seagrasses and biomonitoring of edible shellfish species in Penzance, water and sediment quality monitoring in St. Mary's and further over-wintering bird surveys.

A Route Partnership was formed in 2003 to address transport issues to the Isles of Scilly and comprises Cornwall County Council, the Council of the Isles of Scilly, Penwith District Council and the Duchy of Cornwall

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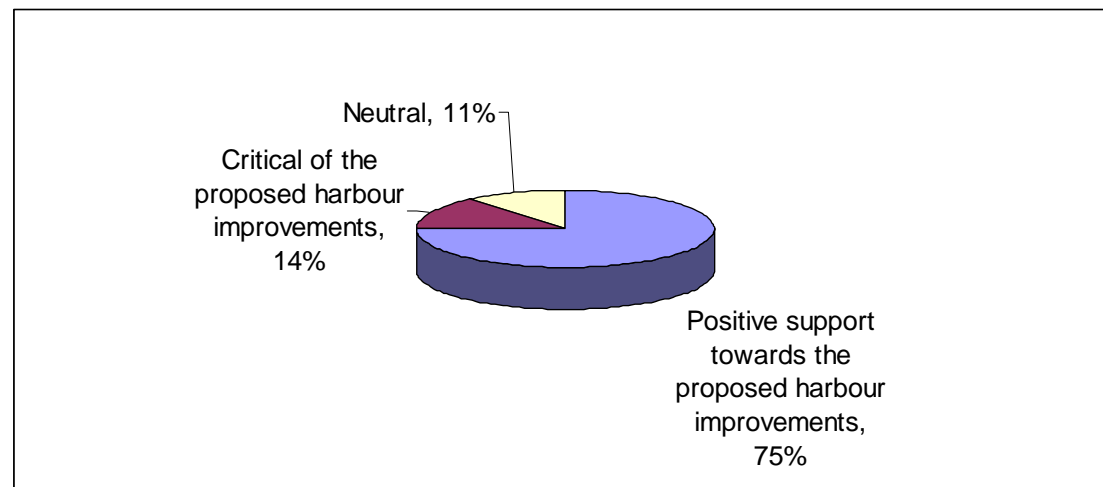
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Public consultations – your feedback

Thank you to everyone who visited the public consultation events, talked to the team and filled in a questionnaire. We received many comments, both supportive and critical of the proposals, but overall there was strong support from the public.

A total of 341 visitors attended the events

228 visitors to the St Mary's exhibition and 113 visitors at Penzance. You asked us lots of specific questions via the feedback forms about facilities & amenities, the design, the new vessel, storage facilities, materials, car parking & access and other general issues



Some of your positive comments:

'**excellent**, area badly needs improvement' 'will improve passenger **safety**' 'long overdue' '**good design** to separate passengers / freight' '**very valuable** to Penzance and businesses' '**essential** to encourage further tourism through the area' 'a good start to **modernising** the whole harbour area' 'getting to and from islands much **improved** in winter' 'freight storage facilities **much needed** on St Mary's'

Some of your concerns:

Concerns were raised in relation to conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, the visual impact of the proposals, maintaining public access to the quays and the reliability of a single vessel.

Frequently asked questions:

1. How do the proposals fit in with the Penzance Harbour Users Association (PHUA) proposals?

The PHUA are promoting a project to enable large ships to dock at Penzance and provide for a range of marine related leisure pursuits. The viability of the project has not been proven nor any funding secured. Our project is a transport scheme to sustain the community of the Isles of Scilly and the economy of the Scillies and West Cornwall and has been granted conditional funding by the Department for Transport. The PHUA would not be eligible to receive this funding. However the Isles of Scilly Link proposals do not preclude the PHUA aspirations from delivery in the future.

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2. How do the proposals address congestion on the quays?

Pedestrians and vehicles will be segregated, freight storages facilities will allow goods to be delivered and collected over a longer period of time reducing peak vehicle flows experienced now.

3. What will happen to the cenotaph area at Penzance?

The proposals for Penzance Harbour have a limited impact on the area adjacent to the Jubilee Pool that is used on Remembrance Sunday to gather by the Cenotaph. The new proposed passenger building includes an entrance canopy that extends over part of this area, but this will not restrict access and may provide some welcome shelter should the sun not be out. During the construction phase we will work carefully to avoid disruption to this area.

4. Can you change the existing quay surface in St Mary's?

The quay is finished with granite setts (cobble) and forms an important part of the historic fabric of this quay. Whilst the proposals do not extend to changing the existing surfacing of the quay between Hugh Town and Rat Island, vehicular traffic will be removed from this area and the full width of the existing quay will be available for pedestrian use.

5. What will happen to the existing space at Tregarthens used by boatmen and tradesmen for parking?

A small part of this area will be required for vehicular access to the quay but the majority of the area is unaffected by the project.

6. How will this solve the problem of the 'pinch point' at the Mermaid Inn?

The purpose of the new vehicular access to the quay is to segregate the traffic and pedestrians on the quay. We are currently looking closely at overall pedestrian movements and provisions for safe access at both harbours.

7. How will the construction impact on my boat moored in the harbour?

The majority of the works are on the seaward side of the quays and away from moored vessels. Birse Coastal will plan the works to minimise inconvenience to harbour users.

8. Will a combined freight and passenger vessel leave the islands vulnerable?

The new vessel will spend planned maintenance periods in dock and on these occasions, goods will be stockpiled in advance or alternative transport provided by the operator. The vessel operator will have to address this issue as a condition of their contract. Unplanned maintenance is unlikely on a new vessel.

9. Why isn't the Council pushing for a UK shipbuilder?

The tender process for the vessel has followed European procurement legislation. No UK shipyard has expressed an interest in the project.

Please visit our project website <http://www.ioslinkharbours.co.uk> for more feedback from the July consultations.

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