

ANDREW GEORGE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED ON  
09 AUG 2010  
PRIVATE OFFICE

PORTS

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DR

6<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Our ref:10/16.7/ag/jr

RE: [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have received from my constituent [REDACTED] regarding the Department of Transport spending review and the proposed development at Penzance harbour, and which I believe is self-explanatory.

I look forward to receiving your comments and advice in due course.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*Items with this correspondence may contain details relating to identifiable individuals and, where this is the case, they should be treated as confidential under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act*

PLEASE REPLY TO: Andrew George MP, Trewella, 18 Mennaye Road, Penzance, TR18 4NG  
Tel: 01736 360020 Fax: 01736 332866 - www.andrewgeorge.org.uk

5 AUG 2010



4 August 2010

Dear Norman Baker MP,

*and Andrew George MP*

As you are the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State I understand that you are responsible for identifying cuts within the Department for Transport budget. I am writing to register my objection to Cornwall Council's Option A plans for my home town of Penzance, Cornwall.

Recently the South Pier that is in question had its heritage status upgraded by English Heritage and the government's suspension of funding for the Isles of Scilly Link project while it conducts an expenditure review both enhance the case against Cornwall Council's Option A plan.

Penzance is a coastal town lucky enough to have a pier of great historic and architectural interest. The proposed scheme will lumber the town with an industrial estate style development right in the middle of Penzance's beautiful seafront. With all the attendant traffic of heavy lorries. Penzance is a town in need of some genuinely joined up planning and development but this scheme will mean the long held vision of to create a pedestrian friendly seafront linked to our town centre will remain just that. An unreachable vision, held at bay by the roar of articulated lorries and forklift trucks.

I ask that you call a halt to the scheme and that the government insists that Cornwall Council consider the real, genuine and achievable alternatives that are cheaper and less destructive to the fabric of our town, the local community's wellbeing and pave the way to a coherent and integrated plan for the town that will benefit everyone.

The Isles of Scilly Link scheme will benefit from a delay to its funding. The right solution has not yet been found and in our changing situation a proper review must be undertaken and Cornwall Council not be allowed to steamroller the Option A plan through.

Value for money must surely be a top priority in these austere times. Graeme Hicks, the councillor responsible for Option A has said on record that he was not concerned about the scheme's capital cost as that was being covered by grant funding.

The Option A scheme involves the burying of the most historically important parts of the pier. Given the recent upgrade to the South Pier's heritage status this must not be allowed to happen.

A fast ferry service should be seriously considered as a means of modernising the sealink and maintaining the lifeline service to the Isles of Scilly. Particularly in the light of the recent developments the point to the closure of the helicopter service from Penzance to the Islands.

Cornwall Council recently commissioned a public consultation on the future development of Penzance, excluding the harbour development. This public consultation was undertaken by AECOM, their reports have highlighted the economic importance of a pedestrian friendly harbour area and a seafront that is well connected by pedestrian links to the town's centre. The Penwith Local Plan also focussed on these issues. This achievable vision for a vibrant economic regeneration of Penzance is seriously undermined by the Option A harbour plan as currently set by Cornwall Council.

The Isles of Scilly Steamship Company, the private operator of the sea link for the last 90 years have confirmed time and again that they will continue to operate the service with or without public funding. The sea link is not in any danger.

I am in full support of the link but against the Option A scheme. A common sentiment in the town.

Viable alternatives to Option A have been developed by local community and business interests who invested time, effort and money to bring them to the public debate out of a desire to create a future of economic growth and community wellbeing for Penzance

The promised economic benefits of the Option A scheme are not backed by any solid evidence. It seems highly likely that the town's future as a tourist destination will be put in jeopardy by an industrial development with all its lorries being put in the middle of a historic seafront such as Penzance's.

No thorough environmental consideration has been made for the project. Consents under the Food and Environment Protection Act should be refused.

The Option A scheme is currently being investigated by the District Auditor and the European Parliament's Petitions Committee has the issue on its agenda.

I ask that the funding for this scheme be withdrawn until such a time as the town of Penzance has a viable plan that will enhance the lives of the communities on the mainland and on the Isles of Scilly.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]