

Comment on Penzance Harbour

20.08.2010 Commenting on the news that the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities, Rt. Hon Eric Pickles MP, has decided not to 'call-in' Cornwall Council's application for Listed Building Consent for Penzance Harbour, local MP, Andrew George, said:

"Whether the scheme goes forward as currently envisaged, or in some other form, it is most important that the future of the ferry link is reinforced, improved and developed; for both passenger and freight handling.

"It is, perhaps, telling that those who believe that the only alternative is to run a fantasy ferry from Falmouth also happen to be the main proponents of what the Secretary of State has now said he will not call-in for review.

"Option A' – as it is known – is the most expensive, is the most damaging to Penzance's heritage and does the most to undermine the economic regeneration of the Harbour area.

"During the seven years of this project the Steamship Company has strengthened its commercial position and, I suspect, would continue to run a ferry service between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly whatever happens to this scheme.

"It is a pity that those who have sought to achieve their ends through bullying and intimidation are, perhaps, unintentionally bolstered by the Secretary of State's decision.

"English Heritage has come out of this badly. They have managed to convey a message to any developer who might harm our local heritage that English Heritage's protestations can be largely ignored. English Heritage has shown that it will back down when put under ultimate pressure. This undermines its standing and gives rise, no doubt, to thoughts that Cornwall might be better off protecting its own heritage in its own way."