

Dear Cornishman,

I live on St Mary's and run a flower farm and although it's a decision for you on the mainland to make, I'd like you to know that I'm very much in favour of Option A.

Forgive me for saying but it does seem blindingly obvious to me that the best place for a freight depot and a passenger terminal is as close as possible to the ferry docking point.

I just cannot see how an out-of-town depot i.e. Option C can compete. My incoming goods will have to be handled twice, maybe thrice. They may take longer to get here and there's an extra location where they could get lost too.

When my flowers are sent away, will they have to be delivered to the out-of-town depot and be re-loaded again at more expense? If I telephone a shop in Penzance and order, for instance, a television will it have to go to the depot first and if I return it, will it have to go back via the depot?

The Trinity Building is listed. Can its lovely interior be properly adapted into a passenger terminal and are the Elder Brethren ready to sell at a sensible price anyway ?

For me, the building is the wrong side of the road too. Will passengers be expected to drop their luggage in the building? If so how will it be handled? Will we see fork lift trucks whizzing backwards and forwards? I can picture passengers, with or without baggage, fighting their way between trucks and traffic to get across the road on a blind corner. Frankly, I would rather we carried on as we are than see Option C foisted on us or holidaymakers bound for Scilly or West Cornwall.

Falmouth may conceivably be viable freight-wise. But I feel it could easily spell the end of the day-tripper market because once regular passengers are confronted with a voyage round the Lizard I suspect they may either switch to flying or swan off to a different destination.

British International's position in Penzance seems to be anything but secure at the moment. If proximity to the sea link disappears for transfers when weather is a problem, then the company could again be tempted to relocate, causing further problems for its home town.

As you will know, our harbour plans on Scilly went through some time ago and our quay is probably going to look less quaint than it does now. But it should be much more functional. It is the best way forward for me and more importantly for the islands' tourism.

Finally, all this bizarre stuff from Andrew George about people over here putting pressure on Option A objectors is absolute rubbish. At one of his public meetings I attended in our Council Chamber there was a perfectly orderly and rational debate on the options. Mr George asked for a show of hands at the end: approximately 30 or so backed Option A , two or three others simply wanted 'the best solution for the islands' and just a single arm was raised in support of Option C.

There was no lynch mob that night or since. We're actually quite a friendly bunch, doing our best to stay as calm and dignified as we can while our future remains in the hands of others.

Kind Regards

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