

Email from Alan Law dated 23rd April cc Colin Gillah, Emma Fuller

Brian,

I returned a call from Nick Bailey on this topic, but only got his voice mail.

Just in case he and I don't catch up tomorrow as I suggested, here is a quick status of the situation as I see it following discussions with the case Officer.

Basically she is saying that there is not enough information supplied (she gives the details of what is required in her letter) in order to determine the application. As she believes the info requested cannot be supplied in time, she is recommending your best course of action is to withdraw the application. This would be in your own best interests as otherwise she will have to issue a formal refusal notice.

Similarly I am not able to call this in to committee as there is insufficient information available to help determine the application. Importantly we would not have reports (other than requests for more information) from the likes of Highways, Tree officers and ecology officers etc.

I am broadly supportive in principle to further enhancement of the park, subject of course to seeing final detail.

As you are no doubt aware this is a very sensitive site and it is therefore in everyone's best interests that the proper processes are followed. As such I can best advise that you follow the officer's recommendation and then engage in detailed pre-application discussions with the planners in order to help guide you as you develop your plans. Then you can submit a new application with the benefit of these discussions behind you.

I'd probably then be happy to call that one to committee given the local interest, but again I'd need to see the final detail before definitely committing to that action.

Alternatively, as is your right, you can choose not to withdraw the current application, but it seems likely from the officer comments that in these circumstances it will be refused. Then you can of course appeal that decision to the Secretary of State / Planning Inspectorate and hope it will be over turned.

But I would have thought the Inspector too will want to consider more information related to Access numbers/Highways, Trees, Ecology, AONB etc.. anyhow.

Happy to help advise further and to help to arrange relevant meetings with the planners if required.

Best regards,

Alan

Clr Alan Law
Member for Basildon Ward
Executive Member Finance & Economic Development
West Berkshire Council

From: Brian W Smith [mailto:brian.smith@consuta.org.uk]
Sent: Mon 22/04/2013 14:57
To: Edward Lines; Alan Law
Cc: Colin Gillah
Subject: Re: Thames Heritage Boat Museum - Beale Park

Dear Mr. Law,

Thank you for a copy of your note to Edward Lines, who as you see is away for a few days.

I am a Trustee of the Consuta Trust who are sponsoring this application for a Thames Heritage Boat Museum at Beale Park. The application has been submitted in the name of Beale Park.

This application is only for Outline Permission at this stage because of the potentially high costs for a full application, and is presently being funded by the Consuta Trust which is a small charity.

For future project funding we have seen the HLF who have said that full project funding would be possible, we estimate around £1.3m at this stage, but the HLF have pointed out that competition for funds is strong so an application without planning permission would be seen as a risk.

Up to date there is quite a lot of support from local clubs, boating organisations, the local parish council and many individuals including Richard Benyon MP. We think that this application really should be taken to the planning committee rather being rejected at this interim stage, see the email 17th April from the case officer Emma Fuller which seemed very harsh.

Basically we would like the opportunity of explaining what we consider a rather exiting project to the planning committee.

So we are requesting that this application be referred to the planning committee for a decision.

Kind Regards,
Brian Smith

Copied to Colin Gillah - agent for this application