

Email from Alan Law dated 26<sup>th</sup> April cc to Edward Lines, Emma Fuller, David Pearson

Brian, Edward,

I have further reviewed the case and the procedures involved this afternoon with a senior Planning Manager. As a result I have to stand by my comments which I sent you in my E mail of Tuesday 23rd.

Namely, irrespective of the call-in timescale which I always understood was May 8th, there is simply not enough information available to judge this application, either by the officers or by committee.

As I have said in my earlier e mail and explained to Nick Bailey, I am supportive in principle to further enhancement of the park. With such a sensitive site within a very sensitive area, it is very important that proper process and information is supplied.

I'd also like to reinforce the officer's suggestion that you should seriously consider withdrawing the application. In making that suggestion the case officer is trying to be helpful as many applicants do not like to have a "refusal" for whatever reason.

She is strongly suggesting you also enter into pre-application discussions prior to resubmitting. I also strongly advise you do this as well, as that will help inform and build a stronger application.

I can appreciate your frustrations with all this, but I believe the recommendations above are made for your own best interests.

Best wishes,

Alan,

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**From:** Brian W Smith [mailto:brian.smith@consuta.org.uk]

**Sent:** 26 April 2013 13:18

**To:** Alan Law

**Cc:** Edward Lines

**Subject:** Thames heritage Boat Museum at Beale Park - planning application ref 13/00575/OUT

Dear Mr. Law,

Sorry to trouble you but you will remember that Edward Lines spoke to you about this application about a week ago asking that if it could be called to committee. I think at that time we had been informed that the time limit for this had expired, however you will have seen in an email from Emma Fuller today stating that this option is still open until 8th May.

I've just spoken to Edward and he suggests that I contact you and see if you would be prepared to make a request for calling the application to committee. We can provide more detail about the project, we have an excellent scale model showing how the museum would fit into the site at BP. If you would like to know more details or see the model, Edward has said he would make the arrangements.

There is a lot of interest in the application proposal as can be seen from the response letters shown on the planning web portal. All letters presently show support for the application, some are from individuals but others are representing the views of various clubs showing local and national interest. Note that National Historic Ships fully support the application; they are the marine

equivalent of English Heritage. Natural England have stated that they do not believe that this development is likely to impact on the purposes of designation of North Wessex Downs AONB. The detail requests from the council's own department Trees and Ecology for more information are directed at reserved matters which will be addressed by an Approval of Reserved Matters application. All we wish to establish is that in principle it would be possible to locate this proposed museum at Beale Park

Our application is for outline permission only at this stage, but could be the catalyst for substantial HLF funding including developing the detail design for a full application; we have already met the HLF and they have indicated that the project would be open to an HLF funding grant. The HLF did however say that as competition for funding was high, that the lack of any type of planning approval would be seen as a risk.

We made an outline application because West Berks Guidance notes states "What Type of Application? - Outline Application: If you wish to know only whether a development would be acceptable in principle. More detailed matters can be reserved for subsequent approval."

We believe that there is great potential for creating a splendid Thames Heritage Boat museum open to all visitors at Beale Park, the public will be to find out more about local river history and more about how boating developed on the Thames during the 19th century. We already have three historically important Thames boats:- Consuta (1898 built locally by Saunders) and Cygnet (1870 built by Thornycroft); and the National Maritime Museum ex Thames Conservancy inspection launch Donola (1894) could be provided on loan as a static exhibit. This museum will help with Beale Park's long term future.

We believe that this application is of significant public interest and because of this should be determined by the planning committee and not as a delegated decision, so are asking if you could make this request.

I would be grateful if you could let me know your thoughts. Please contact myself or Edward if you need any additional information; Edward's phone is 01491 671893

Brian W. Smith  
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