

Teignmouth Town Council

T. Higgs
Town Clerk



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Via e-mail
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16th July 2019

To whom it may concern

Network Rail proposed Resilience Work Parsons Tunnel to Teignmouth

Firstly, apologies for the slight delay in this letter being sent to you.

Teignmouth Town Council fully appreciates and understands the pressures that you are under to deliver a project that meets as many of the demands as being put upon you economically and socially. In the words of one of my Councillors 'something must be done'. The railway is the lifeblood of not only this area but the Southwest as a region. My Council thanks you for listening to the people as you have done so far and hope that you continue to take on board all the issues raised by local people.

However, my Council has a few concerns that they wish to have feedback to you as part of this round of the consultation process.

Amenity Beaches and Leisure

In the 1950's, an economic study was commissioned for Teignmouth in which the railway line from Exeter to Teignmouth was likened to a stretch of railway that follows the coast in the Italian Riviera. Such a description was very powerful as well as beautiful. So, there are real fears that our beaches and local area will be so dramatically changed by the proposed design. We are so very dependent on tourism; tourism having been and continues to be the main economic driver since the installation of the railway line.

Furthermore, the current proposals do not appear to have addressed the loss of beach nor do the proposals appear to have investigated what else can be done using the beach as an element of the design to protect the railway line. There must be example of such works for which you could possibly explore. My Council is insistent that the risk of any loss of beach must be mitigated against and sustainability of the beach and beaches must be guaranteed. For example; what intentions do you have to re-charge the beaches ?

The Town Council really welcomes as proposed enhanced leisure access – walking and cycling. However, there are concerns that conflicts could arise between users and that the potential for conflict between users is considered.

Aesthetics

The descriptions 'grey, concrete bunker, lacking in imagination, not reflective of the area' have all been used. The Town Council asks you to consider the environment being worked in and robustly ask you to consider marrying up design with the area. Not obtrusive and sympathetic to the area as per the attached picture.

History

Sprey Point. Much loved iconic landmark dating back to first half the nineteenth century. You know that you have arrived in Teignmouth or that you're finally at home again once you pass Sprey Point and see the famous white lettering. Is there anything that can be done to incorporate Sprey Point into the design. This landmark is truly part of Teignmouth's heritage.

Church Rocks shipwreck. No doubt you will be aware of the national importance of this shipwreck and we ask that any works should avoid this wreck site.

Access

One Councillor expressed their fears that users of the seawall would not have access to enough access/egress points to be safe. They also commented on that there must be enough (and appropriate lifesaving equipment on the wall should an incident happen).

Natural Environment

Teignmouth Town Council advocates the creation of new habitats on the landward side of the seawall plus asks that Network Rail mitigates risk to coastal (sea) habitats during any works.

Lastly, thank you for the opportunities that you are giving to people to have their say and please listen to our residents who are so very passionate about their town. The Council knows that change is inevitable, and your task is unenviable. Nevertheless, there are real opportunities to be had for the betterment of the sustainability of the railway line and the people of Teignmouth.

Yours faithfully



Tracey Higgs
Town Clerk