

From: [REDACTED]
To: LakeLothing@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Deadline 8 Submission - Written summary of oral submission at Issue Specific Hearing 1st April 2019
Date: 02 April 2019 14:51:32

Dear PINS Team,

Please see below my Deadline 8 Submission - Written summary of oral submission at Issue Specific Hearing 1st April 2019 on behalf of Lowestoft Cruising Club (LCC).

1. A video was shown of a ship entering port and passing through the bascule bridge. ABP's objective was to show the need, for safety reasons, to open the bascule bridge just before the ship entered the port, and the difficulties of manoeuvring a large ship through the bascule bridge and turning onto the silo quay.

I added a short explanation of a recreational vessel entering port, having received VHF permission and ensuring that the port entry lights were appropriate. Then proceeding with permission to the bridge channel, if a scheduled bridge opening was imminent. Otherwise, going into the Trawl Dock and mooring on the existing waiting pontoon. While moored a listening watch on VHF is kept, waiting to be called into the bridge channel just prior to a scheduled bridge opening, so minimising the transit time through the bridge. Where there were a number of vessels waiting for a bridge opening they would be asked to form a flotilla to minimise transit time. For safety reasons recreational vessels would not have been given permission to accompany the large ship in the video through the bridge. Recreational vessels are, however, given permission to transit the bridge together with crew transfer vessels (CTVs).

I emphasised the need for a waiting pontoon between the old and new bridges, should there be a delay in opening either of the bridges sequentially.

2. At the end of the Hearing "..... closure to navigation during bridge construction" was on the agenda. When neither ABP or SCC offered to speak, I spoke on behalf of the 400 berth holders west of the proposed new bridge. I expressed dismay that only LCC was present at the Examination. I pointed out that the Inspectors had been made well aware of LCC's concerns about a closure to navigation. I suggested the Inspectors should not assume that only LCC are concerned about the adverse impact of a possible closure of up to three weeks in the summer. The Inspectors were made aware of the number of small businesses, LCC, and the ABP Haven Marina at the west end during their site visit on 12 February 2019. I pointed out that the smaller businesses neither had the time, resources, or in most cases, the ability to read 430+ documents and contribute to the Examination. The second Inspector accepted the point I made, and said that thanks to the annotated Google Earth photo I supplied for the site visit they were well aware of the extent of the businesses and the 400 berths west of the new bridge.

Yours faithfully,

Dr David B Bennett (on behalf of Lowestoft Cruising Club)

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