

Letter: Cllr John Bennett

POORLY thought-out harbour development? Damage to a historic conservation area? Major traffic problems? Opposition from the public? Strong support from Cornwall Council officers and the SWRDA against all advice? Penzance Harbour? No, Hayle Harbour!

Hayle faces the same issues that the Friends of Penzance Harbour faced, and Hayle's harbour development (and supermarket) will be forced through, just as was attempted in Penzance.

ING has spent millions of pounds on consultants and now needs to claw back its investment in any way it can. In five or 10 years, ING will be gone. In 20 or 30 years, the people of

Hayle will still be living with whatever ING leaves behind. We had to give up protected greenfield sites in the name of 'viability'. Now we must have a supermarket on South Quay and fill in part of the historic quay, also for viability. Is this our promised 'landmark building'?

Reluctantly

ING will claim to have gone through the consultation process, but people were consulted on a very different proposal before outline planning permission was reluctantly granted. Hayle is also in a World Heritage Site, and the WHS advisors (ICOMOS) were scathing about ING's plans.

It is time to consider taking over the harbour for the benefit of local people. We then can focus on jobs and community buildings, not housing in the wrong place with its attendant, intractable traffic problems. Why don't we form a charitable trust to run and develop the harbour, with help from the EU and the Government? Run by and for local people, this would enable us to achieve a harbour regeneration that Hayle could be proud of. We need to look at alternatives to inappropriate overdevelopment before it's too late.

Time for "Friends of Hayle Harbour"?

JOHN BENNETT
Hayle Town Council