

Monday 5 Nov 2013 rang the Town Hall to request permission to view a disc that contained information relating to plans for developing the Tyne Slipways.

Lyn Brennan, a planning officer arranged for me to attend on Wed 06 Nov at 1430.

During my attendance on Wed there was short delay while a place containing a computer was secured. Lyn then sat with me while I attempted to peruse the disc. It quickly became apparent that my task was to be time consuming as the disc contained many folders each of which contained a number of files. All of these having a title consisting of a mixture of letters and numbers. The planning officer was unable to supply any information to facilitate the search.

I elected to view a random selection and found they were scanned images of microfiches that had been used to record letters and pictures of the proposed Slipway development in 1996. These letters included protests from individuals who lived in the area and were not in favour of the development.

Most of the photos were of poor quality and were taken by the Slipway developers to show that the work to be carried out would not greatly effect the appearance of the area. The photos were from various angles and places around the Slipway including some from Greens Place. An image of the proposed new Slipway covering was superimposed on some of the photos.

After about an hour and realising that no detailed drawings were on the disc the planning officer left the room and came back with a second disc that was formatted in a similar manner to the first disc. It again contained scanned images of letters and photos but after a series of random selections was shown to have detailed drawings of the proposed Slipway cover.

Among the correspondence was;

- 1 A letter of objection dated 22 Apr 1996 from the Councils Head of Environmental Services to the proposed Slipway development.
- 2 The objection from the Environmental Services may have been generated by a complaint in a letter dated 03 May 1996 from the South Shields Motor Boat and Yacht Club about shot-blasting in the Slipway that had covered their yard with corrosive dust.
- 3 A letter dated 07 May 1996 from Tyne & Wear Development sent to the Slipway complained about the development of the Slipway.
- 4 A letter from a defendant of the Slipway that included a statement that the owner (Harry Wilson) had indicated *that* an important part of the work he did involved shot-blasting and without that the Slipway would not be viable.
- 5 A note of a proposed second slipway and offices that would be very close to the neighbouring housing estate. The planning officer said I could not view details of this as it was a pre-planning proposal which made it private. Before planning agreement for this new proposal was reached it would have to be circulated to all neighbouring properties that would be effected.

In my brief examination of parts of the discs, it is my opinion that when the Slipway was taken over by its present owners in 1987 the neighbouring domestic housing estate did not exist and no restrictions were put on what was permissible on the premises. The proposed developments of 1996 brought to light complaints about shot-blasting and the noisy compressors associated with that type of work.

Attempts were made to introduce some restrictions in regard to hours worked and types of work but whether these could be enforced when the original agreement had no restrictions was a matter of question.

I believe that more detailed examination of the information on the discs would be useful in formulating protests about the present development.

The planning officer informed me that searches for those purchasing properties would not have picked up the problems associated with the Slipway as such searches tended to be constrained.

I was at the Town Hall about two hours. It looked like it might be closing when I left.

NAMES OF CERTAIN FILES ON THE DISCS

DISC 01 NAME 1996 APPLICATIONS

DISC 02 NAME TYNE SLIPWAY ST/0242/96/UD

FILE ST - 0242 - 96 -UD 255 LETTER FROM SOUTH SHIELDS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE
DATED 22 APR 1996

FILE ST - 0242 - 96 - UD 170 LETTER FROM SOUTH SHIELDS MOTOR BOAT & YACHT CLUB
DATED 03 MAY 1996

IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME TO ASK IF I COULD HAVE PRINTED SOME OF THE INFORMATION ON THE DISCS AS I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VIEWING OF THE DISCS HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN WILLINGLY.

THE PLANNING OFFICER DID NOT OFFER TO PRINT OFF ANY DETAILS

I WOULD THINK THAT IF PRINTING HAD BEEN ALLOWED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CHARGED