

Dear Resident,

I am writing to inform you about plans for further development of the boat and yacht repair yard at the Tyne Slipway facility based on River Drive, South Shields.

Our company is family owned and operated, and has been in operation for 20 years now. The business started off in 1994 from the River Drive boat repair facility when the family purchased it, and since that time additional marine associated companies have been established with facilities located within the Port of Tyne, Port of Sunderland and Gosport (Located within Portsmouth Harbour).

Our other boat repair facility based within the Port of Tyne, which is a leased facility, has recently come under threat due to the Port of Tyne's acquisition of the former McNulty site and we have been informed that water access to our facility will soon be blocked due to the construction of a new road connecting both sites. This in effect makes this site redundant and will potentially close by June / July 2014.

From this site, our company carries out repair contracts to vessels such as the two River Tyne Ferries operated by Nexus, Ministry of Defence training craft, pilot and survey vessels operated by the Port of Tyne Authority and a large number of privately owned leisure boats and we are in the process of tendering for further contracts which will provide long term employment for our employees.

After much review, this work can be temporarily relocated and carried out at our other facilities outside of the South Tyneside area however, we feel as a family concern with close roots to the South Shields area and the fact that this is where the business very first began, our preference is that we remain in the South Shields area and that we develop our facility at the River Drive site in order to continue with our existing and future contracts. Our premises in Sunderland, like the Port of Tyne, is leased so River Drive South Shields is our only available option for investment.

Plans are currently being developed and if approved, a second boat repair shed has been proposed serviced by a low level workshops and an extension to the existing office building and a second slipway will be installed for the launch and recovery of multiple smaller vessels.

As you will see by the attached plan, the development has been focused on maintaining the development to the west side of the site replacing the existing dilapidated workshops and office building making way for modern buildings.

This development would improve the visual appearance to the already under invested facility and this is an excellent opportunity to bring this important site back into full boat repair use with the creation of full time and part time jobs for the local community and providing head office facilities for the companies nationwide group organisation.

We hope that this explanation along with the attached plan details the reasons and why we need to develop this site and we would welcome any feedback you may have and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Wilson by e-mail jonathan.wilson@ukdocks.com or by post at the address below.

Yours faithfully



Jonathan Wilson