

Fwd: South Tyneside Council and the Trail of Deceit
Date: 10/11/2023 (14:18:18 GMT)
From: mick.dawson@theharbourview.co.uk
To: Rob Evans

Attachment: [Evidence Trail - References for November 2023](#)

Rob,

I rang your London Office this morning and asked if the Guardian would be interested in the corruption that seems to be endemic within South Tyneside Council and they suggested that you were the person to ask.

About 11 years ago, I noticed that a building inspector was reporting non-material variations to the plans for the upgrade of my property in South Shields to the Senior Enforcement Officer as material variations while material variations to plans for the upgrade of an adjoining property were being ignored and that my complaint to them about it came to nothing in spite of being presented to the Local Government Ombudsman, because a local architect was persuaded to redraw the partition wall.

While that was going on, I was developing a website to provide a commentary on what was happening and realised it was the natural place to store letters, emails and copies of application forms etc. and when UK Docks started to build their 'Shed' the site started to grow like Topsy.

Some years ago I tried to interest BBC in the subject (Look North, 2016) and a bit later I tried the Chronicle, Editor Helen Dalby, but to no avail and a couple of months ago a friend suggested the Guardian and I was not sure how to do this but while I was correcting my last post, the letter to Mr Harry Harlow, please see below, I thought that I might try as my friend had suggested and that is why I am forwarding that email/letter to you.

Kind regards

Mick Dawson

----- Forwarded message from mick.dawson@theharbourview.co.uk -----

Date: Mon, 06 Nov 2023 15:43:23 +0000

From: mick.dawson@theharbourview.co.uk

Subject: South Tyneside Council and the Trail of Deceit

To: Harry Harlow <simonwrs@gmail.com>

Dear Harry and Everyone,

Everyone, were those copied into email's Bcc and included, the MP for South Shields, the Constituency Support Manager for the MP for Berwick, the Chief Executive, and the Head of the Council's Legal Team, the 'Monitoring Officer' who has been handling our complaint that UK Dock's 'Shed' is 3m taller than planned, those who attended the meeting in March 2014 where we decided to raise a Petition and finally, a few of those who were also aware that the shed had been built without planning permission. Please see the attached document – (Trail-Evidence-6-Nov-23.pdf) Evidence to Back Trail of Deceit

It describes a trail which began in September 2013 when a planning officer in South Tyneside Council told the protesters that the structure being erected near the mouth of the Tyne in South Shields had been given approval when it hadn't and it looks like he was being economical with the truth because the Council's Enforcement Officers stopped work in the yard about two weeks after it had begun when some approved document was recovered from the Council's archives.

By the end of 2013, I had discovered with the help of another local resident, that there were also plans that had been approved by the Planning Manager a few weeks before the structure that was to become a large enclosure on a slipway (was begun). Those plans proved that it was built nearly 3m taller than permitted.

Meanwhile at a meeting was held in the Town Hall on November 25th 2013, the original planning officer had gathered 4 persons who were prepared to support him in maintaining the lie about the shed's height being approved and UK Docks were allowed to restart work on their shed in spite of the fact he would have known that one of the two approved drawing from 1996 would prove all five of them were perpetuating the misrepresentation make by UK Docks two and half months earlier.

By the time my complaint about the shed's height, on behalf of the protestors was submitted, the tracks for the gantry crane had been fitted and that left the Planning Manager with a problem. He should, of course, have told UK Docks to stop work on the shed and they were in no position to protest as it could be easily shown that their claim that they had approval, was actually fraudulent.

He chose not to and because planning officers appear to be beyond the law, he was persuaded to back his Principal Planning Officer rather than reprimand him for gross misconduct and he achieved this by removing the original complaint from the public domain and adding to the misinformation about the shed's height:-

- * that the inland end of it was approved at 15.5m;
- * that the gable end on the drawing he had approved in August 2013 also referred to the inland end of the shed and when that proved to be a lie as well – he said that;
- * it was not to scale;
- * later, when it was shown to be to scale he claimed it was drawn after the Principal Planning Officer had inspected the framework.

So it went on, firstly with the Head of Development Services overwriting the fact that the original and that the one and only complaint that the shed was taller than planned had been deleted and enabled the fraud that UK Docks had approval for the shed to be repeated to the Ombudsman so that I, along with any of the other protesters could be falsely accused of making allegations.

Finally, to avoid being honest about the shed's height a scheme was put in place to silence me by the misuse of a staff code in mid 2016 and although it fell into disuse it was revived by the Council Leader in 2021 on the advice of the Interim Head of Legal Services and is currently being exploited each April by the Chief Executive because he, like his predecessor has no wish to be honest about the shed's height.

Yours sincerely

Michael Dawson

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