

26th July 2021

Dear Paula

## **Second Phase of the Shed's Development**

We received notice that UK Docks planned to use the foundations to extend their shed onto the extra set of footings in June 2014 and I remember protesting about it to Planning Applications on 14th July 2014, my main point being:

*4. The current slipway shed is considered by residents to have been built 3m higher than plans provided show. However there is considerable ongoing argument with the Planning Department about which plans are those originally approved by Tyne and Wear Development Corporation. It seems incomprehensible that further work should be considered until such time as issues surrounding the current construction have been resolved.*

I did not even receive an acknowledgement but in September it was confirmed that UK Docks had sought permission to extend their shed on the 20th June, three days after it was signed off in June:

*Hello – The Head of Development Services is out of the office at the moment and I have been asked to respond to your email – my colleague from the Building Control Team has confirmed that they sent the completion certificate out on June 17th. The final Building Control inspection was on 13th June. Regards, Principal Planning Officer*

The colleague was the Senior Building Inspector, Mr Telford and the Principal Planning Officer was Mr Cunningham, see Shed and Corruption – Part 2, [the last item on the list provided by Alison](#).

It looks like UK Docks were made aware that while they may have got a wider shed they were unlikely to get a taller one and certainly not a longer one so a scheme was hatched whereby they would provide some plans to support a false claim that they had approval for the taller shed and bet on the Council being able to fool the protestors of which I was one. The Council were not able to fool the protestors as I have shown in in [the second to last item on the list provided by Alison](#).

You will see from the 'Misrepresentation of Plans' that I had taken over from Melanie as the representative of the protestors and have had to suffer three attacks on my integrity, 2 by the Corporate Lead, one in 2015 and the second in 2016 and now you in 2021. If you were even remotely aware of the contents of those last two items I think it unlikely that you could have been [persuaded to deliver your attack on me on April the 29th](#). Even your Corporate Lead gave me a chance to respond whereas you have not.

The plans for the second phase were submitted from 20-May-14, onwards and the application ST/0461/14/FUL submitted on 20-Jun-14 by the Agent, Gary Craig on behalf of Jonathan Wilson; Director of UK Docks, when applied for permission to extend their shed three days after it was signed off as being fit for use in June 2014:

*Date: 4 September 2014 12:10:43 BST*

*To: Melanie Todd, Cc: Customer Advocates, Head of Development Services*

*Hello – The Head of Development Services is out of the office at the moment and I have been asked to respond to your email – my colleague from the Building Control Team has confirmed that they sent the completion certificate out on June 17th. The final Building Control inspection was on 13th June. Regards, Principal Planning Officer*

## **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 1.**

There was much wrong with the application and it was finalised in January or February 2015 and naturally I complained that it was unreasonable to seek to get permission to extend the shed when it was nearly 3m taller than what had been approved but the Planning Manager, Mr Gordon Atkinson was having none of it and when I omitted the FBR number, 266782, on my last repost he seized his chance and used [Customer Advocacy to put it into a special bin where it remains to this day](#).

I would like to point out that my complaint that the shed was oversize and the Council had done nothing about it was with the Ombudsman:

*Subject: RE: Application ST/0461/14/FUL - 2nd Slipway Cover and Offices [PROTECT]*

*From: "Customer Advocates"*

*Date: Thu, March 12, 2015 1:19 pm*

*To: mick.dawson at theharbourview.co.uk*

*Dear Mr Dawson*

*Your email to Mr Atkinson has been forwarded to our team as your complaint on this matter has exhausted the Council's complaints procedure and is now with the Local Government Ombudsman's office . . .*

The first thing to notice is that Alison has marked her response as [PROTECT] and that should make one wary and the other is that there is no longer any link to 266782, it might have been my mistake to drop the reference number from the title but Mr Atkinson had clearly taken the opportunity to use Alison to pedal two more lies about the drawings to add to the ones he has already made.

1. That the meeting of 8-July was about 8296/1A – *it was not, it was about 8296/14;*
2. 8296/14 was drawn after the frames went up in September 2013 – *it was not, it is dated Aug 13.*
  - that 8296/1A was approved – *it is not;*
  - that the gable end on 8296/14 referred to the road end – *it refers to the river end;*
  - the gable end was was not drawn to scale – *it is drawn to scale (1:100 in fact).*

The complaint that it was unreasonable to accept a planning application to extend a building that had been built without planning permission and is taller than planned has vanished in to thin air and this enabled the Executive to conflate it with the complaint that the shed was taller than planned.

## **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 2.**

[My letter of the 4th of December 2015 was about the height of that shed](#), and the letter of the 7th went on to give Mr Simmonette some back ground. The neither they nor letter of the 30th September said anything about enforcement and I even told Mr Simmonette that we had seen 8296/2 in my letter of the 4th December:

*[It has recently come to my attention that 8296/2](#), one of two drawings in the Council's possession that have been authorised, gives a clearer indication of the shed end heights.*

He very obviously wanted to keep the existence of that drawing hidden and rather than admit that the shed was taller than planned, he used Alison to change the subject.

*Dear Mr Dawson*

*I have been forwarded your emails to the Planning Team dated 4th and 7th December 2015, in order to clarify the Council's position regarding your comments on issues relating to the existing boat repair shed at UK Docks Tyne Slipway and your earlier complaint to the Council regarding this matter.*

*Your email of 4th December refers to not being satisfied with the responses to the second part of your earlier contact to the team on 30 September. This was regarding the planning enforcement aspect of the existing boat repair shed. This matter has been investigated fully by the Council through its corporate complaints procedure. The complaint was not upheld and was also considered and decided by the Local Government Ombudsman who found no fault with the Council's decision..*

All of the letters or emails were sent to reinforce the fact that the shed is 3m taller than planned and Mr Simmonette and like Messrs Cunningham, Atkinson and Mansbridge did not want to admit it. Nor did Customer Advocacy, they failed to mention the height in the faux [Stage 3 response that they passed to the Ombudsman](#). Mr Mansbridge had set it up for her by overwriting Job 248789 with 253539.

[Alison's email of 9th December 2015 was the one that I took to the solicitors in Sunderland](#) because it was the first time we had evidence of why the Council were giving misinformation and or misrepresentation to the Ombudsman. She continued:

*The Local Government Ombudsman's final decision dated 15 April 2015 was that:*

*This complaint is not upheld. In 2013 a developer resumed building a boat shed for which he had planning permission and had started building in 2001. Local residents complained but the Council found the developer could still build the shed. However, the developer built it almost a metre wider than he should have done. There is no evidence of fault in the way the Council dealt with the breach of planning control and its decision not to take enforcement action. It kept residents informed throughout the process. The complainant says the shed is also 3 metres higher than it should be. The Council says it is not. There is no fault in how the Council decided the shed is the permitted height.*

It kept the residents ***misinformed*** throughout the process when the shed is 3 meters higher than it should be. The Council did take enforcement action in September 2013 but dropped it after a meeting with the Tyne Gateway Assn in November:

*It looks like someone in the Council was aware of this fraud and someone with the authority to order UK to stop work on their shed. Most likely they had seen the approved drawing from 1996 that showed the true planned height of the shed.*

[Reference: foot of page 7, my letter to you on the 26th June 2021.](#)

**Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 3.**

In her email of the 9th she went on to say:

*We have also responded to a further enquiry made to the Council via your then local MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan, dated 1 June 2015, which claimed you had not been able to locate*

*any details from the Council on why the shed had been approved despite the breach in planning conditions, even though at that time you had received complaint responses from both the Council and the Ombudsman.*

Which was true because the shed was not approved but the planners under the direction of the Head of Development Services had to pretend it had been approved so that Mr J Wilson, Director of UK Docks, could not only get a taller shed but a longer one as well. See misdirection No. 2

My I remind you that he was responsible for passing [the doctored version of 8296/2 and the incorrectly dimensioned 8296/1A](#) to Mr Cunningham in the first place. In saying that, I have assumed that the vital dimensions and the drawing's details were not removed by the Council's planning officers.

Alison went on to say: *"You also submitted a further complaint to the Council on the same matter on 13 July 2015. I have attached my responses to your contact which confirmed the Council were not to consider the matter further"*

I was in two minds as whether to give this, the title of Misdirection No 4 but decided against it. She was the author of the email of the 13th July and it concerned a request for information which she completed to my satisfaction. It resulted in two screen prints, for 248789 and 253539 and were proof that the Council were manipulating their own complaints procedure to the advantage of the likes of Mr J Wilson and the disadvantage of people like Melanie and myself.

#### **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 4.**

When I received the threat of being sectioned by your Corporate Lead on August 1st 2016, I naturally responded because she stated: *There is no evidence to suggest that there has been deliberate misinformation provided by Council officers to the Local Government Ombudsman.* [when the findings were riddled with them.](#)

I wrote a well reasoned response and copied it to Customer Advocacy, but they did not want to know and it appeared to have been passed back to the Corporate Lead:

*Dear Mr Dawson*

*Thank you for your email and the copy of the letter sent to Mrs Johnson.*

*Mrs Johnson received your letter on her return to work 12 September and acknowledges its receipt.*

*For your information Michaela Green (nee Hamilton) is currently on secondment and therefore your mail will be considered along with the letter to Mrs Johnson.*

[It was a harsh but fair criticism of Mrs Johnson's handling of my complaint](#) that the Council had been deliberately misleading the Ombudsman, and as I had anticipated, she just flicked it into the virtual waste bin. She had not registered the complaint so the most reliable audit trail is held in my records.

This meant she could recycle her opinion that I was a persistent and unreasonable complainant and as I have shown she had already accused the good Citizens of South Shields of making allegations because [she did not want to admit that we were right about the height to the MP for Berwick.](#)

Notice that it was attachment 6 and Alison is not willing to reveal what your Corporate Lead said in her letter which it was attached which suggests there was much more misinformation given to Anne-Marie Trevelyan that the Council care to admit.

#### **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 5.**

On Sunday 18th December 2016 the residents living were roused by noise emanating from UK Docks' shed and I went to check that they were not slipping or launching a vessel but they were not and had thus breached the fifth condition. This is covered in great depth in Shed and Corruption – Part 3; too much possibly so I here I will just extract the essence of the misdirection.

The 5th Condition of the grant for the shed: *No works, other than the launching or beaching of vessels, shall take place within the shelter between the hours of 7pm and 7am Monday to Saturday and not at all on Sundays or Bank Holidays unless any written consent of variation is previously given by the Development Corporation as local planning authority.*

I wrote, 20-Dec-16: *Dear Sir or Madam, This is the second time in a few weeks that they have been working on a Sunday. Please acknowledge this complaint as I wish to take the issue up with the ward [Councillor who organised the meeting – see below](#)*

The Planning Officer, Mr Simmonette, who was in charge of the second phase of the shed's development did not respond [but Alison did and she opened, 21-Dec-16 with:](#)

*Dear Mr Dawson Further to the recent email from you regarding noise at the site of UK Docks.*

She then gave me half a page of instructions on how to make a complaint about noise and went on to say:

*With regards to the control of general working hours at the site, in respect of planning no restrictions exist. This matter was considered and responded to by the Local Government Ombudsman in response to the earlier complaint they investigated on your behalf.*

**One:** There may be no restrictions on them using the site on a Sunday but there are on the use of the shed – see the fifth condition.

**Two:** The earlier complaint was about a breach of the Second Condition, not the Fifth!

On January the 17th 2017 I received a [letter reinforcing Alison's attempt to conflate the two separate](#) complaints made three years apart. The author, Hayley Johnson, also attempted to hide the fact that the shed was being put to use on a Sunday.

[I then asked Cllr Anglin to intercede but he just did not want to know:](#) *Dear Mr Dawson, As you are are dealing with the Council directly and processing an official complaint, I obviously cannot be part of any actions whilst claims and allegations are being investigated.*

In the end I resolved the situation by [calling at the Town Hall in February 2017:](#)

*From: Alison.Hoy@southtyneside.gov.uk> on behalf of Customer Advocates  
Sent: 14 February 2017 15:07  
Subject: Request for screen information*

*Dear Mr Dawson*

*The reference number 272189 does not refer to a feedback logged on your behalf but to a 3rd party. This cannot therefore be sent to you.*

*Officers at the Town Hall were correct in advising you that they could not help you further with complaints regarding Sunday working at UK Docks, as this had been dealt with as part of the historic complaint you made to the Council and to which current contact restrictions apply.*

Alison has been asked to conflate the original complaint of January 2014, that the shed was oversize, with the one about Sunday working December 2016. so that the Council can ignore it. The contact restrictions were put in place so that the Chief Executive did not have to explain why his staff were giving misinformation to the Ombudsman

The officers at the Town Hall Front Desk confirmed that Mr Simmonette was the planning officer responsible and he had not raised one for the breach of the Fifth Condition by UK docks. He could not deny that they using the shed without launching or taking a vessel onto the slipway as I had sent in [a photograph taken by a neighbour early on the Sunday morning](#) so he did not register my complaint which is the main method by which the Council's Complaint Procedure is compromised and gave Alison the two misdirections listed and that is way by which the Procedure is corrupted

It appears that Cllr Anglin was as fully aware of what was happening as it was he who organised the meeting at the Town Hall in November 2013 where our claim that the shed was taller and wider than planned were dismissed -see page 2 of Shed and Corruption – Part1.

#### **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 6.**

I had anticipated that the Council would mislead the Ombudsman and wrote to the [MP for South Shields at the end of March 2015](#):

*Eighteen months ago my former neighbour, Miss Melanie Todd wrote to you in September about our concerns regarding a development described as 'Approved boat repair shelter at Tyne Slipway, River Drive, South Shields' and asking to meet with you. I understand at the meeting, the Residents expressed concerns that, firstly, it was being built on River Drive, and secondly, that the framework had not been built to plan.*

I did however get a case number, ZA4803, before the issue was passed to the MP for Berwick – Please see misdirection No. 3.

I had returned to live in Greens Place for a number of reasons which need not concern you but in March 2017, I went to attend the Constituency Labour Party meeting in Hedworth Hall where I met with the MP, Emma Lewell-Buck and discovered that we were both being stonewalled by the Council and she suggested that I contacted her Office Manager which I did, and I mention this because it puts a date on where Alison's and my timeline merge with that of the MP for South Shield – March 2017.

By then your Corporate Lead had got the Executive out of a fix first by accusing the good Citizens of making allegations in her letter to the MP for Berwick, and misdirection No. 3, and then me of being a persistent an unreasonable complainant – [see Shed and Corruption Part 4](#).



As you can see from misdirections 2 and 3 Mr Simmonette and Mrs Johnson were lying to Alison to cover up their own misconduct and naturally I was not going to let it rest there, and especially as Messrs Simmonette's and Burrell's handling of the use of the shed on a Sunday involved a certain amount of deceit, I thought it about time to complain to the Chief Executive about his staff's misconduct. Besides the libel by Mrs Johnson there was Mr Simmonette's conflation of the complaints the breach of the fifth condition with that of second.

The letter to the Chief Executive was handed across the counter in the Town Hall on 26th May 17, the walk from Greens place to the Town Hall via North Marine Park being really rather pleasant. Apparently it took nearly two weeks to get from the front desk to get to Jarrow but at least it was acknowledged.

It has never been answered because the Chief Executive did not want to answer it and his Corporate Lead had given him the perfect excuse to sit back and do nothing, by falsely accusing me of being and unreasonable and persistent complainant in 2016 because I had:

- *submitted repeated complaints, essentially regarding the same issue, after our complaints process had been exhausted;*
- *attempted to have the complaint reconsidered in ways that are incompatible with our adopted complaints procedure, or with good practice;*
- *refused to accept the decision of the Council or Local Government Ombudsman, by arguing points of detail.*

That his Staff were not following the instructions given in How we will deal with your Complaint was obvious so a strategy was devised to take out the complainant i.e. me but please note that none of the points she made stand up to any scrutiny:

1. *repeated complaints:* there have been **three** and only the **first** was taken to the Ombudsman where a senior planning officer had lied to the Ombudsman when he said the shed had been approved; the **second** was about Sundays and the planning officer responsible just ignored it, see misdirection No. 5 and the **third**, delivered by hand on the 26-May-17 is still awaiting the Chief Executive's attention.
2. the second claim, *incompatible etc.* is pure hypocrisy and not good practice;
3. I said the shed was nearly 3m taller than an approved drawing allowed whereas the senior planning officer had given misinformation to the Ombudsman.

### **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 7.**

In August 2017 UK Docks started to lift containers onto each other to make space for the joist and pillars of what was to become the sixth frame of the shed you now see. The planning officers in charge at the time withheld the fact that it was to be 3m taller than approved, from the Planning Committee 01-Feb-16 and it so was approved!

So I immediately sought out Cllr Anglin, 8th August 2017:



*The trouble with the Council is that they can say what ever they want without any evidence about the existing slipway cover (shed) and they are believed. If I and other residents say something to the contrary e.g. it is 3m too high, and provide evidence and we are not believed. There is something rotten in the borough.*

It was he, after all, who had arranged the meeting four years earlier where the help of the Executive Officers of the TGA, Messrs Watson and Haig, managed to get the enforcement notice lifted to allow completion of UK Docks shed. [Please see Shed and Corruption – Part 1.](#)

A year earlier he had walked away from issue of the use of the shed by UK Docks on a Sunday – [See Shed and Corruption – Part 3.](#)

With this in mind I thought it well to attach a document explaining the then current situation regarding the fifth section to Cllr Anglin and [Alison would have received a copy as well.](#) If she had read it carefully she would have discovered that the shed is indeed nearly 3m taller than planned:

*8296/2 is the only approved drawing from 1996 and would have shown immediately that UK Docks had been misleading the Council when it was recovered from archive in September 2013 and probably explains why the Council clammed up on the height issue. It gives the heights and shows a road end height of 12.7m (river 15.4m). I have attached a detail from this drawing which shows this and please note that 95.5m level is not of the top set of footings (96.1m) so 0.6m needs taking from 13.3m.*

*The UK Docks copy has been cropped so that the vital heights of the cover 118.8m and 95.5m are missing as is the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation authorisation stamp. In most people's book using this drawing to claim an approved height of 15.5m at the road end would be considered a fraud.*

When Mr Cunningham substituted 8296/1A for 8296/1B at the meeting arranged by Cllr Anglin, all he did was continue with the fraud and [all Alison did with her response to me, 11-Aug-17](#) was to perpetuate it:

*Dear Mr Dawson*

*Your email to Cllr Anglin has been forwarded to our team in line with your current contact restrictions regarding issues raised regarding the UK Docks boat shed.*

*I must advise you that this letter is raising your historic complaint again which has been thoroughly investigated by the Council and the Local Government Ombudsman, therefore will be placed on file.*

My email was not forwarded to Alison, **it was copied**, and she had by her actions allowed Customer Advocacy to shove my email into the special bin alongside the one sent to the Planning Manager on 12-Mar-15, repeating her action of two and a half years earlier – see Misdirection No. 1 on page 2.

Not only did the shed's promoters hide the facts but the Council's Lead set up a system [whereby the opponents views were always hidden:](#)

*We will not acknowledge or respond to any issues that have already been the subject of investigation by the Council, or by the Local Government Ombudsman. Any such correspondence from you will be read and placed on file, but we will not acknowledge or respond to it*



She went on to say that if I had concerns that she had provided incorrect information in this letter and I wished to request a review of her decision, I should contact Mike Harding, Head of Legal Services, by writing to him, knowing full well that he was never going to respond as he either had to repeat the fraud that the shed had been approved or admit that we had been right about the shed since September 2013.

I was not happy with Alison's interference and I wrote to the MP's office asking on 6-Sep-17:

*What did UK docks have to say for themselves when Emma went to see them?*

I received a reply which indicated that the [Council and UK Docks were being economical with the truth](#) with her and while no laws may have been broken their shed was still in breach of the second condition as everyone should know by now. Interestingly it was the first that I had heard of the Post of a Monitoring Officer but that is another story and will lead to Part 9.

### **Misdirection by Alison Hoy on behalf of Customer Advocacy, No 8.**

[In January 2018, I wrote: Dear Alison,](#)

I wrote to you at the end of November for the email address of the Head of Legal Service and received a rather strange reply. If you look carefully at the Ombudsman's findings of the 15-Apr-15 you will see that paragraphs 30-38 are riddled with misrepresentations of the plans and drawings and I blame your Senior Planning Officer.

[Alison duly responded, 18-Jan-18: Dear Mr Dawson](#)

*To confirm the Council's position, we will not re-open or open a new complaint regarding this email as the issues are the same as your original complaint to us some years ago.*

*If you wish to seek legal advice your legal representative should contact our Legal Department as advised previously. I will not be forwarding on your email or drawings as they remain the subject of your historic complaint. If you are unhappy with the Ombudsman's investigation of your complaint you should raise that with them directly.*

You can see by the length of this letter and all the cross references needed to make my point clear that I had told your Corporate Lead that I had consulted a solicitor but she had not made this clear to Alison by the time she wrote to me in January 2018. I had also explained to the Corporate Lead very precisely how the Ombudsman had been misled in Misdirection No. 4.

The plain fact remains that the shed is nearly 3m taller than planned and first, Mr Wilson tried to hide this by passing dodgy drawings to the Council but all the Council did was to replace those, with an equally suspect one and by manipulation of the complaints procedure were able to paint a [false picture to the Ombudsman which still remains.](#)

### **Misdirection No 9.**

In February 2021, the 3rd, I wrote to the Newcastle Chronicle/Journal group and a day later thought I should advise Nicola Robason that I had done so and attached a copy of '[An Aversion to Retrospective Planning](#)' which in turn referred to '[Conflation of Complaints](#)' and the reason I did this was to warn Nicola that I had done so. I did it because I suspect people have been asking about the shed and being told that I was only repeating allegations.

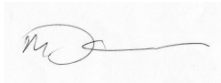
The first of these documents is missing from the list that Alison gave you on April the 29th and Customer Advocacy knew that I had been promised a reply to the Conflation of Complaints by the Monitoring Officer.

It appears from here that some in the Executive of the Council did not want to her to respond and ordered a reinstatement of their policy which included the allegation made by Hayley Johnson nearly five years ago, 5-Oct-16: *"I am writing to advise you that my current view is that your behaviour in respect of this complaint is unreasonable"*.

It look likes Hayley has discovered that like the Ombudsman she had been told a pack of lies, and may I remind you that it is not unreasonable to say that the shed is 3m taller than planned when it is nearly 3m taller than planned, and put her foot down so you have been asked to misapply 'Complaints Policy 2019v1.5' as she is no longer prepared to do it.

It looks like coercive control to me and you have my commiserations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Dawson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Dawson