

March 3rd, 2022

Dear Mr Tew,

Shooting the Messenger 2015

I have laid out the timeline which I shared with my neighbours in Greens Place and your office from September 2013 but before we retrace our steps through the Council Complaints Procedure, I suggest you determine, by the examination of the approved drawing 8296/2, what the planned height of UK Docks' shed should be. You will have to agree that it is 12.7m at the landward end and if Mr Cunningham had answered the question, asked of him on 9th September 2013 by a neighbour, we would not have had to raise [the Petition six months later](#):-

Dear Peter, From the stamp date on the revised plans, you have received plans on the 06.09.13 the day after construction commenced which show an increased height to the structure to that which was originally approved in 1996. Has the revised height of 15.5metres been approved or is it in breach of the 1996 Planning approval?

He chose not to answer the question but to [refer Melanie to the Council's Complaints Procedure](#) and that lead to confirmation that South Tyneside Council's staff were abusing the office of the Local Government Ombudsman to hide the misdemeanours of their Planning Staff and Building Control:-

September-December 2013

UK Docks had been a law unto themselves since the Principal Planning Officer accepted non-approved plans from them which were used to hide the fact that the shed was nearly 3m taller than permitted. It appeared that Mr Cunningham accepted them without question. A copy of the pair, presented to him by UK Docks on the [6th September came my way](#), a few days later. The height of the landward end of the shed and the number was cropped from one and the other shows both ends to have the same height which made no sense as there is a 2.7m gradient between them.

Mr Cunningham was very helpful until the lunchtime on the 9th but by [the late afternoon he had closed all dialogue with an email marked PROTECT](#) and we did not find out until after UK Docks had restarted work on their shed that the cropped one had been approved and showed the planned height of the landward end to be 3m less than the built height. [It was 8296/2 and it confirmed the error in the road](#) or landward of end of 15.5m on 8296/1B.

You will have to ask Mr Cunningham, why he avoided telling the residents the truth about the height, when he referred them to the Council's Complaints Procedure. It appears that the complete drawing was recovered from the Council's archive soon after and an Enforcement Notice issued. [UK Docks were then forced to stop work on their shed](#).

See entries for 23rd September and 3rd October:- *"Five frames fixed Site is closed Construction appears to have been suspended"* and *"No further progress since last visit. I say forced because they did not restart work on the shed for months. It was after the Town Hall Meeting, 25th November, where it was said that the shed was 'legal' that UK Docks were given permission to resume work.*

This was in spite of the fact that approved drawing 8296/2 showed the Director of UK Docks, with the help of Principal Planning Officer, had fraudulently misrepresented the height of the shed to the local residents which eventually lead to the Council's Corporate Lead giving misinformation to the [MP for Northumberland when she wrote](#):-

“The matters and allegations raised by your constituent are well documented and have been subject to a number of enquiries from Mr Dawson and other local residents over a lengthy period of time”

If you check the drawings you will find that the other residents and I were not making allegations but it was she, Mrs Johnson, who was making them by accusing us of making them. The primary reason for this was to hide the misconduct of Messrs Wilson, Haig and Cunningham and all of those followed them who agreed that the development on the slipway had been built to approved height.

It did not finish with Mr Cunningham and the Corporate Lead went on to tell the MP for Berwick:-

“The Ombudsman did not uphold the complaint, finding that the Council had acted appropriately in our approach relating to the planning application and subsequent action, full details of which would have been sent by their office to Mr Dawson.

While I suspected there was more than one reason for the Council giving misinformation to the Ombudsman it was not until Mrs Johnson’s letter of 25th July 2015, I had any written proof of this happening. It was to mislead anyone, such as an MP, making enquiries on behalf of the residents.

As I said, the primary reason was to hide the misconduct of officers such as Mr Cunningham who forced us to revive the Tyne Gateway Assn [which lead to the meeting at the Town Hall](#) to determine the future of the shed. The meeting was brought to an abrupt end by the shed being declared legal, not by the planning officer but [by the director of a marine services](#) company based in Portsmouth.

Messrs Watson and Haig failed to declare their interest in UK Docks when they were elected Chair and Treasurer of the Gateway Assn and it was the Chair, who along with Cllr Anglin, had organised the meeting with Mr Cunningham at the Town Hall. Councillor Anglin ensured that the conduct of the Principal Planning Officer at that meeting was overlooked by not minuting the meeting and why it was never recorded that no authorized drawings were seen.

The question of height, first raised two and a half months before, still remained unanswered. The Principal Planning Officer had the choice of admitting that the shed was not approved or hiding the truth about the shed. He chose the latter by saying the shed was compliant with a drawing that contained mistakes and that eventually led the Council’s Corporate Lead falsely accusing us of making allegations.

A retrospective look at the development of 71 Greens Place would have not only shown up the deficiencies in Building Control but also the total disregard of the guidelines outlined in SDP9, with particular regard to 3.1B, and those described in chapters 8 and 11.

About this time Council had dropped the requirement that the overbuild of the properties, owned by Messrs Haig and Watson, be looked at retrospectively with ST/0749/13/FUL being replaced by ST/0749/13/HFUL. [Please see Shed and Corruption – Part 2, pages 2 and 3](#) where you will see that was done by planning officer, Ms Matten and it needed the approval of the Planning Manager.

The minutes, [25-November, of the Tyne Gateway Assn](#) (TGA) appeared towards the end of December by which time I had established that the shed was taller and wider than planned to dissociate myself from anyone who claimed that UK Docks had approval for their shed, especially Graeme Watson, Ken Haig and Cllr Anglin. Whether it was an open meeting is debatable and the ‘plans’ sent out after both meetings were first 8296/1B then 8296/1A.

- *GW advised that it was a good open meeting, it was confirmed that the structure is being built to the plans which had been approved.*

- *There are tentative plans, but no planning application has been submitted for further development.*
- *MD advised the committee that as a group we cannot do anything until the Company submits plans.*
- *KH advised that they had seen the plans which were date stamped 1996, the structure is 15.5m. Proper drawings were on file and there is nothing illegal about the structure.*

Mr M Dawson was aware that we had seen no authorised or approved plan and he had been quoted out of context but no matter. He saw that UK Docks had [misrepresented the planned height](#) of their shed presenting 8296/1B nearly 3 months before and this was confirmed when he saw the drawing [submitted for ST/1146/13/COND](#), published nearly two weeks after the meeting.

Before the meeting I had wondered why the width of the shed had not been mentioned and noticed that it could easily be measured because UK Docks had given the end elevation vertical sides [and it could be measured from Greens Place](#) by some basic surveying. I offered to show the Chair of the TGA how it was done but he declined. I found it to be about a meter wider than planned which was the first positive indication that Mr Cunningham had been lying to us about the shed.

He told me a month after the meeting that the shed was compliant with an error on [a drawing that had not been authorised](#). All he had done was to replace 8296/1B with 8296/1A and notice the use of PROTECT again, and he was being dishonest about the shed's height as well.

January 2014

[Complaint that the shed had not been built to the approved size was removed](#) from the Complaints Procedure by the actions of Mr Cunningham. 8296/14 showed that the shed is not only wider but nearly 3m taller as well. [He clearly did not wish to answer the question:-](#)

As the applicant has not discharged condition 2 why is there no retrospective planning application?

When he suggested I speak with the Chair of the TGA, he was attempting to pass me back to an earlier stage of our collective complaint, then suggests the use of the Complaints Procedure:-

May I therefore suggest that you speak with the Chair of the residents group in respect of the points that you have raised below, as these have already been discussed and explained. If you are still not satisfied with the Council's response then you should use the Council's complaints procedure which has 3 stages.

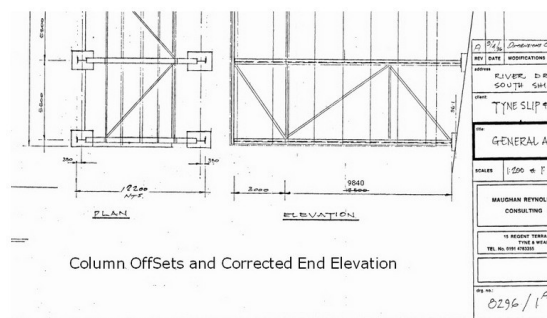
In respond to his attempt to [rewrite the history of the shed the matter was referred on](#), 14-Jan:-

Therefore until I have some satisfactory answers to my very reasonable questions I do not consider this matter closed. If you are unable to supply me with answers to my questions could you please pass the issue to someone who can.

Please notice the correct use of reasonable and the civility of the request. Considering the conduct of the Council in the handling our complaint about the shed over the previous three months and the amount of [misinformation passed to the Gazette, it was indeed very reasonable](#). When UK Docks said they had *met all the legal requirements* to mean they had approval for it, it was a fraudulent misrepresentation and made deliberately to hide the breach of the conditions made in 1996 by making their shed 3m taller than permitted.

It all stems from the mistake made by the draughtsman in the dimension given for the height of the landward end of UK Docks shed.

The Planning Manager, Mr Atkinson was no better than UK Docks, in fact, he does worse by explaining the fraud made by them and Mr Cunningham in detail and he does this [with reference to the drawing 8296/1A](#).



The dimensions in the height look wrong and one's first thought is that the 12500 should be pointing to the top of the elevation or its value changed to 9500 but that is clearly wrong, the gradient between ends giving a value of 9844, according to Mr Atkinson's figures of the 15th January 2014.

This shows that the true height was 12.8m at the landward end and the Planning Manager was lying when he claimed that the drawing was approved and 15.5m was the approved height at that end.

Approved Drawings. The drawing that was submitted on 11th April 1996 with the application is numbered 8296/1A. That shows the overall height of the structure as 15.5m above the foundation level at the landward end.

He sent me a copy of the [only authorised plan from 1996 with dimensions](#), 8296/2, just before the end of January which proved my calculation was correct to within a few centimetres and 1A and 1B were not consistent with it in terms of overall dimensions:-

Following a search of our archived file the only drawings that we have that are stamped 'Approved by Tyne and Wear Development Corporation' are 8296/2 and 8296/4. 8296/1A and 8296/1B are consistent with these two stamped drawings in terms of overall dimensions

The first thing to note about [the email to which 8296/2 was attached, 28-Jan-14](#), was that it was marked PROTECT.

8296/14 is the recent drawing and the only purpose of that is in regards to the condition dealing with the strip curtain door fixing details. You explain that you have measured the height from this drawing as 15.6m, and you seem to have assumed that is the riverside elevation, and have adjusted for the gradient of the slipway and concluded that the height at the River Drive side should be in the order of 3m less. In fact the 15.6m height is the height to River Drive and the height on the river side is some 3m greater.

[He had approved this drawing in October 2013](#) and it was as good as an outright lie to say that the elevation referred to the River Drive end of the shed. Notice that he was using the height calculated by me on drawing 8296/14 but by saying the elevation referred to the wrong end of the shed, he was making was the [second fraudulent misrepresentation about the shed](#). It being 'legal', being the first.

It had however, saved him from having to deal with his errant Principal Planning Officer's behaviour in the preceding four months and he goes on to say on the 28th January, conveniently omitting the fact that we were already at the second stage:-

I have previously told you that the variation in angle of the pillars is not considered to be material. I can only suggest that if you do wish to pursue this matter further you ask that my Head of Service, George Mansbridge, responds to any remaining points you may have formally under stage 2 of the Council's complaints procedure.

By any standards, to mislead us then pass on the complaint, was a major abuse of the complaints procedure. The escalation of the complaint, on the 14th meant we were well into the second stage.

February 2014

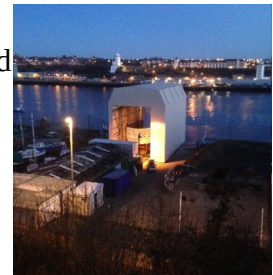
Mr Atkinson admitted to me that the shed was taller than planned on the 13th but he had however clouded the issue by saying that the drawing to which we were both referring, [8296/14, was not to scale](#). If you check for yourself you will see that two scales are used, 1:20 and 1: 100 and it is sufficiently accurately drawn for me to be able to determine that the planned height was 15.6m at the river end. Less than a 1% error, which is why nobody in 8 years, has questioned the values assigned by me to the width or the height.

March 2014

We held a meeting in the sailing club at Littlehaven in early March after Mr Atkinson had conceded that we were correct about the height of the shed. We decided to raise a Petition and I was asked to write to him to ask for the shed to be removed and I took the opportunity to thank him for [his U-turn about the height of the shed](#) on the 4th March:-

Thank you also for confirming that the Slipway Shed is not built to the approved 1996 plans.

The approved plans from 1996 indicate the shed is 3m taller than planned, the unapproved plans are ambiguous, they show a height of 15.5 m at each end, and I go on to request that the shed be removed and he promptly responds but it becomes very clear that he had taken no action, as a small Port of Tyne tug was taken onto the slipway in mid-March. The shed was not being removed, they continued to add the cladding and somewhat less politely, on 20th March, I [remind him that work continues on the shed](#):-



Why has the council not used its powers of enforcement to stop the work? You have admitted that the shed is not built to plan. If any resident had built a construction that breached their planning approval, they would surely have been asked to remedy it or at least to submit a retrospective planning application.

I surprised by his next day response:-

Dear Mr Dawson Thank you for your email. Before the Council makes any decisions on the planning aspects of this case, we need to have a full understanding of the history of the site, and analyse all the facts. This is a complex matter and will take some time.

It was not a complex matter at all and Mr Atkinson knew as well as I did, that the shed was taller and wider than planned as did its owner, UK Docks. [He had passed me a copy 8296/2 in January](#). Plans 8296/1A and 8296/1B are consistent, only it if one accepts a river end height of 15.5m rather than landward end, shown at the foot of either drawing.

It did not fool me. If you look at 8296/2, remember to take 0.6m off the difference in the height of the roof from the datum of 95.5m. [If you look at the full sized 8296/14](#), the height and width of the gable end can easily be found with a standard office rule as centimetres easily translate to meters when you know the architect was using a scale of 1:100 for the gable end and you will find the height is very much nearer 15.5m than 18.2m. I had wondered why he kept on telling me, who understood drawings, lies about them. It was so they could be repeated by those who followed him.

It was not complex because we all knew from the meeting at the South Shields Sailing Club that the shed was 2.7m than planned and he would have known that we all knew as well because I wrote and thanked him with reference to 8296/2. The complexity arose because Mr Atkinson had overwritten the complaint 248789 with the escalation, of stage 1 to 2, [in place of the complaint of the 10th:-](#)

see email to planning 14/1/14.

Mr Dawson asking various questions relating to the ongoing development at the slipway, River Drive, South Shields.

The complaint referred to drawings attached to an email to Planning Enquiries on the 10th January. [The email of the 14th January was to Mr Cunningham](#), reprimanding him for not responding to the complaint of the 10th and you can now see why I call this document, Cycles of Deceit, and it would appear that rather than respond to the complaint, it was deleted and replaced by the escalation requested 3 days later:-

Much as I appreciated your meeting with the above mentioned Association I am personally not satisfied with the outcome, particularly as new issues have come to light. The issues I refer to are the date stamp on drawing no 8296/1A and (the) drawing for application ST/1146/13/COND which is not a match for the current structure.

The drawing for ST/1146/13/COND was 8296/14 and [it was approved by Mr Atkinson in October 2013](#) and it required a bit more than the work I did on 8296/1A – see image at top of page 4. The gable end is the river end and the size of it was calculated from knowing that UK Docks used a standard section for the frames, 686×254mm, onto which to fix the cladding.

April 2014

On the 1st of April, the Gazette published a [Front Page article about our Petition](#). If one excludes the given height of 11m the misinformation given to the readers was minor but the transcript of the article on [page 5 gave the impression all was above board](#) but it is far from the truth and points directly to corruption that lies at the heart planning, building-control or enforcement officers in South Tyneside Council. See especially the complaint made by another resident:- “We feel we are being stone-walled by the council. We are asking the council why it has not stopped this work because of the breaches to the conditions.

The Mr Atkinson clearly not in control was plainly doing nothing about them continuing to build their shed so I wrote to his manager whom I knew from Mr Atkinson’s email of the 28th January to be Mr Mansbridge, the Head of Development Services, and commented on the article in the Gazette:-

“To cap it all there was an article in the local paper on Apr 1st showing most flattering photograph of the offending shed saying that it was only 36ft high. The author of the article may have got away with saying that in September but not now. You should know that it is over 50 ft high and that is what we have been saying for months now. It's planned height is about 42ft.

Towards the end of April the [Planning Manager passes the complaint on:-](#) “Mr Mansbridge is hoping to get a comprehensive response off to residents by the end of next week.

May 2014

On the 2nd of May we get a response to our Petition, not from the Chief Executive [but from Mr Mansbridge who says](#) in a letter to residents of Greens Place and Harbour View:-

Work commenced to lay foundations and this was inspected by South Tyneside Council's Building Control service on 26th February 2001. A further inspection on 22nd May 2001 showed that the foundations were fully concreted. This was a material operation for planning purposes in order to begin the development approved in 1996.

*“The approved dimensions of the steelwork are: **Proposed height 15.5m at the River Drive end.** The gradient of the slipway is 2.66m over the length of the shelter. This would mean the height at the riverside end would be 18.16m above the slipway.*

The first paragraph fails to mention that the foundations are nearly a meter wider than those approved which as I have explained on page 3 is a material consideration and what UK Docks and Building Control have hidden from Mr Mansbridge is that the footings laid in 2001 were for a shed 27.5m long and 13.1m wide and to say that the proposed height was 15.5m was an outright lie. Please see drawing 8296/2 to confirm that for yourself.

[Switch of ID.pdf \(theharbourview.co.uk\)](#)

It appears that Mr Mansbridge did not wish to answer the charge that his planning staff were abusing the Council's Complaints Procedure so he chose outdo them and rewrite the complaint that [the shed was oversize and the Council had done nothing with:-](#)

Planning enforcement of Tyne Slipway boat shed

Letter to GM following previous letter dated 4th April. Not happy with G. Atkinsons response at Stage 1.

Letter to be dealt with at Stage 2.

The original complaint was that the shed was oversize and the planning officer responsible had denied it. Mr Cunningham failed the first stage by passing non approved drawings to the TGA in December and the complaint itself onto Mr Atkinson to look at it at a second stage. I was not happy with the number of misrepresentations but we worked through them all and he eventually had agree that we were correct about the shed's height. It was because he threw in the unjustifiable remark that 8296/14 was not to scale, that when I thanked him, it was with reference to 8296/2.

Mr Atkinson had previously rewritten the original complaint when he raised 248789 to hide Mr Cunningham's repetition of the fraudulent claim made by UK Docks about their shed and then Mr Mansbridge was about to repeat the process by hiding Mr Atkinson's part in this scam and that would explain why the very simple complaint about the height of the shed became a complex one.

I never requested the complaint to be reviewed at the second stage because Mr Atkinson had already exhausted at the complaint when he had conceded to the 300 or so petitioners in February 2014 that the shed was taller than planned in what was the second stage of 248789. See my thank you to him for his U-turn in March.

[June 2014 - GM to MD Stage2 0206.pdf](#)

None of the three letters sent to the Head of Development Services was a request for the complaint to be considered at a Stage 2 level:-

1. April 4 – [a notice that the shed was taller than planned](#) which was passed back to Mr Atkinson and remains in limbo, unanswered to this day.
2. May 2 – was [about the misuse of the complaints procedure](#) by Messrs Cunningham and Atkinson to hide what they were doing;

3. May 9 – was [about his response to our Petition](#), where I comment on his proposition that the approved height of the shed is 15.5m at the landward end of the shed:- *“This is not true, there is no supporting documentation which says that the approved height is 15.5m at the River Drive end. All indications are that the approved height is 12.5m which one can get from scaling the portal details in the Drawing 8296/14.*

In his letter of the 2nd June he says: *“Your letter of 9th May focuses on the dimensions of the shelter as being built and in particular your view that, as well as being wider than approved, the shelter is also 3m taller. You refer in particular to Drawing 8296/14. That would represent a significant deviation from the approved scheme”,* and indeed that is true but he goes on to repeat two misrepresentations made by his Planning Manager a month or so before:-

1. January – re 8696/1A:- *The height of the steelwork at River Drive is clearly marked as 12.5m+3m, **an error as explained at the top of page 4;***
2. February – re 8296/14:- *The engineer also chose to include a gable elevation of the structure on the same drawing but that was not drawn to scale, [it is drawn to scale.](#)*

He does give me an opportunity to make some redress when he goes on to say:- *“If it would help I would be more than happy to meet with you to show you the relevant plans and elevation as this may clear up this specific point.*

[I take him up on the offer to view 8296/14](#) little knowing that the Council were ‘sign off’ the shed or enclosure on the 17th of June and UK Docks were ready to place an application to extend it onto the footings laid in 2001 three days later and by the time of any arranged meeting, both Mr Mansbridge and his Planning Manager would have known this.

They were were in a similar bind to that of Mr Cunningham was when he claimed the shed the [approved height on December 19th 2013](#). There was no way they could admit to the truth at our meeting as the Council would have had to shut down the supposedly completed works on the River Drive slipway within hours.

July to September 2014

Meanwhile in the last few days before the meeting, Mr Mansbridge invited his Planning Manager to it and I realised that it would come to nothing so I thought I would try and [by-pass it by writing directly to Chief Executive](#):-

*On the 5th Sept 2013 work started at UK Docks premises on River Drive to build a slipway shed length 22.3m, width **13.1m** and height at end facing River Drive **15.5m**.*

*On 27th Sept an application was received in the planning office from the agents for UK Docks, Messrs Maughan, Reynolds Partnership Ltd to meet conditions of a previously granted application ST/0242/96 for a slipway shed length 22.3m, width **12.2m** and height at end facing River Drive **12.5m**.*

The meeting of July 8th 2014 was not minuted nor did the Planning Manager bring the drawing along. Drawing 8296/14 was not viewed because it was approved. He brought drawings 8296/1A and 8296/2 to the meeting, announcing that neither bore an approval stamp but implying that both were approved. I told the meeting that 8296/1A showed the height at both ends of the shed to be the same at 15.5m and that brought the meeting to an end but I kept the copy of 8296/2. When I collected it from Sunderland I had hoped to show it to the Chronicle but they were not interested.

The meeting, however, gave significance to 8296/14. It showed that when someone pointed to the 3m +15.5m dimension at the landward end of the side elevation on 8296/1A, or 1B for that matter, and claiming it showed the approved height of the shed they were repeating the fraudulent misrepresentation that had been given by UK Docks in September 2013. It was first repeated by Mr Atkinson in January and by Mr Mansbridge in May and again by the latter in June 2014:-

The approved dimensions that I state are those which are annotated on drawing number 8296/1A.

The height of the steelwork at River Drive is clearly marked as 12.5m+3m (total 15.5m).

The difference in height of the slipway over the length of the shelter is marked as 96.1-93.444 (2.656m). 15.5m plus 2.656m gives the height at the riverside of 18.156m.

I attach a A1 size copy of this plan.

The main purpose of the meeting, like the one held in November was to hide the fact that the shed was 2.656m or 3m taller than planned so that UK Docks could get their taller and longer shed without having to put in a retrospective application for it. Following the meeting I receive an email from Mr Mansbridge which forced me back into a corrupt complaints procedure.

Without directly accusing the pair of them of rigging the meeting I start up a correspondence with the author of Stage 3, 12-Aug-14:-

I would like to add that at no point all this correspondence has Mr Atkinson, and he heads the Planning Department, said that I am wrong in my assertion that the shed is built 3m too high. Mr Mansbridge in his letter says that the engineer did not draw the gable on drawing 8296/14 to scale. The fact that the dimensions of the portal column are given (an industry standard RSJ 686×254mm) and the projected width of 12.2m give(s) lie to this.

I had stated quite clearly the dimensions of the structure as built compared to those permitted but in the Stage that followed Mr Mansbridge' rewrite of my complaint she does not mention the height of the shed at all and the author repeats the claim that 8296/14 is not to scale:-

With respect to your comments regarding drawing 8296/14, this drawing was submitted by the developer last year in discharge of condition 4 relating to the fixing details of the end panels. Mr Mansbridge stated in his Stage 2 response that the engineer chose to include a gable elevation of the structure on the same drawing but told you this was not drawn to scale. You have disputed this. I have not considered this point further because it is clear that drawing 8296/14 was submitted in 2013 for a wholly different purpose (i.e. for the purposes of discharging a planning condition) and as such, could never supersede the previously approved plans in terms of defining the dimensions of the approved development.

I have quoted her paragraph in full because apart from repeating the lie about the drawing not being to scale, she says it could never supersede the previously approved plans in terms of defining the dimensions of the approved development and if one looks at it and 8296/2 one can see that the dimensions were not superseded.

It also confirmed why it was not brought to the meeting arranged to view it, why there was no response to the original complaint by the planning officers and why the number of the complaint was changed by their manager to 253539. It was to hide the fact that I and other local residents were telling the truth when we claimed was nearly 3m taller than planned.

March 2015

It had been over two months since I had written to the Ombudsman and not received a reply and I noticed that Planning application ST/0461/14/FUL first submitted in June 2014, had been amended and realised the architect for Gary Craig Building Services Ltd. had also hidden the fact that height of the shed built was materially different from that approved by not showing it on any drawing. I therefore raised a complaint about it FBR -266782 but [it got snuffed out on the 12th March by the Planning Manager](#) with the help of Customer Advocacy:-

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 original complaint with the Ombudsman was about the mishandling of ST/1146/13/COND and in the 12th March, Customer Advocacy conflated it with ST/0461/14/FUL, which was raised while both the Council and I were waiting for the Ombudsman. Note the PROTECT mark.

ST/1146/13/COND continued.

The like the final stage of the bastardised Stage 3 complaint, the [first draft of the Local Government Ombudsman's findings](#) omits all mention of the height of the shed:-

"However, he had 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.

I say her draft should mention the height otherwise it is meaningless and she comes up a slight variation of Mr Mansbridge' response to our Petition, [in Paragraph 23 of her second draft](#):-

I have seen the 1996 plans and report written by the Development Corporation. The applicant has written the elevations on the plans. At the inland end this is 12.5 metres plus 3 metres. The land then slopes away towards the river. So the height at the river end is 2.6 metres higher.

I explain in [great detail that she was misinformed](#) by the Council's use of 1A and that it would be better to use 8496/14. Its non show at the meeting of the 8th July and the proved its value but the Council told her otherwise:-

37. Mr X says plan 14 shows 15.5 metres as the river end height. The Council has explained to Mr X why this is not the case. The developers submitted plan 14 in 2013 as part of their application to discharge condition 4. The Development Corporation did not approve plan 14 in 1996 and it is not a plan subject to condition 2. It shows how the developers intend to attach the end panels. One drawing shows an end with the panels in place to provide an impression of the final appearance. The drafter has not specified which end this is and the drawings are not to scale.

I had explained to her quite clearly why it was reasonable to use 8296/14 to claim that the gable was the one at the river end and was equally reasonable to claim the 3m overbuild in height but it looked like, once the programme to hide the fact that the shed wall taller than planned was in place it overrode everything, including Customer Advocacy and the Ombudsman and [Jexplanation14.pdf \(theharbourview.co.uk\)](#) had been a waste of time.

I did not wait for the final draft and on the final day of March and [I wrote to my then MP, Emma Lewell-Buck](#), seeking her help with our complaint, that not only had the shed not been built to plan but that it was located in the wrong place and we had been sent round in circles for eighteen months by various members the Council manipulating their own Complaints Procedure to hide the wrongdoing of other members of staff.

April and May 2015

[In her final draft the Ombudsman concludes:-](#)

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.

Please read my criticism of her justification for coming to the wrong conclusion in the post:- <http://theharbourview.co.uk/blog/lgo-paras-30-38/> cf. 34. I have seen the 1996 plans. On plan 1/B the applicant has written the proposed elevations at the inland end as 12.5 metres plus 3 metres.

My complaint to the South Shields MP, landed on the MP for Berwick's desk which defied logic, because while I had moved to Amble the shed was still in South Shields. However, Anne-Marie Trevelyan's office manager appeared to be on the ball and I gave her some more details but forgot to say that one has to be very careful, [when quoting the height of 15.5m, to attribute it to the correct end](#) when saying whether the shed had been built to plan or not.

June 2015

When I saw [Anne-Marie Trevelyan's summary of the troubles](#) we had had with South Tyneside Council I was impressed with what she had asked of the Chief Executive but saw that because of my omission about which end was which, a [correction was required which I copied to Mr Swales](#):-

I agree with your summary but I must say that one has to be very specific about which end of the shelter one refers to when talking about the height. The fall along the length of the shelter is about 3m and this coincidentally is the height of the apparent overbuild. You have not specified that the stated height (15.5m) is of the river end of the shelter and it is likely that, Mr Swales, if he follows the arguments of the Planning Manager and the Head of Development Services before him, will say it refers to the road end. The drawing, 8296/1A which they have used for their argument also states the height of the river end as 15.5 meters. This is clearly not consistent given the slope of the slipway.

I had given whoever responded to Anne-Marie's letter the choice of admitting that the shed was 3m taller than planned or maintaining the fraud the shed had been built to the approved height and the Corporate Lead's way out of this conundrum was to accuse us of making allegations i.e. shooting the messengers, and that is why I started this letter with the request that you to look at the approved drawing from 1996, 8296/2, and her letter of 25th June 2015.

After she falsely accused the good citizens of South Shields of making allegations, she says:-

The matter was ultimately referred by way of complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman, the outcome of which was delivered on 14 April 2015. The Ombudsman did not uphold the complaint, finding that the Council had acted appropriately in our approach relating to the planning application and subsequent action, full details of which would have been sent by their office to Mr Dawson.

Here was the first evidence in writing of the reason of why South Tyneside Council was so keen to give misinformation to the Ombudsman. It was so that when one complained about conduct of Council Staff over any development to an MP, or anyone else for that matter, they could repeat the Council had acted appropriately in their approach relating to the planning application etc. and the Ombudsman had agreed with them.

I had worked out that the Local Government Ombudsman was more easily persuaded by opinions rather than facts when I complained about the Haig's overbuild of 71 Greens Place and was going to pursue that with David Milliband MP but realised I need not bother him after the Mr Haig submitted an application for the overbuild to be looked at retrospectively by the Council.

As I explained in Shed and Corruption – Part 2, pages 2 and 3, the Planning Manager put a stop to anyone looking at the redevelopment of 71 Greens Place retrospectively and Mr Haig's rooftop balconies and first floor garden will have to remain as a testimony of corrupt practice by the Council. It also explained why the planning officers Cunningham and Atkinson were so keen to bury the complaint of January 10th, 2014 which asked the question about retrospective planning.

The primary purpose of misleading the Ombudsman was, as you should have gathered by now, to hide corrupt practice. The Corporate Lead finishes her letter to the MP for Berwick with:- *"I hope that this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to share this letter with your constituent"* but the MP did not share the misinformation given her by Mrs Johnson and it was not discovered until the 4th of January 2016.

By then the Council had arranged to put ST/0461/14/FUL to the Planning Committee and UK Docks were looking forward to getting permission to extend their shed as the consultation period had ended well before then.

It would appear that the Council's Corporate Lead was the most important in a line of people starting with Cllr Anglin, Mr Haig and Mr Watson in getting UK Docks their longer shed and I can only assume that she was chosen to take a shot at me again when I told the Chief Executive that his staff were giving misinformation to the Ombudsman because she did such a good job in persuading the MP for Berwick that we were making allegations.

Yours sincerely

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

Michael Dawson.