

Press Release

Lymington Society Calls on the NFDC to urgently repair the sea wall flood defences at the Bath Road Slipway after an unacceptable two year delay.

The Lymington Society had today written to the Chief Executive of the NFDC calling for an end to the two years of stalemate that has seen the Council fail to carry out proper repairs to the sea wall flood defences adjacent to the Bath Road car park slipway and has led to the area being only protected by unsightly temporary sand bags and security fencing for far too long.

This had not only put the town at unnecessary risk of flooding but has denied the public the use of an important viewing and seating facility in this area used by many visitors to the town. To make matters worse the area has been left to go to weeds and neglect, exacerbating the abandoned building site appearance of security fencing and sand bags which have been in place for over two years

The delay has also stopped the repair of the important riverside monument commemorating the donation to the town of gas lamps by Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale, which was partially destroyed by storm damage almost two years ago.

Speaking on behalf of the Society, Press Spokesman Don Mackenzie said:

“The Society feels that enough is enough and the two year delay in getting to grips with this problem is simply unacceptable.

Whatever the conflicting arguments as to the cause of the deterioration of the wall, the time has long passed when the NFDC should have stepped in and carried out the necessary repairs to make the area safe and return the area to public use.

To make matters worse, the fenced off area has until recently been allowed to become completely overgrown with weeds and has frankly been a complete disgrace for a tourist town.

In the last analysis, the NFDC is the main organisation responsible for ongoing maintenance of this important part of the infrastructure of the area and should have carried out proper and immediate repairs of this part of the sea defences of the town and surrounding area at the slip, rather than allow this situation to go on for so long.

It is understood that the NFDC may be trying to tie the work needed on the sea wall with future plans for the raising of the whole sea defence in the area. It seems to the Society that this could take many, many years to plan and finance and it is simply not acceptable that there should be any further delay in repairing this vital section of the sea wall and bringing this important public area back into proper use.

We therefore urge the NFDC to urgently carry out interim repairs which will allow the threat of flooding at this point to be properly contained and allow the reuse of this important viewing and seating area to be restored to public use as soon as possible”

Ends

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