

Letter to Peel Ports from Fairlie Community Council

re Consultation Event 4th- 6th June in Fairlie Village Hall.

..... on behalf of Fairlie Community Council I am requesting that technical consultants be available at each of the events, to facilitate the imparting of meaningful information regarding each of the eight proposed uses. Over the three days, 4th - 6th June, you have ample opportunity to give presentations, outlining the pros and cons of each of the suggested projects. Without this vital information, do you expect the public to form sound opinions?

None of the 8 Peel Port Proposals come without some level of threat to the amenity of this area and our village. Over the past few years, since the coal terminal stopped operating, the noise and dust levels from your site have significantly improved..Our Air Quality is not something we wish to see sacrificed. Neither would we wish to return to the constant noise from generators , machinery and fans. Telling us these will be regulated is not good enough.

Your Company`s Vision is, as yet, not our vision and whilst we would welcome jobs, it is not at any cost. Your Visions/Proposals would come at a high cost, not just to Fairlie, but, the wider area which depends on its natural beauty to bring people to live, work, play and raise families here.

1 Liquid Natural Gas Storage (LNG- methane) We note this is as close to Fairlie as you could put it.

LNG is a cryogen and excellent asphyxiant , it can result in a violent thermal shock explosion when in contact with warm water. Dispersed and mixed with air, it can provide conditions that facilitate a BLEVE ie. a boiling liquid expanding vapour explosion, capable of destroying most of the buildings in Fairlie and blowing the cladding off the Nuclear Stations. It is not something that ONR would consider acceptable near the Nuclear Power Stations, so why do Peel Port think it would be alright so close to our village and even closer to where the nuclear fuel flasks are loaded onto the train for Sellafield? Methane is also a powerful greenhouse gas, so without tight management control, something which has not been evidenced in the past, there could be releases to the atmosphere that contribute to global warming.

2 The CCGT Power Station ... also upwind from us and close. If PP is serious about its Visions then we expect you to have someone talk to us in detail about these two proposals which come with accompanying significant and negative impacts.

3 The train manufacturing plantwe would expect some proof and details of there being 1000 jobs for Hunterston and then readily consider the merits of such manufacturing.

4 Modular Manufacturing we assume this is house building modules and would wish more details. Scotland has lost a lot of its manufacturing jobs over the years and it would be good to see some return.

5 Concrete batching we would wish details of road/ rail/ sea movements for materials and likelihood of expected noise levels/ dust. These should be easy to come by as there are other concrete batching plants.

6 Marine Construction and Decommissioning Friends of the Firth of Clyde have provided more exact information about this than your company and we still do not have an Environmental Impact Assessment for the parts of this project that have been applied for. Has SEPA granted a Waste Management Licence for the Hunterston Construction Yard Site yet?

If Peel Ports really cares about the environment and our Site of Special Scientific Interest, an EIA would have been done as a matter of course.

7 Aquaculture... experts and the public in general have mixed views about the merits and demerits. More detailed information is required for a sound judgement to be made as to whether the site and project are right.

8 Plastics Recycling and Storage: more detail is required and somebody able to answer technical questions about the processes involved, storage and environmental impacts. Without this information, it is impossible to make an informed judgement. If the PP Vision for Plastic Recycling and Storage is realised, then we fully expect PP would seek to extend its Vision to include an Incineration Plant. We require assurances that this is not an intended extension to the Plan. Locals, like all reasonable people, expect clean air, clean water and a relative noise and stress free environment for themselves and their families.

Without access to full factual information about the options outlined, it is impossible to trust that the PP Vision will ensure this.

It is disappointing that the literature is a Marketing Brochure rather than a Consultation Document and it has raised questions within the Community. Peel Ports Visions, if realised in totality, could turn a unique and beautiful area into an industrial nightmare and probably for very little in the way of jobs. Regulations and Planning Conditions might alleviate the nightmare to some extent, but that has not been our experience in the past. Due to the Government's qualification that all the Regulators and Planning Authorities make decisions that support Economic Development, we cannot rely on those Bodies, who should be safeguarding our amenity and environment, to do so effectively.

As for PP investing in the future of Scotland and working together with communities, it is surely the case that the Scottish Taxpayer via Scottish Enterprise and other grant sources foot much of the bill, in some cases, appearing to aid developers' pursuit of inappropriate developments that can irreparably damage the environment and wellbeing of the people.

We have several questions about the Consultation/ Marketing Strategy.....

1 Who is conducting it /analysing the data on behalf of Peel Port?

2 What are the objectives of the questionnaire?

3 Will results be open to independent scrutiny?

The brochure reads like a wish list to maximise utilisation of a redundant site for Peel Ports' benefit rather than a clear strategy aimed at working for Scotland, planning to promote environmentally conducive co existence and ensuring sympathetic best use of the site.

This does not bode well for anybody.

We require further information on

Road Transport Marine Transport

Construction work to make site ready for any projects

Noise Pollution Light Pollution Particulate and Gas Pollution

Details of potential outsourcing

These are Fairlie Community Council's initial thoughts and requests based on the Marketing Material supplied so far.

