



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01557

Name of petitioner

David R Slater on behalf of Save our Whitesands car parks and river views

Petition title

No Scottish Government funding for Whitesands flood scheme

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to rule out additional grant funding for Dumfries and Galloway Council for their proposed flood prevention scheme on the Whitesands river frontage in Dumfries that will obscure our important river views forever and take away important safe car parking.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

- I have written to Scotland's First Minister environment Minister.
- Asked questions at the Ministers question time at Easterbrook hall in Dumfries after the recent Scottish Government cabinet meeting. The environment Minister Dr Aileen McLeod informed me at the meeting she would be looking into this proposed flood prevention scheme and may visit the town of Cockermouth to view their flood protection including the floating wall.
- I had meetings and dialogue with council officials.
- I have raised the issue in the media about this flooding project that started at 12 million pounds and now in just a few short weeks now 15 million. I have spoken with several councillors about this proposed flood prevention scheme.

Petition background information

Dumfries and Galloway Council have proposed a flood prevention scheme for the Whitesands area of Dumfries. The Council have stated that “the start of construction works will be dependent on the funding being available from the Scottish Government.” I am calling on the Scottish Government to rule out providing specific funding for this project for the following reasons.

LOCAL OPPOSITION

The Strength of feeling from so many people prompted me to raise a petition against the flood defense system proposed by Dumfries and Galloway council. The petition has gone from strength and now has 4000 signatures. The opposition comes from local businesses and the general public including visitors

to Dumfries.

The people don't want to lose the river view and their important safe car parking within easy reach of the main post office banks and many local businesses

The people fear the time this is going to take to build approximately 2 years.

No one wants to see the bus route altered to make the buses go up narrow streets where there are many pedestrians

COSTS

The council said the cost would be 12 million in just a few short weeks has increased to 15 million and rising.

I have researched other flood defense companies with designs that would keep our river views and important safe car parks at a much lower cost and build times.

Have the council considered or spoken with any other flood defense companies as only one option on the table for councilors to consider why is this.

The CEO of another flood defense company has decided to come to a public meeting in Dumfries to demonstrate their designs and products and show the people how they could build flood defenses at considerably less costs and build time, and save our car parks and river views.

The council are having to buy a private car park with money from the public purse to try and find room for 230 cars that will be displaced if this scheme goes ahead a car park that is almost full most days already.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/saveoursands>

Related information for petition

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-our-Whitesands-car-parks-and-river-view/358201247681553>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

19 / 02 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion

- The photos and design plans the council put out to the public don't show a true image of the finished project in particular the height of their proposed grass bankings

that will block our river views.

- It will destroy the views of our river forever.
- The walkway on top of these earth bankings doesn't show any safety railing on the top of it as it has an incline of 30 to 35 degrees of around 8 metres of grass to the base of it.
- The river from the road will be blocked off from public view what if something happens beside the river someone falling or worse. At the moment there is a clear view of the river from the roadway and the shops side.
- Have the emergency services been spoken to as regarding access to the river if any incidents occur and that includes inshore rescue.
- The buses will have to go up Bank street where there is a sharp right turn and is a busy area for people walking. The buses then face a multi road system that does create traffic jams.
- The loss of our public toilets with no decision by council if they will be rebuilt and where.
- The council are looking to purchase a private car park out of monies from the public purse a car park that is pretty full most days already.
- The build time for this project is in excess of 2 years and will turn our riverfront into a building site and what happens if the river floods in that timescale.
- Most businesses inform me that they are very concerned about this project especially in these times of austerity.
- The cost of this project is rising by the day 12 million now 15 million.
- The council want to turn a green area into a riverside car park to help find space for the 230 proposed displaced parking spaces. This proposed green area is further out and has very difficult access in and out.
- The ancient Rood fair comes to our town and has done so for many generations.