

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE (October/Nov 2024)

between

NIGEL WARD (North Yorks Enquirer)

and

Mr Karl BATTERSBY (North Yorkshire Council)

EMAIL #1 (30/10/24)

From: Nigel
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 12:44 PM
To: Karl Battersby <Karl.Battersby@northyorks.gov.uk>
Subject: WHITBY HARBOUR - LADDERS
Importance: High

Mr Karl BATTERSBY - Corporate Director of Environment - North Yorkshire Council

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Karl,

Good day to you. My apologies for raising an operational matter to your personal attention; I feel unable to address myself to your subordinate after his repeated disrespect to me (an apology would be appropriate).

Over the past few days, I have been visited at my daily morning 'surgeries' by Harbour-users here in Whitby expressing concern regarding the replacement of the wooden safety ladders on the internal Harbour side of the East Pier - not, you will understand, that anybody is opposed to the replacement of rotten (after so many years of negligence) and no longer fit-for-purpose wooden ladders with steel ones; rather that there would appear to have been a disregard of the requirement, in the case of Listed structures, to replace 'like for like'. (see appended photo).

I may be mistaken (and I am sure you will correct me if such is the case) but it was my understanding that any deviation from the 'like for like' requirement necessitated special dispensation or planning consent.

Please provide me with such information as you have readily to hand such that would clarify this bone of contention. If replacement other than 'like for like' is indeed authorised, please

indicate to me that the requirements have been fulfilled - and through what process. This enquiry should NOT be construed as a FOIA request.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very kind regards,

Nigel



EMAIL #2 (30/10/24) - Top marks! A very prompt response - if rather brief.

Subject: RE: WHITBY HARBOUR - LADDERS
Date: Wed, 30 Oct 2024 12:57:29 +0000
From: Karl Battersby <Karl.Battersby@northyorks.gov.uk>
To: 'Nigel Ward'
CC: Tricia Richards <Tricia.Richards@northyorks.gov.uk>

Good afternoon Mr Ward.

I will find out and come back to you.

Regards.

Karl Battersby

Corporate Director of Environment

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Directorate

County Hall

Northallerton

DL7 8AD

Telephone: 01609 532128

Email: karl.battersby@northyorks.gov.uk

Web: www.northyorks.gov.uk



EMAIL #3 (11/11/24) - A gentle reminder following a period of silence.

Subject: Re: WHITBY HARBOUR - LADDERS

Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2024 18:34:50 +0000

From: Nigel

To: Karl Battersby <Karl.Battersby@northyorks.gov.uk>

Mr Karl BATTERSBY - Corporate Director of Environment - North Yorkshire Council

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Karl,

Further to my enquiry of Wednesday 30th October 2024 regarding the steel ladders on the in-Harbour side of Whitby's East Pier, you will recall your intention to get back to me.

I see that the historic England Guidance would appear to address my concerns quite succinctly:

- <https://www.heritage-consulting.org/technical-information/grade-2-building-restrictions/>

In particular (and to spare you trawling through reams of info):

The exact wording of the Advice from Historic England is: "If carrying out a repair or renewal to a listed building would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, then listed building consent will be required. Many repairs will not affect the character of the building. However, it is not true that repairs using like-for-like materials will never require consent as such repairs still may affect the special interest in the building. The removed materials may, for example, hold historic interest."

I would say - and I would expect anyone familiar with Whitby would agree - that it is inarguable that Whitby Piers "hold historic interest".

Could you please inform me as to your next steps? Thank you.

Very kind regards,

Nigel

PS - I should inform you that the rancour over the comportment of the the two Harbour Masters continues unabated in a pejorative and ribald manner. Surely there could be a sensitive and tactful resolution? (Please see attached images).



EMAIL #4 (13/11/24) - At last! An admission of failure.

Subject: RE: WHITBY HARBOUR - LADDERS
Date: Wed, 13 Nov 2024 11:02:09 +0000
From: Karl Battersby <Karl.Battersby@northyorks.gov.uk>
To: 'Nigel Ward'
CC: Maureen Wilson <Maureen.Wilson@northyorks.gov.uk>

Good morning Mr Ward.

We have discussed the matter with the planning team, and whilst the matter is not clear cut, we propose to submit a retrospective application for listed building consent to regularise the matter.

Regards.

Karl Battersby

Corporate Director of Environment

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Directorate

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EMAIL #5 (13/11/24) - My closing acknowledgement.

Subject: Re: WHITBY HARBOUR - LADDERS
Date: Wed, 13 Nov 2024 15:13:46 +0000
From: Nigel
To: Karl Battersby <Karl.Battersby@northyorks.gov.uk>

Mr Karl BATTERSBY - Corporate Director of Environment - North Yorkshire Council

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Karl,

Thank you for your email updating me on the ladders issue over which I raised concerns regarding a potential procedural impropriety, back on 30th October 2024.

In the circumstances, a word of gratitude would not have been inappropriate. I mention this only because members of the Harbour community are vocal on the subject of desiring a more co-operative (and less high-handed) approach by the Council to the matter of conducting Harbour affairs. Common courtesy goes such a long way to establishing a more harmonious working environment.

I am pleased to learn that you are taking appropriate steps to rectify matters - though I should remind you that I was not raising a complaint; merely attempting to ensure that the Council was compliant with regulatory requirements.

I am advised that certain grades of steel are more suitable than others for use in close proximity to sea water. I trust that your final solution will take that into account?

Please be so good as to keep me informed.

Very kind regards,

Nigel

EMAIL #6 (13/11/24) - Mr BATTERSBY remembers his manners. Top marks!

Subject: RE: WHITBY HARBOUR - LADDERS
Date: Wed, 13 Nov 2024 15:29:24 +0000

From: Karl Battersby <Karl.Battersby@northyorks.gov.uk>
To: 'Nigel Ward'
CC: Maureen Wilson <Maureen.Wilson@northyorks.gov.uk>

Thank you for your email Mr Ward and for raising the issue.

Regards.

Karl Battersby

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