SOUTH SHIELDS MARINE SCHOOL

Mr Geoff Horsman
South Tyneside Council
Planning Department
Westoe Road
South Shields
NE33 2RK

08/09/2023

Dear Mr Horsman

I am writing to you in my capacity as Principal of South Shields Marine School. I wish to express our wholehearted support for the revised planning application concerning the South Shields Marina. Ref ST/0353/20/FUL

The strategic location of the South Shields Marina holds immense potential for our students and the broader community. To elucidate, the Marina is ideally situated approximately 500m to the South of our Marine and Offshore Safety Training Centre (MOST) and a mere 300m to the West of our new college campus. This proximity not only facilitates ease of access but also fosters an environment conducive to integrated learning and safe practical training.

During the initial planning process, we had already emphasised in our written endorsement to South Tyneside Planning Authority our keen interest in harnessing the potential of this facility, however, the current approval effectively precludes any educational use. The Marina, with its proposed revisions, would be a significant asset to our learning and training centres. By expanding the user capability of the Marina to encompass Training, Safety, and Research users, we can ensure that our Marine College students and staff have access to a state-of-the-art, pontoon-based marina facility. It is worth noting that such a facility is unparalleled on the south side of the River Tyne.

The integration of this marina into our training programs would undoubtedly elevate the quality of education and hands-on experience we provide. We believe that the revised application aligns perfectly with our vision for the future of marine education in the region.

In conclusion, I urge the local planning authority to consider the broader implications of this revised application, not just for Tyne Coast College and the Academy Trust but for the entire community that stands to benefit from such a facility. We are confident that the South Shields Marina, with its proposed revisions, will be a beacon of excellence in marine training and research.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to a favourable decision that will pave the way for a brighter future in marine education and training in South Tyneside.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Simon Ashton AFNI - Principal