

Karen Wooden

From:
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Subject:



I write as Chairman of the Hayling Seaside Railway volunteers.
For over a dozen years the volunteers have built and run the Railway along the seafront, to the benefit of the local community and tourism. People of all ages have enjoyed the ride. Most narrow gauge lines may have one vehicle designated for wheelchair use; everyone of our coaches is fully accessible, so the elderly and disabled can enjoy a trip by the seaside with friends and family.

If the Funfair is totally unwilling to grant us a secure long term lease, or sell a piece of land, or grant us a 'corridor' through to the Council land to the west, then we have no option but to build our H.Q. elsewhere. With all other sites having been examined and rejected, for the Railway to continue we need a building at Eastoke Corner. We would have liked to take the opportunity to build something a bit bigger and better than what we have at Beachlands, but under intense pressure, Bob Haddock has decreased the size of the intended building, in a spirit of compromise.

Some objectors like to give the impression that we intend to despoil an unspoilt natural wilderness. We will in fact be building on the existing station site and a strip of car park, close to the public conveniences and Adizone. We will not be blocking a sea view, as it cannot be seen from street level in this area.

With the seafront cafe near Chichester Avenue having gone, to be followed by our old Depot, and the probable removal of the toilet block near Coastguard, there should be no overall gain in the number of buildings on the open seafront.

We at the Railway do care about the Island and our environment, and will make every effort to build an attractive and appropriate building.

Andrew Rose



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