

Harwich Matters

The Future of Harwich & Dovercourt: Special Report



Conservatives

Exciting New Vision For Bathside Bay

Conservative Councillor unveils vision for Bathside Bay as part of wider regeneration plan for Harwich and Dovercourt

Cobbled streets, living museum, market, play beach and maybe even a replica of the *Mayflower* are all part of Ricky Callender's inspired vision for an 18th century-style heritage and tourist attraction at Bathside Bay.

The scheme would celebrate Harwich's maritime history, including the town's connections to both the *Mayflower* and Admiral Nelson.

The Conservative Councillor's proposal follows concerns that the new container port planned for the site may never be built.

Cllr. Callender said, "There has been talk about building a dock at Bathside Bay for a long time and nothing ever gets done. It could be many years before anything actually gets started. In the meantime, we are left in limbo".

Now, Cllr. Callender says the port plan should be abandoned and the focus turned to tourism instead. "We have about 1.5million people on passenger ships coming through Harwich every year, so if we could get just a quarter of those people to stop we would be winning", he added.

See Ricky's full article on the back page

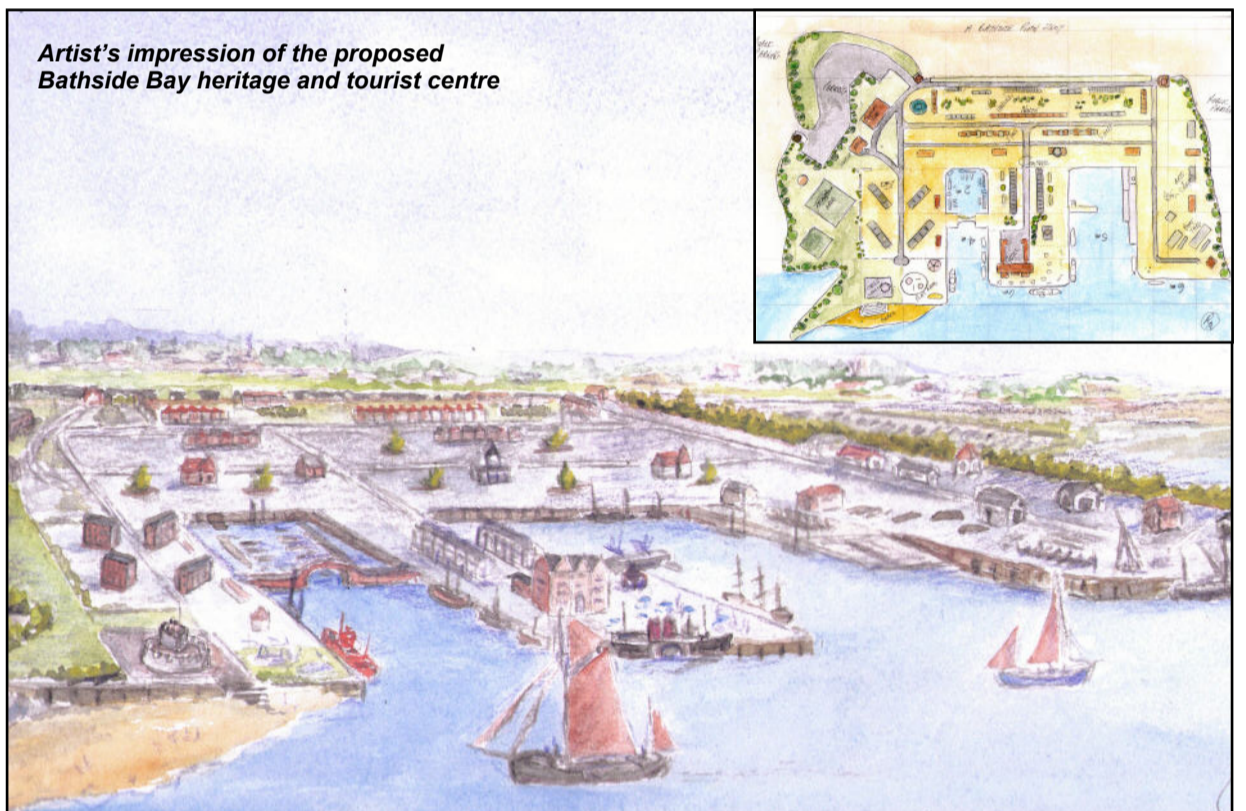


Cllr. Ricky Callender at Bathside

The Bathside Heritage and Tourist attraction could include:

- A living museum, similar to Mystic Port in the US
- A replica of the *Mayflower* - alternatively, tall ships such as The Discovery could make regular visits
- Arts and crafts centre
- Open space for fetes and festivals
- Children's play area including play beach and mock castle
- Fresh, high quality produce market
- Traditional boatyard for the construction of wooden vessels
- Period-style housing

Artist's impression of the proposed Bathside Bay heritage and tourist centre



What could revitalise Harwich and Dovercourt?

Your local Conservative Councillors are keen to listen to your views on the future of Harwich and Dovercourt. By creating an active partnership between residents, proprietors and the Town and District Councils, we hope to create an achievable vision for the town

Proposals to revitalise the area include:

- **Establish a town centre market:** A lively market outside Dovercourt Station, which could expand along both Kingsway and Station Road, would bring a new heart-beat to the town centre (with no need to close the High Street or change bus routes).
- **Introduce free parking at the Milton Road car park on Market Days**
- **Give Dovercourt High Street a facelift**
- **Provide incentives to encourage new retailers to open**
- **Ensure the Barnard's site development is suitable:** should it be developed for housing or could a more inventive plan, such as a Trade and Exhibition Hall, bring greater benefits?
- **Sponsor floral displays**
- **Ensure any development of Bathside Bay is suitable**

What do you think? Let us know what you would like to see in Harwich and Dovercourt by returning the survey on the back page...

Vision for Harwich

Cllr. Ricky Callender writes:

Harwich has become an empty shell and urgently requires new investment and employment opportunities. However, the charm and relative tranquility of the town may be adversely affected should a new container terminal be built at Bathside Bay. Clearly, a complete re-evaluation of the town's role in the 21st century is needed. Looking around Britain, we are undergoing a metamorphosis from industrial past to the burgeoning knowledge society and economy of the future. Across the country, cultural and leisure activities are now providing the economic base.

Unique experience

It is astonishing how Harwich has for so many years let visitors from the cruise ships be bussed out of the area instead of retaining some of them and getting a piece of the cake. This must be down to lack of vision, imagination, investment, organisation and dare I say interest. What Harwich needs is to create a unique experience. Have some attractions that make landmarks not only locally, but nationally and even internationally. We in Harwich must make the cruise ships use Harwich as an actual stopover on their itinerary, not just an arrival and departure port.

The basis for successful tourism is already here. The Maritime Museum, lighthouses, the old Crane, sea, river and much more. Harwich has a unique, authentic and diverse architecture, featuring many historic and listed buildings, and is home to many artists. What we need to do now is bring it together.

Mayflower replica

This is where a Bathside Bay heritage and tourism project will come in. Fresh high quality produce market, living museum, arts and craft centre, souvenir shops, restaurants, cafés, open space for fetes and festivals, boat chandlery, period-style housing, moorings, play beach and mock castle. A replica of the *Mayflower* will emphasise the American connection and bring in many visitors. This would attract yachts, fishing boats, tall ships, London sailing barges.

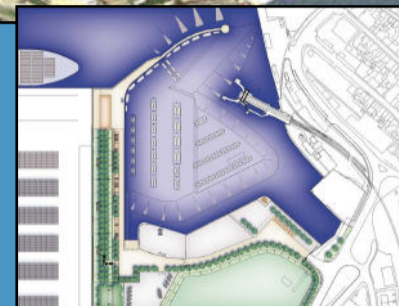
With positive planning, the peninsula could also prosper from the knowledge society. Why not - businesses locate to where the brain capital exists. Harwich is in a close proximity to two major universities, Cambridge and Essex, and, thanks to the Hook-of-Holland ferry, to the knowledge centre of the Netherlands and Ruhr valley. It is therefore in a unique position - nestled between the most dynamic and successful regions of Europe in terms of knowledge, I.T., culture, leisure and tourism.

We must take advantage of these opportunities in Harwich and not sacrifice the town's tourism potential, environment and much more in pursuit of a single goal.

Bathside Bay Dock Plan: The Facts



Although plans to build a container port at Bathside Bay have been around for decades, Hutchison Ports (UK) were only given the go-ahead by the Government in 2005.



The £300 million terminal will make Harwich potentially the second largest container port in the UK, almost doubling the total quay length to 3000 metres and creating over 770 jobs.

However, work on the project cannot begin until the developer has obtained planning permission for and completed upgrade work to the A120 - which could take many years.

Here to help:



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What Do You Think?

A Better Future For Harwich & Dovercourt

Let us know what you like to see in Harwich and Dovercourt by taking a few moments to complete this survey and returning it **FREE** to:

Cllr. Ricky Callender,
FREEPOST RRG5-EKGY-KSCJ,
Unit C2 East Gores Farm, Colchester, CO6 1RZ.

Harwich & Dovercourt

- Would you like a regular market established in Harwich?
 Yes No
- Do you think the best location for a new market would be outside Dovercourt Station?
 Yes No
If not, where do you think a new market should be located?

- Do you think free parking at Milton Road car park should be introduced on market days?
 Yes No
- Do you think Dovercourt High Street needs a facelift?
 Yes No
- Do you think incentives should be offered to encourage new retailers to open in the town?
 Yes No
If yes, what incentives could be offered?

- Would you like to see sponsored floral displays in Harwich and Dovercourt?
 Yes No
- What new facilities would you like in Harwich and Dovercourt?

Bathside Bay

- Do you support Cllr. Ricky Callender's proposal for a heritage and tourist centre at Bathside Bay?
 Yes No
- What attractions would you like to see at a Bathside Bay heritage and tourist centre?

- Do you support plans for a new container port at Bathside Bay?
 Yes No
- Do you believe the new container port planned for Bathside Bay will ever be built?
 Yes No
- Which of the following would you prefer to see at Bathside Bay?
 Heritage and tourist centre Container Port
Other (please specify) _____

Planning

- The heritage of Harwich is under threat from 900 new flats and houses, which are allocated to be built in the town under the local plan. Do you think 900 more houses and flats should be built in old Harwich?
 Yes No
- What do you think should happen with the Barnard's site?
 Used for housing
Other (please specify) _____

About You

- Which Party do you usually vote for at elections?
 Conservative Labour Lib Dem
 UKIP Other Don't vote
- Would you, or anyone in your household, like to vote by post or proxy at future elections?
 Postal Proxy (Permanent)
 No Proxy (One Election)

What have we forgotten?

Please let us have any other comments you may have about Harwich and Dovercourt and their future (feel free to use an additional piece of paper if required).

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other _____
Address _____
_____ Post Code _____
Tel. No. _____
E-mail _____

Data Protection: Information given in this form may be entered onto a computer database for the sole use of the Conservative Party and its agents. If you are registered with the Telephone Preference Service and give us your telephone number, this will be taken as giving permission to call you.