

Since being elected in 2005 as both district and town councillor for the South Ward, I've worked hard to **improve** the quality of life in Hayle . . . to **increase** business opportunities . . . to **pursue** prospects for more jobs . . . to **instil** more transparency and fairness to the planning process . . . to **encourage** thoughtful development of the harbour . . . and to **enhance** communications and access to town news.

## SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2005-09\*

- **Wave Hub Partnership Board** – I represented Penwith on the board and relentlessly pressed for more jobs related to this project to be created in Hayle. The Renewables Business Park to be built on the North Quay, which could offer hundreds of quality jobs, is a result of this pressure.
- **The Old Hawkins Motors Site** – I was instrumental in negotiating a solution to the Hayle Terrace site that was acceptable to both Hawkins and the people of Hayle. The compromise agreement for six houses to be built adjacent to permanent open space for use by the town was endorsed by the Hayle Residents Association and the Hayle and District chambers of commerce.
- **St Michael's Hospital** – The 2006 threat was countered by the well-supported protest march for which I served as march coordinator, resulting in a major change in strategy and management at the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust. I continue to monitor developments closely, especially since the dismissal of John Watkinson, who instituted many of the recent improvements.
- **Marks & Spencer and the West Cornwall Retail Park** – One result of passing these plans was the £75,000 made available through the Hayle Area Plan process, enabling us to promote projects in the town. I voted for the project and lobbied the County and Region to remove threatened vetoes.
- **The Passmore Edwards Institute** – I amassed enough grants to cover the £60,000 cost of restoring the 110-year-old slate roof and gutters, securing the building for another 100 years. Additional grants allowed for the renovation of the old billiards room and

the creation of the fully restored Denis Hollow Room – all for use by the residents of Hayle.

- **Communications and Accessibility** – I am the only councillor in Penwith to provide a regularly updated web site ([www.hayle.net](http://www.hayle.net)) specifically for constituents. I send out email news alerts to those who have registered, advertise in the Hayle Pump and I place information on major Hayle issues in my display case next to Martin's. I can easily be reached by phone and mobile.

*\*More on my website*



## HAYLE HARBOUR

The regeneration of **Hayle Harbour** is long overdue and I continue to stress the need for its thoughtful development. However, a close analysis of ING plans showed an overemphasis on houses, fewer than required affordable dwellings, a loss of precious, protected greenfield sites, major problems with traffic, no immediate repairs to the worst damaged parts of South Quay – and no increase in jobs to support 1,039 new dwellings planned.

I've worked hard with PDC officers to address as many of these issues as practical, with the aim of achieving a development that the people of Hayle will welcome and that is still viable for ING. I voted for the project at Penwith's final planning meeting but cited a large number of areas requiring further negotiation to ensure a satisfactory outcome. Penwith officers stated that my intervention, and that of other Hayle district councillors, had helped achieve a better solution for the people of Hayle.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS



**Fire Service for Hayle** – Due to cutbacks and poor management at the county level we still lack emergency fire service. I have asked for a detailed risk analysis that determines response time to

incidents in our area. ING's plans do not include a fire station in the harbour area, and I am continuing to press for a solution to this potentially life-threatening issue that affects us all.

**Play Space for Children** – I have worked with Penwith officers to implement the government's strategy on play and open space for children. We must ensure that planning permission is never given to new estates without appropriate open areas – such as has happened in the Ash Drive/Water Lane area. On the plus side, a youth shelter has been placed in Ellis Park, and installation of play equipment for younger children should follow.

**Village Green** – Almost three years ago I submitted an application to register the land between Hayle Terrace and the railway station as a village green – thus protecting it from development and making it available forever to the people of Hayle. A number of technical issues remain but the application is still active. ING has proposed that the land will be a footpath to the station.

**Tolroy Junction** – I have pressed the Highways Agency for a junction on the A30 at Tolroy – vital to reducing the heavy vehicle traffic passing through the town. What we really need is a comprehensive transport plan for Hayle that will look at this and the other difficult issues that we face.

**Footpaths** – There are several dangerous areas in the town that urgently need footpaths. The Grist Lane access to Angarrack is one. Mobility scooters also need more ramps and better repair of pavements.

**Community Facilities** – I am looking at the feasibility of setting up a community cinema in Hayle. I also support roofing the town swimming pool and heating the water, and I am behind plans to build a sports and community hall in the town.

## OTHER TOWN ACTIVITIES

- **Deputy Mayor of Hayle.**
- **Hayle Town Councillor** since 2005.
- Chairman of the town council's **Development Committee**, which focuses on long-term plans and policies.
- Member of the **Hayle Harbour Advisory Committee**, which represents the users of the harbour and estuary.
- Chair of the **Hayle Area Plan Partnership Heritage, Culture and Environment**, a delivery group that focuses on regeneration and environmental projects in the area.
- Trustee and director of **Harvey's Foundry Trust**, now focused on Phase III of the Foundry regeneration.

- Member of **Hayle in Bloom**, for which I produce the portfolio given to the judges; I also designed and manage the web site ([www.hayleinbloom.org.uk](http://www.hayleinbloom.org.uk)).
- Governor of **Penpol School**, where I've assisted with parking and planning issues
- Active supporter of **Hayle Children's Centre at Bodriggy**.
- I also served on the **Social, Economic & Environment and Licensing** committees, and as a frequent alternate on the **Planning and Planning Sites** committees; I was **Champion for Sustainable Energy & Climate Change** and served on the **Climate Change Working Group**, and I also represented the Council on a number of outside bodies.

## THE FUTURE OF HAYLE: NEEDS, WANTS & HOPES

- ⇒ We must create as many **quality jobs in Hayle** as possible, and I will continue to press for live-work units for the creation of business and commercial space.
- ⇒ We must focus on preserving all that makes **Hayle and Penwith unique and a great place to live**, taking advantage of funding sources such as Convergence and moving ahead with regeneration.
- ⇒ More work must be done to **modify the Regional Spatial Strategy**, to prevent Hayle from becoming a dormitory town – i.e., too many houses and not enough jobs.
- ⇒ **Loggans Mill** is the largest listed building in Cornwall. Restored, it would make an eye-catching entrance to Hayle. Plans exist to build a science park and hotel adjacent to the mill and to restore the mill for commercial use. About 800 high-quality jobs could be created and I have been actively supporting this project and other projects in the Marsh Lane area.
- ⇒ With the harbour development and pressure to continue development at **Marsh Lane**, we also need to protect what is precious to us. Local Plan policy TV2 protects both Phillack and Angarrack from encroachment – and we need to ensure that these villages retain their natural character and are not absorbed into one large urban area.



It has been my honour and privilege to serve Hayle South as a district councillor over the last four years, and I hope I have met your expectations. I believe I made a positive difference.

The District Council responsibilities have now passed to Cornwall Council, and services can be accessed via the new 'One Stop Shops.' If you would like more information about this, or help with accessing services, please contact me.

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# JOHN BENNETT

**Independent**

**Hayle South Ward**  
**Penwith District Councillor 2005-09**

'Report upon completion of my term  
at Penwith District Council'  
*Ending 31 March 2009*

**... Working Hard for Hayle**