

To: North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council

Battery Parade, Whitby

16 November 2020

The feelings of anger and disappointment in the town about the current state of the Battery Parade will not have escaped your attention.

There are a number of issues that we would like to put on record, one of which is the continued presence of the ugly, unauthorised wooden fencing that has been erected in the curtilage of a listed building. The fencing also serves to block the right of way from the Battery up the west side of the buildings to Khyber Pass. This now blocked right of way is on the definitive map and has been in use for generations. We hope that these critical issues can be resolved in a timely manner through appropriate enforcement measures.

Battery Parade is an important historical and cultural asset in Whitby, not least due to the two listed eighteenth century Powder Houses built in 1787. They currently appear to be used for storage and their iron framed windows are in a poor state on one, and boarded up on the other. One structure is obscured by the funfair and the high, grey metal Heras fencing. They are surely deserving of more appropriate care and maintenance and a use that better reflects their heritage status. The funfair has now been removed yet the fencing remains, prohibiting access to this part of the Battery.

The area is cluttered with industrial rubbish bins and extensive, plastic and metal cafeteria seating. This makes access to the half moon of public benches edging the sea wall difficult and probably impossible for anyone with limited mobility. The benches offer some of our loveliest seaside seating and they should be preserved and enhanced and accessible to all.

We understand that the preservation and enhancement of the historic aspects of Whitby must be balanced with the needs of business and opportunities for employment. Heritage, business, the local community and tourism have happily existed side by side in the past. However, this balance is currently destroyed by inappropriate, intrusive, and unauthorised development.

Whitby Civic Society would like to propose that a more strategic, approach is developed to tackling these issues in this important historic area in the town. The Society would be pleased to collaborate in developing such an approach which should be in line with Scarborough Borough Council's own draft Visitor Economy Strategy and Destination Plan and the Conservation Area Management Plan. There is potential to involve the wider community in planning and fundraising to make Battery Parade less of the dumping ground that it currently resembles and more like the beautiful, historic place it used to be for the benefit of residents and visitors.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Carolyn Curr

Hon Secretary, Whitby Civic Society