

25 King Edward Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 2RE

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to you to express my severe concerns regarding the potential closure of Chatham Docks as an operational port.

I am currently employed within Chatham Docks by ArcelorMittal Kent Wire Ltd. I have been employed by the company for over 13 years now and for the length of my employment I have lived within Gillingham. During my employment here I have moved from being a shop floor operative now into the role of Quality Manager for the business, which I have held for around 3 years.

The current threat to the future of Chatham Docks is putting me under a great deal of personal stress as I'm 48 years old and once I cross 50 I know that my prospects of finding new employment will decrease even further, especially given the lack of specialist skilled employment in the Medway Towns these days.

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The work carried out by ArcelorMittal Kent Wire Ltd is for building and infrastructure projects across the whole UK. Some of them are extremely high profile, such as the Thames Tideway project. I personally have spent a large amount of the last 2 years working with Sir Antony Gormley and his studio to assist in the creation of the Matrix III exhibit for his recent one man show at the Royal Academy of Art in London.

I always vote in Local and National elections and in the upcoming General Election I will be voting for the candidate that I believe will fight to Save Chatham Docks and the futures of myself and my colleagues.

Please can you help to Save Chatham Docks, but more importantly save my job.

Yours faithfully

Dave Sheedy

Phil Taylor

From: David Sheedy <sheedydi@googlemail.com>
Sent: 11 December 2019 21:36
To: Phil Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Closure of Chatham Docks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: stamp, andy <andy.stamp@medway.gov.uk>
Date: Wed, 11 Dec 2019, 20:47
Subject: Re: Closure of Chatham Docks
To: David Sheedy <sheedydi@googlemail.com>, maple, vince <vince.maple@medway.gov.uk>, murray, teresa (external) <teresamurraytm@aol.com>, cooper, pat <pat.cooper@medway.gov.uk>, johnson, clive <clive.johnson@medway.gov.uk>, osborne, tristan (external) <tris.osborne@gmail.com>

Good evening David,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about the proposed closure of Chatham Docks, and apologies for the slight delay responding.

I share your concerns and strongly believe that the Docks should be retained exactly as it is. We desperately need high skilled, well-paid jobs locally and it would be devastating for Medway's economy if the Docks - which are thriving - were closed with the loss of 800 jobs. This would also have a knock-on effect on supply chains, causing the loss of further jobs.

In November, I met with some of the businesses based at the Docks, including Phil Taylor from Arcelor Mittal Kent Wire, and their argument for keeping the Docks open was very compelling.

I have since issued a joint press release with fellow Labour Councillors Teresa Murray and Vince Maple highlighting our concerns about the proposed closure, and will continue to work with them and local businesses to keep the Docks open. We are also in the process of writing to Peel Ports to highlight our concerns directly to them.

Finally, last night I attended a meeting of Medway Council's Development Plans Advisory Group, where I put forward the case to retain the Docks in its current form, and indicated my opposition to the proposals to designate the site for housing/mixed use, which would be damaging for our local economy and devastating for those of you whose livelihoods depend on the Docks staying open.

We will continue to lobby Peel Ports and the Council to protect the Docks as a manufacturing/employment site so that it can be retained as a working Docks.

Kind regards,

Andy

Andy Stamp
Councillor, Gillingham North Ward

From: David Sheedy <sheedydi@googlemail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 2:28 pm
To: Phil Taylor; maple, vince; stamp, andy; murray, teresa (external); tracey.crouch.mp@parliament.uk; Davidnaghi@maidstone.gov.uk; Kelly@kelly4rochesterandstrood.com; graham.colley@medwaylibdems.org.uk;