

THE QUWAD

(Quay watcher's Diary)

Date: Monday 14th June 2010

Its 11AM on Monday morning, and it is a busy time on Penzance quay. All the delivery drivers are in a hurry to drop their goods for the Isles of Scilly and get on their way to carry on with their round through out Cornwall. A recent official survey counted nearly 250 vehicles per sailing of the Isles of Scilly ship.

But what's all this, what's going on? The vans and lorries are all queued up on the road. There are several cars parked on the quay obstructing easy access for lorries and vans and the quay is cluttered with pallets waiting to be loaded. The perishable food stuff is spoiling in the hot June sunshine The ship's pallet hoist is not working A driver from up country manoeuvres his huge articulated lorry on the quay. He has 2 twenty foot porta-cabins for the new school project on the Islands. The ship is there but the crane is not working, the dock side workers use their fork lift truck to get the load off the lorry. The truck is at its load limit and the forks are not long enough. Alarm bells sound but he gets it on the ground. Good job the "Health and safety" jobs worths are not here to-day!

There have been letters to the newspaper, complaints from the chamber of commerce and deputations to the Government, someone must do something this is terrible. The Member of Parliament lobbies ministers and a "route partnership" is formed. A super scheme is developed, we will fill in the beach and build a lorry park there and freight shed. It will cost the taxpayers £78 million!!!! But it will solve all our problems

Oh dear, the transport ministry say they must review all projects for value for money

Well here is the quay watcher's low cost answer.

First off all this is a working quay and not a car park. Workers at the adjacent nick nack shop and other premises should use the nearby wharf side car park.

Secondly, the ship has a very efficient automatic cargo loading system for palletised cargo that relies on a fork lift driver working in the hold, and a crane driver is needed to work the crane to lift and load heavy stuff direct from lorries.

The 11AM problem is that all the crew have taken their morning crib (tea/coffee) break at the same time, so the whole loading process has ground to a halt, hence the congestion on the road and the quay and damaged goods and safety problems.

Easy solution, revert to the system that was introduced when the ship was new and the crew staggered their tea break to provide continuous working of the cargo gear through out the morning.

Its not rocket science and there would be no need to fill in our beach or spend £78 million.

Supermarket check out staff stagger their breaks, why not Isles of Scilly ship staff?

"Simples"!!

From the quay watcher.