



To: South Coast Yacht and Sailing Clubs

March 30 2014

Dear Commodore

Navitus Bay Wind Park: Timetable and Steps to be Taken

We are aware that there is still great concern amongst sailors over the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park. This letter explains the current status of the proposal, and how clubs and individuals can prepare to make their views heard during the planning examination. You CAN do something and as users of the area we MUST do something.

You may have seen that the developer, NBDL, recently made a small reduction to its planned wind farm. However, at 155 sq km it would still be bigger than Paris and just under half the area of the Isle of Wight. It would still have up to 194 turbines. The turbines may as tall as 650ft. It would still sit in an extremely popular and busy area for leisure sailing. With around three-quarters of the site inside the recommended 12 nautical mile limit, it still represents a significant risk to navigation and to our recreational amenity. We do not expect the plan to change again before it is submitted.

The period of formal public consultation by NBDL is over but that does not mean it is a done deal. The application to develop the site is likely to be submitted to the National Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') on **10 April 2014**.

You are asked to read the page on this link: <http://www.challengenavitus.org.uk/the-planning-process.html>. We also advise everyone to subscribe to Challenge Navitus for email updates as they will explain what to do and when. People who are interested in registering their views should start to think about a short summary of their concerns for submission in **May**. The developer's website is www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk.

It is important to realise that the Inspectors will be concerned only with planning issues. Risks to navigation, loss of amenity, economic impacts on clubs, marinas and local businesses are all valid planning issues. They will take reasoned and evidenced arguments very seriously. Petitions or multiple copies of identical letters will carry little weight.

Together we can ensure that the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change will be fully aware of all of our views over this proposal when he comes to make his final decision next year.

It is vital that clubs and individuals make their views known in the examination process in order to communicate the depth and breadth of concern in the sailing community.

David Aisher
Rear Commodore Yachting, Royal Yacht Squadron