



A pink sea fan and jewel anemones on the Maen Land Reef on the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone

PICTURES: MARK WEBSTER

Twweed plan to breathe new life into derelict Dartmoor wool

A community co-operative plans to bring a derelict woolen back to life.

Dartmoor Tweed, which makes cloth using wool from sheep reared on the moor, intends to bring production to the Old Woollen Mill in North Tawton, near Okehampton.

The mill - empty since 1992 - is earmarked as a base for the co-operative's ambition to create 'a local product for a global market'.

A spokesperson said the aim was for a "well-designed, sustainable, potentially carbon neutral, mixed-use scheme,

that is an inspiring catalyst for a new ecology which the textile industry and culture, engineering, innovation, education and farming are all in elements, just as they were when the mill first opened its doors 300 years ago".

After six months of consultations with local people, the co-operative has held a public meeting at the Tawton Youth and Community Centre on June 1 from 10am, to gather views and further discuss plans.

Protesters to battle Lizard quarry plans

BY KEITH ROSSITER

Protesters are braced for a battle over the future of the remote Lizard peninsula in Cornwall.

Developers want to reopen the disused Dean Quarry at St Keverne and build a new breakwater and jetties in order to ship millions of tonnes of rock to Swansea in south Wales.

But local residents fear this will destroy the rural peace, threatening the £45 million-a-year tourist industry on the east coast of the Lizard.

And they say the construction work and quarrying will cause irreparable damage to marine life in the neighbouring Manacles Marine Conservation Zone.

They are calling on the Government to obey a European Union directive to protect the feeding grounds of harbour porpoises, which are regular visitors to the Manacles Reef.



A harbour porpoise with Dean Quarry behind

PIC: AK WILDLIFE CRUISES

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The quarry might be used to supply some of the five million tonnes of rock needed to build a proposed tidal lagoon in Swansea.

The Government is expected to announce in the next few days whether the Swansea project can go ahead. The scheme, backed by ministers as part of the National Infrastructure Plan, calls for a six-mile sea wall to create a "tidal lagoon", using turbines to generate electricity.

It would be the world's first tidal lagoon - and could be the forerunner to similar schemes elsewhere in Wales.

Local residents have set up a campaign group - Cornwall Community Against Dean Superquarry - to fight the proposals.

Falmouth-based AK Wildlife Cruises has joined forces with the campaigners, collecting wildlife data from the Manacles Reef to support the evidence gathered by CADS.

Dean Quarry stopped operations in 2008, but Shire Oak

Quarries has been granted permission to reopen the infrastructure. The company will not be allowed to increase the number of lorries using roads on the Lizard.

Shire Oak is understood to be preparing a planning application for a new breakwater and 500-metre long jetty. Shire Oak Quarries would not give any indication of how soon it would submit an application.

The company's chief executive is also chief executive of Tidal Lagoon Power. But a spokesman for the Swansea

project insisted there was no other connection between the two and it would be up to the appointed contractor to source and transport rock to Wales.

A decision on the lagoon must be made by June 10, and the spokesman said that if the Government gives the go-ahead work could start by next spring and be complete by 2019.

Alison McGregor, from quarry opponents CADS, said: "This is on a scale which means it will be a port."



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