

Daniel Heckford
Marina Manager
Premiere Marinas
North Lock Side
Pacific Drive
Eastbourne BN23 5BJ (by email)

cc County and Borough Ward Councillors
Josh Babarinde OBE MP

25 August 2026

Dear Dan

A Dangerous Slope Needs Handrails

In the past, pedestrians crossing the car park area beside the locks at the end of Key West to gain access to the curved outer harbour prom needed to negotiate one of two gravelled slopes. The only alternative was a steeper paved slope, which most people avoided.

Premier Marinas have recently fenced off the two slopes (see photos below), so now the only access is the very steep paved slope. The slope forms part of the alternative route when the harbour bridge is out of action and is a part of the King Charles III England Coast Path.

Premier have added more paving slabs at the top of the paved slope beside the lock to make access to the bridges across the lock easier. However, the paved slope is wholly unsuitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters, and difficult for those with a pram, carrying shopping and anyone with mobility issues. There is no handrail, and in winter it will be extremely dangerous. The now fenced-off gradual slopes, although not perfect, were probably easier and safer to use, although accidents did happen, as we discussed at our meeting with you and the MP in January.

The new low fencing has blocked the gentler, alternative routes and created a health and safety trip hazard because many people remain reluctant or are unable to use the steeper paved slope. At the very minimum, we believe it is imperative that handrails be installed as soon as possible on one or both sides of the steep paved slope. Will Premier be able to do this?

In the longer term, we believe a coordinated plan, perhaps with some external involvement or funding, is needed to complete the car park area and the land surrounding the locks. The area should be properly stabilised, walled, buttressed and landscaped as a formal extension of the outer harbour prom, and made safely accessible to all, including those with disabilities, and your crane.

Yours faithfully

Dave Rogers

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The fenced off and turfed slope and the car park.



The other fenced off slope



This steep, paved slope is now the only access up and down. It needs handrails.



New path of paving slabs links the lock bridges.



Loose gravel area used for crane access.



The slopes before being fenced off.

