



5<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## **Plans Unveiled for Marine Academy at Noss**

Noss Marina Developments Ltd, in partnership with South Devon College, has today submitted a planning application to South Hams District Council for a new Marine Academy at Noss.

The new Academy will help to train and skill the next generation in a wide range of water-based activities including: marine engineering; marine sciences; yachting; canoeing; kayaking; powerboating; and marine public services.

The submission of the application marks the start of the £100 million redevelopment of the Noss Marina site with a planning application for the redevelopment of the rest of the site due later this year.

Based in a refurbished Noss House, the new Marine Academy will be run by South Devon College. A mixture of full and part-time courses will be provided for 145 full-time and 190 part-time students initially. This is expected to rise to 296 full-time and 449 part-time students in 5 years. Students will be mainly transported to and from the site by bus and there will be no provision for student parking at Noss.

Some of the courses will be based entirely at Noss with others utilising both the marina site and the College's main campus at Paignton. When fully operational, it is expected that the Marine Academy will employ 20 people mostly based on the Noss site.

The refurbishment and extension of Noss House for the Marine Academy will create over 2,000 square metres of space including: 7 classrooms and one workshop; wet and dry store facilities; a marine workshop and changing facilities. Students will also be provided with a common room and a restaurant with viewing terrace.

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The College will use the Noss site for the delivery of community and commercial courses and the water-based elements of its Foundation Degree in Outdoor Education, National Diploma in Outdoor Education and Public Services programmes. The College is already an approved training centre for the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and the British Canoe Union (BCU).

Commenting on the plans, Stephen Corner, Director of Noss Marina Developments Ltd, said: "We are delighted that we have been able to reach an agreement with South Devon College to located their Marine Academy at Noss. This is good news for the College, good news for the wider regeneration plans for the Noss site and good news for the local community as a whole, which will benefit from having this important training facility right on the River Dart.

"The planning application we have submitted today has been the subject of lengthy discussions with the College over many months to ensure that they have a facility that meets their needs now and into the future.

"If planning permission is granted, we hope to begin work on refurbishing Noss House this year with the College starting courses at Noss in 2008", he said.

ENDS

[For further information contact either Charles St George or Susan Belfourd at PPS on 01454 275630]

#### Notes to Editors

1. A Consortium acquired the Noss marina site in April 2005. The Consortium includes the round-the-world yachtsmen, Michael and Paul Berrow, who have been involved with sailing and boat building for many years and came third in the Whitbread round-the-world race in 1985.
2. The 14.57-hectare (36 acre) site on the east bank of the River Dart is about a mile from the mouth of the estuary and has a long association with shipbuilding and sailing.
3. Preliminary plans for an employment-led mixed-use regeneration of the former Philip & Son shipyard, potentially creating up to 250 jobs, were unveiled for public consultation by the site owners in September 2007. Full details are available on the website [www.nossmarina.co.uk/vision](http://www.nossmarina.co.uk/vision).
4. Further public consultation on the plans for expanding the existing Marina will take place in March of this year.
5. The Noss owners will be considering all the comments received during the public consultation process and revising the scheme before submitting a comprehensive planning application for the site later this year.