

Fish Stall
Fishing Quarter
Kings Road Arches

In 1992 Brighton Council decided as part of the Seafront Development Initiative (SDI) to retain the 13 arches 194 to 208 Kings Road Arches with the buildings and structures on the beach in front of them as one of the string of pearls central to thinking of the SDI project. Some of the arches with the buildings and structures in 1992 were still in use by the fishermen to store and repair their equipment, others had laid dormant and unused for a number of years but all were in a gruesome state of dilapidation. (fig one) The simple thinking was to renew the fabric of these arches and extend the frontage with a large landscaped hardstanding to create a defined Fishing Quarter. The fishermen were to remain to store and repair their equipment but also retail landed wet fish on the hardstanding in public view offering a visitor attraction. Also the centre arch 200 would become a Fishing Museum. In the long term the other arches buildings and structures on the beach would be used by small independent businesses related to the Fishing Quarter.

Fig one



To achieve this the buildings and structures on the beach had to be demolished and Disposal of Public open space orders had to be obtained to enable the removed buildings and structures to be situated further seaward on the beach. In the first instance five concrete foundation stamps and service connections were situated on the beach. Over the last decade four of the five buildings have been constructed a fish smoker, shellfish stall, museum shop and a winch house. (fig two)

Fig Two



The fifth concrete stamp opposite arch 207, which originally had a building in front of it, is currently used to sell shellfish from a barrow with no modern regulated cooling system. (fig three) The barrow is serviced from Arch 207 that has all the services and the means of disposal of commercial waste and used to store the shellfish. It is also used for the processing and preparation crustated products i.e. crabs, lobsters welks ect. and the preparation and retail sale of local landed wet fish from inside the arch and the exterior welsh granite sink. (fig four)

Fig Three



Fig four



The plan is to build a purpose built stall on the beach to replace the barrow currently in use. The objective in the first instance is to complete the vision as laid out in 1992. This will be achieved by the reorganisation of the Fresh Fish & Shellfish business currently operating from arch 207 and the barrow on the opposite concrete stamp on the beach. Arch 207 with its and exterior sink will be used primarily for the processing and preparation of crustated products and preparation of the local landed wet fish. The advantage of curtailing the dual use of as a process and retail outlet being that visitors to the Fishing Quarter not least the organised educational school trips will able to experience the preparation processes from a safe and controlled point of vision. The new stall will be the retail outlet for all products of the business wet fish, crustated and shellfish from one modern refrigerated display unit to bring the business in line with the best environmental health standards required or likely to be required in the future. The new stall will also be equipped with adequate modern refrigerated storage units. The stall will fulfill an initial aspiration of the SDI that wet fish will be seen to be available from the upper promenade all year round that could not be initially met because of difficulty of complying with the environmental health requirements. The stalls design as with the other buildings already constructed (see fig two) is based on scale and type of a building historically found on Brighton Beach, in this case one built by the old County Borough. (fig five) Like the other building already constructed it will be of different proportions with a distinct roof shape, which enhances the view of these building as seen from upper promenade. The stall will be clad with rough saw timber as some of the other buildings but slightly different dimensions how ever painted the same heritage white with grey blue trim which gives a sense of

uniformity to the Fishing Quarter with out an over all closely controlled design feel about the place through building shape or size. (fig six)

Fig Five



Fig six

