

Bold icon needed to announce borough

DRIVING up the M6 and then the M56 and M53 to my favourite peninsula one could easily get the impression that Wirral doesn't exist - there is not a single road sign anywhere to it

Many people in Nottingham where I now live haven't the faintest idea where Wirral is, and virtually no-one outside the UK has heard of us.

A few know about our football league team - "the team that had the guy with the long throw" - but that's as far as it goes, surprising for a peninsula with a population almost twice that of the whole nation of Iceland.

So what a joy to discover that we are now on the verge of having a wonderful and bold icon to announce to the world "this is us - and strategically placed right at the main entry point to the borough. And what a beautiful structure it would be with a design encapsulating our maritime history.

Wirral Council should be congratulated for getting external support for this

venture so that Wirral residents don't have to foot any of the bill. And I have no doubt that the increased revenue it would generate through attracting tourists and investors could, and should, put much-needed finances into the council's coffers to improve roads, bus shelters, schools and maybe even at last get that toilet fixed at one of our many great heritage spots at Dove Point in Meols!

I think it's very interesting that some have tried to draw analogies with a 10-foot boat in Ireland which has four monks and a cross in it. Wirral's 50-foot longboat design has no monks, no cross and has a shallower hull. To me, the two are quite different.

So as a forced exile - my job is 80 miles away - but coming from two very old Wirral families, I would like to say well done to all, and I can't wait to drive past with immense pride our Magic Boat on the way to see my favourite football team.

**PROFESSOR
STEPHEN HARDING**