Dear Madam/ Sir,

Regarding the repeated application from the Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry company for an increase in ferry charges I strongly urge you to deny this application.

The previous application was turned down and soon afterwards the ferry went out of service for almost a year.

They may claim this was co-incidental but to many, many people and businesses it appeared to be sour grapes and almost blackmail. The fact this ferry was out of action hurt not only ambulances and buses but the large amount of small trade businesses that go to and fro and earn low pay, as well as businesses in Swanage that depend on tourists.

If you look at every single road ferry charge in Britain you will see that only two have high charges. This one and one in Devon.

I recommend that you strip this company of their right to run the ferry and compulsory purchase the land.

Most ferry companies charge around 50 pence a journey. Look at their charge. Look at their dividends. Did they provide a service? No.

They say they needed a part they had to locate from abroad. We are a shipping maritime nation. One of our metal workshops could surely have made the part in no time.

Their behaviour has been greedy and devious.

I recommend you bring in another ferry company, perhaps MacBraynes on the west coast of Scotland.

Bring in any reasonably priced ferry company to run this and take away completely their right to run the ferry.

Please take into account that because of the Corona Virus almost every business in Swanage will be struggling and may not survive the year. This was not helped by this Bournemouth ferry company not running the ferry through spring and summer bringing much need tourists to Swanage upon whom many shops depend.

Max Bond
Dorset

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