

# Fence protesters surround office of quay boss

**SCORES** of protesters surrounded a building belonging to the owners of a quay in protest over a controversial fence.

Objectors have complained long and hard about the fence, which was put up on Mistley Quay.

Matters came to a head after the fence caused a rescue operation to be hampered. Protesters marched to the office of Michael Parker, boss of quay owners Trent Wharfage, and handed over a letter, demanding the two-metre high fence be pulled down "before more lives are put at risk".

Four people were rescued from the River Stour after their boat sank.

Richard Blay, 49, of School Lane, Lawford, had taken three relatives out in his boat when the incident



■ Pull it down – objectors outside the office of Michael Parker, boss of Trent Wharfage, the owners of Mistley Quay, where they fear a fence is creating a safety risk. (WRCFX-10)

happened.

Passing yachts saw the three adults and teenage boy in difficulty and alerted Thames Coastguard.

Mr Blay said: "Three of the party were picked up by other yachts. I stayed in the water, waiting by the boat, until the lifeboat arrived there and pulled me out, and then sped to Mistley Quay.

"They had to get coastguards there to remove a piece of fence in order for the lifeboat to land." Residents had to help coastguards remove a part of the steel fence to allow the Harwich lifeboat to moor at the quay for a waiting ambulance. Mr Blay joined the quayside protest to call for the fence

to be removed.

Kate Worsley, spokesman for Free the Quay said: "This incident, and the reactions to it, will hopefully encourage Mr Parker to re-think his position and pull the fence down, and talk to us and the authorities about a safer solution that is accountable to everybody and can't be a positive risk

to life."

Tending Council leader Neil Stock and the council's planning portfolio holder, Sarah Candy, were also at the quay during the protest. Mr Stock said he would be writing to the Health and Safety Executive and Trent Wharfage about the issue. Trent Wharfage declined to comment.