



c/o The Old Mill

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14th November 2017

Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive,
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for your reply

I was present at the meeting of the Authority on 27th September and noted what was said

The decision to close the Visitor Centre was a direct corollary of the Members' majority vote to accept option 3. They voted for an integrated visitor and library service to be in a building in which it cannot be. They certainly did not vote for or intend that Newport should have no tourist information service at all.

The Members' decision was reached without a proper appreciation of the facts, and being based on a false premise, following normal procedure, would normally fall and be reconsidered. You have not addressed this matter of procedure at all in your reply or accepted that you did not make it clear that this was not a workable proposition as you promised to do.

It is quite wrong and misleading to state that option 3 has "now" been rejected by the Newport Library Working Group with the consequence that "there will be no TIC provision of any kind in Newport". This option was rejected when the PCC was seeking alternatives to closing the Library in 2014/15, and again as one of many possible options put forward in December 2016 by the Director of Delivery and Discovery to our group, and never considered since.

The community's options 1 and 2 do not depend on the Authority retaining the status quo, nor did they amount to only minimal changes. Option 2 would acquire the building; both options would create funds to spend on new initiatives in parts of the Park where they might be appropriate. Both options satisfied the Park's declared approach to work with people and communities. Option 1 in its preferred plan was a direct result of input from the Director of Delivery and Discovery and your Finance Officer.

I note that you do not answer our second complaint.

We were not regarding the proposal to hold a further meeting as fulfilling any statutory obligation to consult, but rather as part of meeting the Authority's Service Standards. The New Models of Delivery as set out last year viz "delivering services with communities rather than for communities", and your "new approach to assets. promoting a consensus based approach and joint management with communities" - seem pretty hollow to us and the hundreds of supporters we have.

We are therefore holding a public meeting on 16th November in Newport Memorial Hall to consider the position and would be pleased if you were able to come to explain the present situation to the community.

We understand from your Chairperson, Gwyneth Hayward, during a telephone conversation that we had with her, that the disposal of the building will be considered at the Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee meeting on 22nd inst. for approval by the full Authority at their November meeting. Is this correct, please - as we were further advised to set out our position then?

You refer to your partners with whom you will work to deliver an effective Visitor Information Service in North Pembrokeshire. Would you please identify them for us so that I can give the full picture to the meeting.

I should be grateful for a reply

Yours sincerely

Mary Hallinan

Lady Hallinan, Chairperson Newport Visitor Centre Action Group

pp Sandra Bayes, Secretary