

To : Newport Town Council CAT Working Group (CAWG)

On Saturday 10th February 2018, Cllr Jano Williams wrote:-

*'The CAWG would be grateful if you would send us a brief summary of what you would like for the future use of the building, by Tuesday 13th February'*

This is Newport Community Forum Newport Visitor Centre Action Group's (NVCAG) response :-

1. **We would like the future use of the building to be** : The Visitor Centre and Community Library, together with office space for a continuing out-post facility for the National Park, shared in time by other community groups, such as Newport Time Bank, and support agencies, such as CAB.
2. **The aim of the Visitor Centre** would be to increase knowledge of Newport and the surrounding area and to improve the visitor experience for both locals and visitors.
3. The Visitor Centre would continue to provide face to face information and advice and a selling/marketing platform for local businesses, artists and craft makers. It could be used as a base by the National Park to explore new methods of delivery of information appropriate to this area. **Community input will enhance the Centre's work** e. g. We would develop more activities that leave from the Centre in conjunction with Rangers and others to study and enjoy the local history, culture and landscape, and arrange talks and small events within the building, focusing on the local area.
4. **The Visitor Centre space would include** : equipped reception desk and reception area, interpretation materials, audio-visual and general display materials, highlighting the special qualities of the North Pembrokeshire landscape; information leaflets which are free, and books, cards, local craft and art work and local produce exhibited/sold on commission as now ; a public computer, and pop-up small meeting space. Retention of the VC storage space adjacent to the desk is essential to the functioning of the Visitor Centre.
5. We would hope that that the **joint agreed layout of the building**, which was worked on by the Community Library and NVCAG over several months and unanimously agreed by the Town Council Visitor Centre Working Group as fit for purpose, will continue to be used. It was specifically designed for the aim set out in the Town Council business plan to maintain a Visitor Centre, to relocate the Community Library

and shared office into the building which remain the reasons for the proposed acquisition.

## **6. NVCAG supports The Town Council's proposed eventual extension**

### **7. Management and Day to Day running of the Visitor Centre**

The Visitor Centre would have its own Management Committee.

The Forum believes, and has been advised by PAVS, that our constitution allows us to perform this function, but we will work with the same nationally respected expert in Charity and Social Enterprise Law, as was used by the Forum for the Community Library, to form an appropriate organisation if and as necessary.

As in the Community Library, day to day running would predominantly be by trained volunteers. This would be a separate group from the Library. (NLWG has made it clear that they would not be recruited or organised by them).

In addition, there would be a joint Management Committee between the Community Library and Visitor Centre as already set out in the business plans.

It is hoped that the National Park would give the same core staffing and training support as they were prepared to do in Option 3. The 25 hours staffing that they were offering initially as viable in January 2017 would be better.

This is a matter for the Council to negotiate, knowing that the Chief Executive is on record as prepared to give some support and to keep the interpretation materials in the premises.

It is intended to work with Newport Time Bank and we are confident that enough help to run the Visitor Centre can be raised.

### **8. What payments would the VC have to make ?**

This depends upon the terms of the CAT and how the Town Council are going to finance the project.

The Visitor Centre will have no money without retail sales and we appreciate that the offer will be limited, if the Parks will no longer source and supply merchandise.

NVCAG/13/02/18