

Newport Community Forum  
C/o The Old Mill  
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23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Dear Mr Jones

We are writing to applaud the National Park and thank you for your endeavours to support Newport Visitor Centre re-opening this season, which we have followed by reading the Authority's minutes.

We understand from the Town Council website that many of the fixtures and fittings have been left for community use, as the Forum requested, and we thank you also for that.

From the press, we have gathered that Ewan Rees has been the seasonal ranger for the North from the beginning of June and will be in post for 4 months, which is good news.

As you know, it has always been the Forum's wish and aspiration that the National Park work in partnership with the community to continue to deliver a first-class Visitor Service for Newport and the North East of the Park. We have read in the Town Council Business Plan the following statements which had given us some hope that this would still be a possibility -

*The aim is "to re-establish the building's function as a Visitor Centre building on the work of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority..." ("Newport Town Council's proposal for a Community Asset Transfer of the Centre")*

*"The Project Management Group will continue to work closely with PCNPA to ensure that every opportunity is taken to build on the best of what previously worked well at the Centre" ("Phase One (Years 1 and 2)")*

*"Visitor Centre volunteers will be inducted and trained – as far as possible in line with PCNPA's own operating standards..." ("Phase One (Years 1 and 2)")*

*"Aside from the work undertaken to ensure that the asset transfer runs smoothly, Newport Town Council and its partners will seek to develop an excellent and close working relationship with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority so that the project might indeed be developed and designed to respond positively to PCNPA's own aspirations and Management Plan". ("Working with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority")*

*There will be "Ongoing negotiations with PCNPA to establish mutually beneficial project development opportunities - including any use of the building that might support PCNPA's desire to work more closely with the local community in Newport" ("Pre-start up")*

The Forum also believes it is very important for the well-being and economy of this area, as well as for the National Park's work, that the National Park outpost facility is retained in the Visitor Centre building. James Parkin's suggestion, during the consultation process last year, was a hot-desking arrangement for 10 hours per week, for use by Rangers, Recreational Staff and Planning Officers, for a rent of around £2K.

We hope that you will be able to come to some arrangement with the Town Council to begin this process, by enabling Ewan to base his work in the North at the Newport office for at least part of the week.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

*Sandra Bayes*

Sandra Bayes Secretary Newport Community Forum Visitor Centre Action Group

Cc Mrs Gwyneth Hayward, Mr Ted Sangster,

Newport Town Clerk, C.Cllr Paul Harries, C.Cllr Mike James, C.Cllr Bob Kilmister, C.Cllr Mrs Di Clements