

From: Facilities (Liskeard Town Council)  
Sent: 23 February 2026 09:34  
To: R Dorling; D Braithwaite; Sylvia Berry  
Cc: Town Clerk (Liskeard Town Council)  
Subject: FW: Battery Storage - Liskeard Public Hall

Hi all,

Please see below the feedback from the fire risk assessor re. battery storage.

Kind regards

Jacqui Orange  
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From: Mark Tucker <mark@fracompliance.co.uk>

Sent: 20 February 2026 15:40

To: Facilities (Liskeard Town Council) <facilities@liskeard.gov.uk>

Cc: Paul Vann-Hands <paul@fracompliance.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Battery Storage - Liskeard Public Hall

Hi Jacqui,

Apologies for the delayed reply I have had limited office time recently, and this is not a straightforward query to respond to.

The proposal to install a battery energy storage system (BESS) connected to the existing PV array introduces a distinct fire scenario associated with lithium-ion batteries, including thermal runaway, rapid fire development, re-ignition potential, and the production of toxic and corrosive smoke. In a public hall environment where occupants may be unfamiliar with the layout and evacuation can involve mixed or potentially vulnerable groups this risk requires careful consideration to ensure that the means of escape and overall life safety are not adversely affected.

When I last attended site, the compartmentation surrounding the inverter required remedial works, and I recommended that a compartmentation survey be undertaken. This should be progressed regardless of whether a BESS installation is pursued.

While battery technology, monitoring systems, and product standards have improved in recent years, the fundamental hazard profile of lithium-ion battery fires remains. In

addition, UK guidance for BESS installations within occupied buildings is still evolving. The constraints at this site namely limited external space, restricted access, and close proximity to residential properties further reduce the ability to effectively manage the consequences of a fire through separation, access, and smoke control.

On that basis, installation of a battery bank within the main occupied building is not considered a low-risk or straightforward measure. Any decision to proceed should be contingent upon:

- (i) A competent and suitably qualified designer producing a documented fire risk assessment and/or fire strategy addendum specific to the BESS, including consideration of appropriate compartmentation;
- (ii) Written agreement from the building insurer;
- (iii) Confirmation that the proposal does not compromise means of escape or fire service operations; and
- (iv) Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, such as a dedicated fire-resisting plant space or enclosure, automatic detection, emergency isolation, ventilation/pressure relief arrangements, and clearly defined emergency procedures.

If these conditions cannot be demonstrably achieved, the safer course would be not to install a battery system at this site and instead consider alternative energy measures (such as PV optimisation or load management) that do not introduce a high-consequence fire scenario or increase the current risk.

Mark Tucker

Director

Fire Risk Assessor,

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