



Federation of Old Cornwall Societies

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Email: president@oldcornwall.net

Leader
Cornwall Council
Lys Kernow
Treyew Road
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25th November 2022

Dear Cllr Mrs. Taylor,

Re: Potential Devolution of Property - Trebyan & Dean Denver, Liskeard

I am the President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, first formed from 1920s and now a registered charity with a current membership of over 40 local Old Cornwall Societies across Cornwall. The Old Cornwall Societies encourage and facilitate public engagement with Cornish history, culture and heritage, and the Federation supports the Societies with insurance, events, workshops, publishing and more. We have an on-line bookshop which specializes in books about Cornwall and its history, culture and heritage, and we also publish a regular journal.

We are currently scoping a bid to Cornwall's Shared Prosperity Fund to enable us to establish a service base, as our organisation has long been in need of storage and a base from which to distribute orders, and to facilitate meetings. We are also very interested in expanding our activities to embrace conservation, local archaeology and practical place shaping tasks where these have a particularly Cornish focus. We also encourage many aspects of learning, including workshops, seminars and demonstrations, and are looking for a focal point from which to deliver this aspect of our work.

As our enquiries have progressed, Liskeard Town Council have made us aware of two properties in Liskeard which are surplus to CC requirements, and which you wish to dispose of either through devolution or sale. Liskeard is attractive to the Federation since it is in the east of Cornwall, where we feel it is important to ensure that there is a catalyst to encourage greater awareness of all aspects of Cornish life and expression.

We are aware that your policies regarding devolution enable you to consider devolving assets to community groups, such as the Federation. We are very interested in exploring this opportunity with you and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with yourself, and appropriate officers and members, the potential for a devolution - and if possible, would like to arrange to see the buildings themselves.

If Cornwall Council were able to support our project and devolve the buildings to us, we could then focus our SPF bid upon any works required to make a building work for us, on developing our services and policies, especially in undertaking projects which aim to attract younger people, families and people in need of activity and challenge, and could count the value of the asset itself as match funding.

As well as supporting an enhanced and incisive role for the Federation in the landscape of cultural and heritage-focused bodies in Cornwall, and the consequent development of each of our Societies, we feel that establishing a base in the east of Cornwall we would level-up the strategic provision of cultural development and engagement both in the area and across Cornwall, which would enhance resilience, belonging and skills at a community level.

Many thanks for your consideration

Nev Meek

President – Federation of Old Cornwall Societies

c.c.

David Rodda MBE - Economic Growth Manager, Cornwall Council

Sadik Miah - Property Services, Cornwall Council

Sarah Sims - Cornwall Council

Steve Vinson - Liskeard Council

Cllr Jane Pascoe - Member for Liskeard

Cllr Julian German - Member for Roseland