

# Liskeard Town Forum

## Dalva An Dre Lyskerrys

Liskeard Town Forum  
c/o Liskeard Town Council  
3-5 West Street  
Liskeard  
Cornwall  
PL14 6BW

Liskeard Town Clerk,  
3-5 West Street  
Liskeard  
Cornwall  
PL14 6BW

Dear Steve,

As you know, Liskeard Town Forum is an open body that welcomes all residents, businesses and view points that offer a constructive input to the future of Liskeard.

The Liskeard Town Forum always aims to give open, equal and transparent access to all viewpoints, residents, groups and businesses. No one group, resident or business is offered preferential treatment to Liskeard Town Forum meetings. This is an important principle to protect the integrity of the Liskeard Town Forum, and avoid bringing it, its members, and any Liskeard Town Forum projects into disrepute.

As chair of Liskeard Town Forum, I always strive to insure all Liskeard businesses, residents and groups are offered an equal opportunity to express their views, and have their input to Liskeard Town Forum decision making. This is important, especially in a small town, to insure there can be no perception of favouritism, or to be potentially seen as offering a commercial advantage to one particular business, group or resident above any other.

Reviewing the original invites to the recent 'Reopening Liskeard after Lock-down' meeting, on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, organised by Liskeard Town Council, it was noted how one individual Liskeard business, a cafe, was invited.

After inquiring from the Liskeard Town Council RFO, I understand the one Liskeard business originally invited purported to represent a new business group in Liskeard. Yet this new group's constitution, minutes and decision making policy were unavailable for review, despite being requested. The fact other long standing businesses in the town appeared to be unaware of this new group, created concern on this new group's membership policy, their methods, ethos and decision making? Yet they had appeared to be offered a preferential and, what could be seen as a potentially commercially advantageous seat, at this Liskeard Town Council organised meeting to discuss the reopening of the town centre.

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Liskeard is a small town, and our personal relationships with residents and businesses will always create difficult decisions for us as individuals. Inviting one individual business to a special meeting, with no clear reason, and no recognised or constituted group or body to represent, could create the perception, (however unintentionally) of favouritism, and this is why I am writing to note my concern as Chair of Liskeard Town Forum at the special invite offered to one business above all others.

To clarify this situation for Liskeard Town Forum members, I request the Mayor of Liskeard Town Council, and Liskeard Town Council, to respond to the Liskeard Town Forum as to why one independent business was invited? Can I ask Liskeard Town Council to clarify whether other businesses expressed an interest in attending the meeting, and were they all allowed to, or instead directed to just submit comments for consideration?

I also ask the Mayor to explain whether any town councillors are involved with this new business group, and what support the group has been offered from the Liskeard Town Council and its councillors? This would help clarify what information, and from whom, this new business group are basing their decisions upon?

It is noted that on the day of the meeting, Cllr S Cassidy did invite other businesses to the meeting, I understand this was after he became aware of the one business being offered a special invite. Cllr S Cassidy may wish to clarify this for the forum's benefit?

As a constituted body, Liskeard Town Forum, which supports the economic regeneration of the town, was excluded from the original meeting, despite being active on social media and engaging with Liskeard during the recent lock-down. Can I ask for the Mayor of Liskeard to explain this decision to exclude the Liskeard Town Forum, especially as one business with no constitution, or formal group was invited?

It should be noted that this communication in no way reflects any judgement on the particular business invited, which has offered a fresh and exciting new voice and product to Liskeard. Indeed the Liskeard Town Forum wishes them all the best, along with all businesses in the town.

Lastly, the Liskeard Town Forum welcomes and encourages a strong business voice in the town, and should this reported new business group form into a body with an open

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constitution and transparent membership policy, the Liskeard Town Forum would be enthusiastic to hear their views.

I look forward to your reply, which will be reported back to the forum.

Yours's Sincerely,

David Ambler.  
Chairman of Liskeard Town Forum.