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By Liv Rickman at 10:17 am, Jul 18, 2022

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Planning Department
Council of the Isles of Scilly
Town Hall
The Parade
St. Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0LW

15th July 2022

For the attention of the Planning Officer

Re: Planning application: P/22/033/COU

Dear Ms Walton,

We are writing again regarding the Council's planning application P/22/033/COU to redevelop the existing Town Hall buildings. We are delighted by the aspiration illustrated in the documentation and we are sure that this will become a significant asset to the islands.

However, we have to note that the amended Elevations and illustrations seem to have reduced the visual appeal of the buildings and in particular, we note the annex buildings are taller than the Town Hall, something that both you (as recorded in the Design Statement) and the Victorian Society letter warned against.

It appears that the excessive annex height only serves to house space for air source heat pump plant. We would like to see confirmation that such plant would actually be fit for purpose.

Upon examination of the amended Design and Access Statement, we note that main issue that we flagged in our letter dated 30th May 2022 is still not addressed.

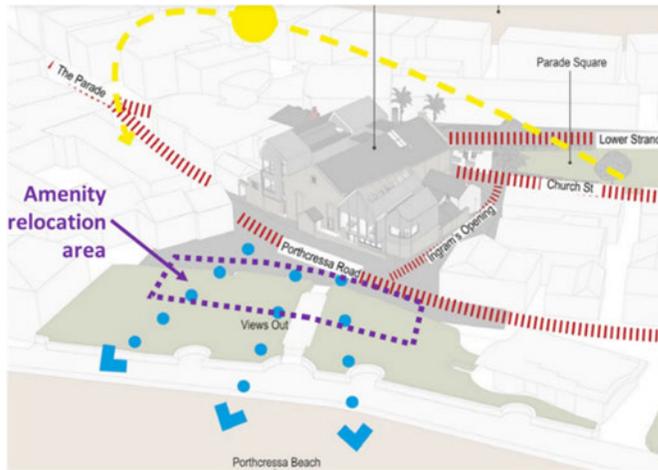
We noted that the footprint of new build will take up the space currently being used for recycling bins and fast-food vans. This has also been flagged by others in their correspondence to you and during the public consultations. In the Design and Access Statement, the Consultant merely states that:

05 The displacement of two mobile food vans that are currently parked, in the summer, where the café extension is sited (NB: the Council is working to relocate these when their licences expire in the next two years, pre-build).

Architect's response: *We understand that the council are addressing this issue.*

It seems to us that whilst the Council are happy to create this problem of taking the established fixed trading sites, there is no evidence of any efforts to properly address this issue.

We have already made suggestions as to alternative locations that, with ambition and proper design, could further enhance the area, including the use of the area adjacent to the Town Hall illustrated below:



[Creating a high-quality fixed development at the existing location, perhaps by cutting into the sand bank (as marked in purple “Amenity relocation area”), in the same manner as the public toilets nearby.

Such an amenity could be designed to be visually attractive and have seating areas, protected from the off-shore wind and enhancing the area and the Town Hall development. This would be consistent with the Council’s (2006) Isles of Scilly Design Guide].

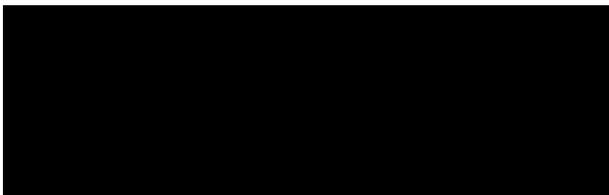
Since sending our letter of 30th May 2022 we have learnt that we are not the only residents that have suggested this solution.

Sadly, it seems that Council have decided to just ignore the issue of mobile food vans raised by the public and not addressed by their Consultant. Instead the Council appears to have contented itself with creating new problems of what to do with the food vans and is seeking to down-grade other areas of Hughtown with inappropriate Street Trading.

Why hasn’t this issue been dealt with as part of this Planning Application? It seems to us that the Planning Application must be denied until this issue is resolved.

With respect to Town Hall planning application P/22/033/COU, we reiterate that Council appear to be missing a great opportunity to improve the urban realm and solve a long-standing issue with respect to food offerings to visitors and residents alike.

Yours Sincerely



Mr Paul Groves & Mrs Carrie Groves