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From: Robert Lambert [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 July 2022 11:20
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Subject: P/22/033/COU Representation Letter

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Dear Planning Officers,

I write in my capacity as a professional environmental historian at the University of Nottingham and as Education Officer for the Isles of Scilly Bird Group (ISBG). I should also declare here that I am Independent Person for the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

I wish to put on record my full support for the rebirth of the Victorian Town Hall in Hugh Town as home of the Isles of Scilly Museum and Cultural Centre. Blending together a museum (which will curate and interpret Scillonian stories, past, present and future) with a bustling cultural centre that will become a focus of community identity and connection is a powerful and inspirational ambition. Giving a new lease of life, a regenerative impulse, a powerful reimagining to the Town Hall building secures its future across the twenty-first century. It also engages it with new audiences who will come to care for it as a dynamic creative space.

As a professional academic historian I have over three decades made use of the rich Scillonian historical collections and archives, curated by wise and sensitive curatorial staff and volunteers. I am, if you like, a key end-user of what this new Museum and Cultural centre will offer as it collects, protects and displays Scilly's heritage, telling complex stories about nature and people across the archipelago over time. Other Universities in the South West are bound to make use of the space for visiting UG or PG research projects, alongside tailored events and public lectures. Indeed, the Cultural Centre side of the project will enable a diverse range of stakeholder groups, organisations, societies and clubs (both local and visiting) to make dynamic use of the spaces in the centre, creating an exciting living and breathing building. An alive building, valued, admired, used, enjoyed. In my educational role on the islands with the local bird group this is a space that we would champion for natural history public lectures, symposia, debates and the collection of wildlife sightings. The taxidermy collection is of national importance.

A new Museum and Cultural Centre for the Isles of Scilly would serve not just the local community, the Scilly diaspora and tens of thousands of Scilly-devotee holidaymakers (who are achingly loyal to these islands), but also have real significance on a regional and national scale as a place of heritage conservation, accessible storytelling in a digital age and the important preservation of memories. It would look back into the past, to then look forward and shape the future. It would become the beating heart of island cultural life.

Yours sincerely,

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Vice Chancellor's Medal 2020

& Senior Honorary Visiting Fellow, University of Western Australia (UWA)

Vice-President, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Ambassador, Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust
Vice-President, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, 2012-2017
Co-Founder, A Focus on Nature (AFON)
International Observer, IAATO (Antarctica)

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