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To: Members of the Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park Authority

Dear Chair and NPA Members

### **Newport National Park Information Centre**

With reference to your upcoming discussions regarding the above, we wish to make a further statement on behalf of our members.

The FPCNP along with the vast majority of the Newport community have always rejected the idea that closing the Newport TIC was a strategically wise approach to tackling the identified problem of improving the nature and effectiveness of communication.

The closure of a successful service and the disposal of a prime asset are radical and fundamental changes which cannot be reversed. The original proposal to withdraw from Newport and sell the building was overwhelmingly rejected during the consultation with fully argued reasoning and many suggestions of how to transition from the current operation to a modern, vibrant hub for the National Park and the community. The vast amount of voluntary local effort that has gone into this process over the last year demands that the three options presented in the committee paper are considered openly and without being handcuffed by the September 2016 NPA meeting (at Dale) which kicked this process off. It seems that the NPA is being held hostage to an idea (closure and withdrawal) which has been superseded by a dynamic community which is willing to take the responsibility to help the NPA modernise and develop its service, reduce its costs and avoid selling assets to aid cash flow. On this basis we favour Option 1\* and believe that, with a fresh start, the ambitions of both the NPA and the community can be met.

Yours faithfully

**Steve Drinkwater**

Chairman

\* Option 1 recommends the retention and continuing operation of the NPVC building by the NPA, with volunteer support from the Newport Visitor Centre Action Group to help reduce costs. Also move the Newport library into the NPVC to help offset costs.