



"Hunnybun, Mark"
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21/05/2008 16:03

To <TWeeks@northwilts.gov.uk>
cc <PJeremiah@northwilts.gov.uk>, "Robinson, Keith"
<keithrobinson@wiltshire.gov.uk>, "Batten, George"
<georgebatten@wiltshire.gov.uk>, "Trotman, Tony"
bcc

Subject Calne former fire and ambulance station

History: This message has been forwarded.

Dear Tony,

I refer to our recent conversation regarding the Town Council's request to acquire the former fire & ambulance station in Calne for a peppercorn.

I have had discussions with colleagues in other Local Authorities in the Southwest, together with representatives of Government's offices generally about the transfer of assets to the community. The approach that is widely emerging is that assets should only be transferred if the community organisation has prepared a robust business plan to demonstrate that the project is viable and embraces as broad a range of community benefits as possible.

This will ensure that the transfer enables long term sustainable beneficial use to the community rather than a liability. If such a business case is not forthcoming, then it may be better to dispose of the asset on the open market so that the capital receipt can be used for other projects that have community benefits.

The County Council does not wish to prevent the Town Council's proposal, but believes that it should provide a business case first.

This accords with the County Council's policy on community assets which was considered by Cabinet last month. A copy of that report, together with the minutes, is attached.

Finally I am copying this to the local County Councillors for their information.

Kind regards,

Mark Hunnybun
Strategic Projects and Development Manager
21st May 2008
01225 713230

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