



WEST LOOE TOWN TRUST
WEST LOOE SQUARE, WEST LOOE, CORNWALL PL13 2EU
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20th April 2024

Dear Residents

West Looe Downs

The Board has asked me to write to you to ask for your help please.

Some residents may recall that in February 2023, an application was made to Cornwall Council by a Mr Tomas Hill to register West Looe Downs as 'Common Land'. This application was one of almost 30 similar applications made across Cornwall, either by the Open Spaces Society, or by individuals acting on behalf of the society.

West Looe Downs has been owned and managed by West Looe Town Trust (WLTT) since 1874 as amenity land for the benefit of the local community, who have free access to the open space of the Downs, including grassland, wooded areas and a basic football pitch. The maintenance of the Downs is carried out by local contractors who are employed by the Trust to cut the grass, empty the bins and manage the trees. The Trust has also employed a professional ecologist to advise on balancing management of the Downs for both people and wildlife.

The Trustees are of the opinion that registration of West Looe Downs as 'common land' under the Commons Act 2006 would add no benefit to residents beyond what is already freely available and could in fact hinder the Trust in delivery of its charitable objectives regarding the Downs.

As a result, the Trust, through its legal advisors have objected to this application for registration as Common Land based on a series of technical criteria and statutory incompatibility between the Commons Act and WLTT's charitable objectives.

We are now asking for help from residents as well please by sending in written support to demonstrate we have community backing.

Currently WLTT is the only objector and we urgently need more members of the community to send in statements backing us.

Cornwall Council have asked for people to submit their objection statements to the Common Land Casework Team, Planning Inspectorate – quoting Application No. 3030 and email them to commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 7th May 2024 (6 weeks before the hearing).

I am distributing copies of this letter to all public bodies and residents living near West Looe Downs, but please can we also ask you to share our request with anyone else who would be able to show their community support by sending an email as well.

We do hope you will be able to help us with our request. Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Sue Pengelly
Clerk to the Trustees

Note: Copies of the application documents can be inspected at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/commonland> and by appointment at The Commons Registration Office, Cornwall Council, New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY (please phone 01872 322222 and ask to speak to Martin Wright or email commonsandgreens@cornwall.gov.uk).