

MIKE THOMPSON
HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT, TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY
4 MULBERRY CLOSE, PAIGNTON, DEVON TQ3 3GD

01803 521503
e-mail:
elgarian@aol.com

To Councillor Dave Butt,
Executive Lead for Culture and the Arts,
Torbay Council,
Town Hall,
Torquay,

(By hand, via Councillor Ray Hill)

19th August 2014

Dear Councillor Butt,

The petition which comes with this letter is from a group of loyal and dedicated members of Torquay Museum Society who fear for the future of the Museum if the proposed cut to the Museum's annual grant from Torbay Council becomes a reality.

We present our petition to emphasise that a grant reduction such as has been mentioned (42 per cent) could well lead to the Museum's closure next year. In the light of our Museum and Society having been the heritage heart of the town for an unbroken 170 years we are anxious that every avenue should be explored towards safeguarding that heritage for future generations, thus enabling our local community and our visitors to enjoy at least some of the heritage on show in the civic museums of our neighbouring cities of Exeter and Plymouth.

However, we are aware of the difficult decisions facing the Council at this time and in no way do we wish to present our petition in a spirit of confrontation. We have worked well with Torbay Council for many years and we believe our Museum in the last 15 years has made huge strides forward for the considerable benefit of the town, thanks to the continuation of the Council's grant and the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund, not to mention the huge amount of hard work from the Museum's staff and from the members of Torquay Museum Society.

There is too much history to lose now. We hope that some imaginative thinking by all concerned will secure a future for Torquay Museum.

On behalf of the group of Society members who organized the petition, I remain with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Mike Thompson,
President of Torquay Museum Society 2001-2003.

PS We realise that our petition is a small one of just over 900 names but it was done very quickly more or less in one day so that it could be handed over before the important meeting this week. The public in the Haldon Centre signed most willingly.