

PEMBROKE & MONKTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



28 Rocky Park, Pembroke, SA71 4NY.

07584429224

pembrokehistory@live.co.uk

05 June 2021

LETTER OF SUPPORT

As Chairman of Pembroke & Monkton Local History Society, a registered charity dedicated to promoting the heritage of Pembroke, I write in support of Pembrokeshire County Council's application to the Levelling Up Fund for the Haverfordwest Castle project.

As a native of Pembrokeshire, I find it sad to see Haverfordwest town centre in a state of decline, a situation very much in common with Pembroke and indeed many towns generally. The Covid-19 pandemic has hastened this decline and has altered what people want from town centres, which can no longer depend on retail. Towns need to reinvent themselves, to develop as places to socialise in other ways.

Like Pembroke, Haverfordwest is a historic town with great cultural and heritage assets, which could be better exploited to attract visitors and regenerate the towns. Haverfordwest has a fine Norman castle but it is not the attraction it could be. Pembrokeshire County Council's plans for transforming the town and its Castle are to be applauded and could benefit Pembrokeshire generally.

Few people know much about the history of Haverfordwest Castle: it stands apart from the town and there is little interpretation, nothing to tell the story. This project will connect the town with its castle and, in interpreting the Castle history, will develop the wider story of Pembrokeshire itself to encourage people to find out more by visiting different parts of the County.

This approach will benefit Pembroke, which was once the centre of the great earldom of Pembroke and gave its name to the county. Whilst Pembroke Castle is a successful tourist attraction, Pembroke is very much a single attraction town and the town has not built on this success. Great investment, as in Haverfordwest, is needed and Town Council, History Society and County Council are working together on heritage projects, in particular to develop a Heritage Centre in derelict buildings, to celebrate Pembroke as the birthplace of Henry VII.

Haverfordwest and Pembroke have a wealth of heritage assets: investment is needed so that both towns can be developed to reach their full potential and progress to a successful future. On behalf of Pembroke & Monkton Local History Society, I wish Pembrokeshire County Council well in their application to the Levelling Up Fund.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Asman'.

Linda Asman

Chair, Pembroke & Monkton Local History Society

www.pembrokeandmonktonhistory.org.uk