

To consider supporting Saltash Wesley Methodist Church and Saltash Baptist Church initiative to provide housing for the homeless in Saltash

Dear Madame Mayor

I am writing to seek the Council's support for a long term initiative to provide housing for the homeless in Saltash.

This initiative comes from Saltash Wesley Methodist Church and Saltash Baptist Church. At Saltash Wesley on a daily basis we try to help homeless single men and women and sometimes homeless families who are in the Saltash area either living rough, "sofa surfing", sleeping in tents or sometimes in emergency accommodation in the local Travelodge or Croft motel rooms.

However, we are limited in what we can do. We can feed these homeless people, we can keep them in the warmth in winter, we can provide a shower and we can wash and dry clothes. We also keep a supply of clean clothing and crucially we also act as a link between the homeless and the homeless charity , St Petrocs and with Cornwall Council.

What we cannot do is provide sleeping accommodation of any sort. In emergencies, Saltash Baptist Church has a fund which they use to temporarily house people for the night or sometimes two in the Travelodge. Saltash Baptists also provide a range of other valuable services.

So what we are seeking to do is to acquire one or two houses and we need either one big house with a minimum of six or seven bedrooms or two smaller houses. When we acquire them, we will then pass them to St Petrocs who will use them as short term accommodation for the homeless. Whilst in these houses, others of which St Petrocs have all across Cornwall , the charity will then seek to find proper accommodation for and provide counselling and other advice for the homeless.

We realise that this is a long-term project. Effectively we will be asking people to give their houses to us for the purpose of alleviating this suffering and it may take some time, possibly years to get to the point we need to be at. However, we feel that this should not stop us trying our best and we would really appreciate the Council's support in this.

We are not seeking any other practical or financial support from either Saltash Town Council or Cornwall Council.

To this end the two churches are hosting a launch of this initiative at Saltash Wesley on September 30th at 10.30am and the Mayor has kindly offered to be there; Town Councillors would also be most welcome to attend. Present also will be the two churches, St Petrocs and Cornwall Council represented by Councillor Hilary Frank. The press, radio and television will be invited to report on this initiative.

With thanks,
Derek Holley, on behalf of the two churches.