

7 April 2026

Cornwall Council
Phil Mason, Strategic Director for Sustainable Growth and Place
Paul Grant, Service Director for Legal and Assurance

Dear Phil and Paul

Re: the sale of Burraton Field, Saltash

Saltash Town Council are concerned that the process followed for the potential disposal of the lower part of Burraton Field has let down both Aldi and the residents. It also brings disrepute on the Town Council due to the statements contained in the report for the Individual Decision required to authorise a Conditional Sale agreement.

In Summer 2024 the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk were given a confidential briefing that Cornwall Council were considering disposing of the property. Few details were provided, and the impression given was that if anything was to happen further contact would ensue. No further contact or communication was received, thus the individuals concluded that nothing was progressing.

Late in 2025 it became apparent that Cornwall Council had in fact been having confidential discussions with Aldi for a year, following an unpublicised Individual Decision by the Leader, based on a report that included a statement that Saltash Town Council had been consulted on the issue, and were broadly in support of the scheme; in fact no consultation had taken place, and only the two members who had been briefed over a year earlier - with no follow up - were even aware of it. The existence of the report itself had not even been communicated to anyone at the Town Council. In June 2025 a vague notice was published in a local paper (The Cornish Times) in compliance with the 50 year old Local Government Act 1972 Section 123 requirements, but no mention of this was made either to the Town Council or any other channel which would have brought some transparency to the issue.

Previous response to this issue being questioned was that the statement regarding the Town Council consultation in the report was a minor mistake on the part of the officers producing the report, and wouldn't have affected the decision - in which case what was the point of a report at all?

In reality it was a gross misrepresentation of the facts, completely contrary to the actual opinion of the Town Council once they became aware of it.

The overall lack of any transparency or communication following the initial confidential briefing has meant that there has been no opportunity to identify community concerns about the scheme at an early stage, as intended in the legislation. This has led to misapprehension on the part of the developers that the scheme would be viewed favourably, and concern amongst the community that deals have been concluded in secret.

This is a most unsatisfactory situation, and may now lead to much entirely avoidable consequences if a planning application is forthcoming.

Yours Sincerely,

Sinead Burrows
Town Clerk / RFO