

*For a long time Lostwithiel Town Council has been endeavouring to identify sustainable uses for the heritage buildings it owns. A Heritage Buildings Working Party developed a strategic plan supporting this objective, but its work was interrupted by the pandemic.*

*As part of post-Covid recovery measures new money was made available by the government under the Town Vitality Fund (TVF) and the Lostwithiel Town Team, including both councillors and representatives of the wider community, was formed to bid for a share of this money to explore how Edgcumbe House and Taprell House could be preserved and given a new lease of life by finding uses for them which would support the community and economy of the town.*

*After a competitive tendering process, in late 2022 architectural consultancy Hayhurst and Co was appointed by the Town Team to undertake a demand study and develop proposals for Taprell House and Edgcumbe House which would be both financially viable and bring social and economic benefit to the town, in line with the aims of the TVF.*

*After seeking ideas and testing options by talking to stakeholders and members of the public, including presentations at the Community Centre and Business Group's annual meetings, Hayhurst held a public exhibition of its three shortlisted options at Taprell House on March 30. These options, and the reasons behind them, are explained in the accompanying text and images.*

*Based on its research and experience of other projects elsewhere in the country, Hayhurst considers Option 2 to offer the best combination of financial sustainability and benefits to the community, economy and heritage of Lostwithiel.*

*If you would like to comment on the proposals you are very welcome to do so, using this website's email address. Please include your own email address and a postcode to indicate whether or not you are a resident of Lostwithiel and the surrounding area.*