



LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM LOCAL ST AGNES RESIDENTS

Gavin Heald



MARCH 20TH 2023

GAV'S FISH AND CHIPS

Troytown Farm, St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. TR22 0PL

Sam Hicks – Troytown Farm (sam@troytown.co.uk)

Dear Gavin,

I am writing to support your plan to start a mobile food outlet on St Agnes and am happy for you to forward this to the Duchy, Council and any other interested party.

St Agnes has been in need of investment in catering establishments for several years. Last year in particular, with the closure of High Tide and the closed nights at the Turks Head, visitors (and locals) were regularly disappointed by the lack of choice for eating out.

I am confident an extra outlet would not take from the demand at the remaining outlets but enhance the offer the island has as a whole.

Eating options are particularly important for visitors staying on our campsite and I am confident you would have strong demand from them, as well as other self-catering visitors on St Agnes and day trippers.

Setting up a business in these economically challenging times is difficult anywhere, but you should not underestimate the challenges of doing so in our unique location. We will gratefully support your attempts to establish such a business and are confident the rest of the island residents and visitors will do likewise.

To be sustainable and successful in the long run I suggest a very careful approach to the overheads you take on. If you wish to locate at Troytown there would be no rent, and I hope any other venues will take a similarly long-term view in supporting a unique, brave and much needed new venture.

Best wishes.

Sam

Sam Hicks

Troytown Farm
St Agnes
Isles of Scilly

Jackie and Doug Page

Dear Gavin,

Hope you are well and looking forward to coming home to St. Agnes.

Doug and I are very excited to hear of your plans to operate a Fish and chip van here on St. Agnes. We are sadly lacking in places for visitors and islanders to eat out in the evening. Since we arrived 22 years ago Four b&b business's offering evening meals have closed or changed to self-catering.

Last season The Turks didn't offer food every night much to the frustration of our visitors. The fish and chip idea seems ideal and perfect for our island location and we look forward to testing the goods.

All the best
Jackie and Doug.

Emma Eberlein – Pot Buoys Gallery [REDACTED]

Hi Gavin,

I think your business idea for fish and chips on Agnes is a great idea. It will be a real asset to the island. You are a hard-working person who wants to be part of St. Agnes and is part of the community.

There is a real need for another place to get food for both locals and visitors, and what is more perfect than fresh fish from here.

I wish you all the very best for this new adventure and look forward to getting our first fish and chip takeaway. Good luck.

Cheers,

Emma Eberlein

Mark Eberlein – formally High Tide, now Scilly Wood Tattoos [REDACTED]

Hi Gav,

I think your Fish n Chip van is a brilliant idea and now I'm not doing High Tide Seafood Restaurant in the evenings anymore there is definitely space for more food on St Agnes.

I look forward to trying your fresh local fish n chips out and wish you all the very best in your new venture, I'm sure it will go down very well with locals and visitors alike.

If I can help you in any way, please let me know.

All the best

Mark Eberlein

Wood Tattoos
St Agnes
Isles of Scilly
Tr220pl

John and Trish Peacock – St Agnes Boating [REDACTED]

Support for Gavin Heald's Takeaway Business, St. Agnes

We were delighted to hear that Gavin is proposing to launch a takeaway business on St. Agnes. There has been a desperate shortage of food outlets on the island. Particularly affecting those staying on the campsite. Last year the only place for evening food was the pub and due to staff shortages, it closed 2 nights a week. High Tide restaurant and Covean Cafe both closed some years ago. Coastguard cafe is open during the day. We have nothing else. It also ties in beautifully with Ross and Jacob's new fishing business, being able to sell locally caught produce with such low food miles.

As well as being a great business idea, Gavin is a wonderful addition to our small community. He has worked here for a number of years and is well liked. He organises our local cricket team and rows in the gig. He has also been helping with bat counts with the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust. He has been a mentor and given support to our young nephew with his sporting activities e.g. cricket, tennis, football. We hope Gavin's idea can come to fruition and we are certain it will be welcomed by locals and visitors.

John and Trish Peacock 7th February 2023

Tristan Hick – Coastguards Café [REDACTED]

Gav!

I love your idea for a fish and chips van on St Agnes, the more food outlets that are available to our visitors the better!

Please ask Francesca, Zachary and myself for any help you may need. Good luck mate, we are all behind you.

Tristan Hick
Coastguards Cafe

Will Beresford-Smith and Emily Sladen [REDACTED]

Hi Gavin,

Just wanted to write you a quick email to show my support for your new business venture opening a food truck on St Agnes.

As you know we are rather limited with options of places to eat out on the island, this more now than ever with 'High Tide' and 'Covean Cafe' no longer Trading as well as the pub closing 2 days a week.

As the owner of a holiday let, we have received quite a few complaints/comments about the lack of eateries on the island which is beginning to affect our business. There is also nowhere else on St Agnes offering a takeaway service which would bring much needed variety to the island.

We very much hope that you are able to go ahead and get underway with your business plan and wish you the best of luck with it.

Kind Regards,

Will & Emily

Smugglers Cottage

Niki Hicks [REDACTED]

Dear Gavin

I am writing to lend my support to your proposed fish and chip trailer on St Agnes. In recent years our island has been in desperate need of a new food outlet, with visitor numbers increasing and the pub limiting evening food service to 5 days a week.

I am certain that a fish and chip outlet would go down well on St Agnes and I am confident that you will have the support of the community. I particularly like the idea of using local fish as many businesses across Scilly seem to be using fish bought in from the mainland.

Having employed you in the shop for several years I know just how hard working you are and how much St Agnes means to you. I am confident that you will introduce a great new business for the island.

Please let me know if I can help in any way at all. I wish you every success and really look forward to being your customer!

Best wishes,
Niki Hicks

Piers and Rachel Lewin [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Gavin Heald's proposed fish and chip venture on St Agnes. My support is both for Gavin as an individual and for the addition of his proposed business to island life.

In the years that Gavin has lived and worked on St Agnes, I have always found him to be cheerful, responsible and hard working, contributing fully to island life in all respects. Whether working in the shop, acting as TA in the school or rowing in the gig, he has been an asset to the community at all times.

A takeaway fish and chip trailer would be a fantastic addition to the St Agnes food offer for locals and visitors alike. Since the closure of High Tide Restaurant and the decreased availability of pub

food over the last few years, there is a real need for additional dining choices on the island. An affordable, sustainable option such as Gavin's proposed fish and chip trailer is much needed and would dovetail extremely well with the relatively new and expanding St Agnes fishing business run by Jacob Burns and Ross Hicks, showcasing the incredible ingredients that the island has to offer.

Please get in touch if you would like any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

Piers Lewin
Downs Cottage,
St Agnes

Mike and Christine Hicks – Westward Farm [REDACTED]

Firstly St. Agnes is desperately in need of more 'eateries', having lost High Tide restaurant and The Turks Head only serving evening meals five days a week visitors & locals are very limited for choice. To have an option to take away fish & chips for supper is an exciting prospect for sure. Gavin Heald has worked on the island for several years through all seasons and we can happily support his business idea for producing a new eating experience, he has always served the public with a pleasant demeanour & total respect and proven to be a hard worker, never afraid of working long hours particularly through the busy visitor season, we have never seen him anything but polite. He will have considered and assessed this opportunity, this will not be an unprepared or naive decision.

We both fully support him in this venture.

Mike & Christine Hicks.

Pam Beresford Smith [REDACTED]

Pam Beresford-Smith
The Parsonage, St Agnes, Isles of Scilly, TR22 0PL.

Email [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 February 2023

To whom it may concern

I am writing to support Gavin Heald in his new endeavour of selling local fish and chips on St Agnes during this summer season.

Since the closure of High Tide restaurant the Turks pub is now the only site on St Agnes offering evening food to visitors and in the last two seasons this has been closed on two evenings each week. There is an obvious need to provide something different and I believe takeaway fish and chips will be very popular with campers and self-catering groups.

I have known Gavin since he was born and he has always been cheerful and outgoing and he loves St Agnes. He has worked very hard in the local shop and has contributed a great deal to the island community. He has also worked here as a teaching assistant, is part of the island cricket team and gig crew, takes part in wild swimming events and generally gets involved with St Agnes life. I am sure he will make a success of this venture.

If you wish to contact me to discuss this further, please see my contact details above.

Aiden and Grace Hicks – Westward Farm 

To whom it may concern,

We would like to write to offer our support of the proposed plan by Mr Gavin Heald to open a mobile food outlet on St Agnes.

Food offerings on St Agnes are currently really sparse, and with the Turks head only open 5 nights a week for food in the summer, this will offer a great option for both locals and visitors. We have 2 self-catering lets and have regular comments from visitors about the lack of ability to eat out, even to the point of losing some long-term visitors who have decided to holiday elsewhere due solely to this. As a local we also don't get much of a chance to eat out and go to St Mary's when the weather is fit and we have time. This will give us a chance as a family to be able to enjoy an alternative to cooking at home.

This is also a great opportunity for a younger person that is committed to our local community to set up a business that will hopefully support them enough to allow them to remain on the island in the future. Gavin has been an important part of our community over the past few years and is totally involved in all aspects of island life. It also gives other producers an outlet to sell their produce locally, supporting local fishermen and farmers.

Yours sincerely,

Aiden & Grace Hicks
Westward Farm,
St Agnes.
TR220PL