

**Press Release – 25th January 2011**

**PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR  
HISTORIC DUCHY PALACE**

The Prince's Regeneration Trust and the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust are pleased to announce that plans for the regeneration of the historic Old Duchy Palace in Lostwithiel are once again moving ahead with planning and listed building applications being submitted to the Council this week.

The Grade 1 listed Palace is one of the most important buildings in Cornwall but plans to save and find a new mixed use for the building were in doubt when an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a £400,000 grant to assist with the capital restoration costs for the Old Duchy Palace was turned down in September 2010.

"We are delighted that the hard work undertaken by the volunteers and staff from both Trusts over the last three years has led to these applications being submitted. Despite our disappointment at the HLF decision last Autumn, we were not going to give up and have been strongly encouraged by the support from other funders. We are committed to conserving this most important historic building and putting it to active use," said Simon Thorpe, Chair of the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust.

The revised scheme contains a mix of commercial and community use within the building. The basement will include heritage interpretation, telling the story of the Old Duchy Palace and the unique part it has played in Cornwall's history. The main hall and first floor will provide office and meeting room space.

"We have worked hard over the last few months to come up with a new scheme, one that although it has less community use than we had originally intended will still ensure an exciting and viable future for the Old Duchy Palace," said Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive, The Prince's Regeneration Trust.

**resident** HRH The Prince of Wales

0 - 92 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 7NT  
T 020 7462 6440 F 020 7462 6450 E [info@princes-regeneration.org](mailto:info@princes-regeneration.org) W [www.princes-regeneration.org](http://www.princes-regeneration.org)



"We are hopeful of securing funding of around £200,000 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to add to the grants from English Heritage and Cornwall Council.

The ERDF funding is specifically for creating employment opportunities, which matches our aim of creating jobs, introducing new business to the area for the benefit of local traders and achieving private and public investment in the town," explained Ros.

The new proposals for the Old Duchy Palace will be presented at the Lostwithiel Town Council meeting on Tuesday 1st February.

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Note to editors:

### About the Old Duchy Palace

The original Duchy Palace was built around 1292 by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, reputedly as a replica of the Great Hall of Westminster.

Though never a ducal residence, or a palace as it is understood today, it served as the administrative centre of the Duchy of Cornwall and was regarded as the finest and grandest building in the county. It was at one time the only polling station in Cornwall.

The Palace covered more than two acres and no other building in the county can claim so many vital functions, mainly to do with tin mining. Lostwithiel was the most important of Cornwall's four stannary towns: this made the Palace the most significant stannary building, in which the County Court and Stannary Court were held, and it was the seat of the Stannary Parliament until 1752.

It was probably the first 'count house' (account or counting house) for the tin industry and contained the earliest-known strong-room for business activity in Cornwall. It was also used as a coinage hall.

During the Elizabethan period, following a period of neglect, the building was remodelled and re-roofed, but was later damaged during the English Civil War. More repairs followed in subsequent years, but once it was no longer used for county business, the old buildings served many different purposes: the old prison was let for dwellings, the vaults for stores and part for the Duchy offices.

Over the centuries, parts of the original building have been either demolished or incorporated into surrounding properties, but what is now the Old Duchy Palace was bought in 1878 by the Restormel Lodge of the Freemasons. It was then purchased by The Prince's Regeneration Trust in 2008.

## The Prince's Regeneration Trust

The Prince's Regeneration Trust is one of The Prince's Charities and has HRH The Prince of Wales as its President. There are 20 charities in the group, which is the largest multi-cause charitable enterprise in the UK.

The Prince's Regeneration Trust is a separate charity from The Prince's Trust.

The Prince's Regeneration Trust is acknowledged as the UK's leading heritage regeneration specialist, delivering successful projects to communities across the UK. The Trust works to help underused or redundant historic buildings perform a new function, unlocking a regeneration of the wider community, particularly in areas of social or economic deprivation.

The Trust works in partnership with communities, developers, local authorities and other public bodies throughout the UK. Redundant buildings are given a viable, new function which keeps them at the heart of their communities and assists with the wider economic regeneration of their local area. The Trust encourages sharing learning and experience through its projects.

## Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust

The Trust was established in 1973 and has undertaken 8 projects to date in Cornwall. The Trust has operated as a revolving fund where by proceeds for the completion and sale of its projects are recycled into the next project building. New approaches are being developed with alternative business models to create a sustainable organisation, and increase its capacity and resilience. Cornwall has an incredible wealth of heritage assets and sadly many are at risk; the Trust aims to work in closer partnership with Cornwall Council and others to address some of these buildings in the future.

For more details visit [www.cornwallbpt.org.uk](http://www.cornwallbpt.org.uk)

For more info contact:

Marcus Stanton

T: 020 8540 5393

E: [marcus\\_stanton@btopenworld.com](mailto:marcus_stanton@btopenworld.com)