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22rd December 2014

Mark Gregory  
Head of Corporate Landlord  
Place Directorate  
30 Market Street  
Huddersfield HD1 2HG

Dear Mr Gregory

Thank you for your response of 9<sup>th</sup> December to my petition and presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> October.

You ask about the role of the Friends of Tolson Memorial Museum and Ravensknowle Park. We have a constitution and the main tenants of it are to:

- Raise interest in Tolson Museum and Ravensknowle Park
- Highlight the importance of Tolson Museum as the Museum of Huddersfield
- Input into the development of the Museum and Park.
- Raise funds
- Organise special projects and events
- Bring people together in a friendly and interesting environment.

As you can see, we want to work with, and support the work of those employed in the Museum and Park. We do not want to, and do not have the resource, or the experience or the expertise, to assume the responsibility for the running of the Museum.

I asked for a commitment by Kirklees Council to keep Tolson Museum as the Museum of Huddersfield, open and available to all. I did not get this.

You suggest the cost of a survey on the Tolson building and then state that it would not be worth doing! It is a Kirklees owned building, and you as Corporate Landlord, should surely have a plan for it's repair and maintenance. You did not offer any such programme.

Our efforts, so far in the 30 months the Friends have been in existence, have already substantially raised awareness. We have gained a Heritage Lottery Grant of £100,000 to create a Heritage Memorial Garden to the rear of the Museum and to collect local oral history. We have gained the help of schools and others to help with the maintenance of the Garden. Already groups such as Mikron Theatre have performed in the Garden. In the Museum we supported in cash the bid for an Arts Council grant to improve two rooms in the museum. We were instrumental in the exhibition of the Ken Taylor painting exhibition; we have run a successful lecture season with Huddersfield University this autumn; and we have held very popular Christmas Fairs. We have a monthly club for local residents. We already have plans for a full programme of events throughout 2015. Numbers visiting the Museum are rising and there is good press awareness. It is already a pleasurable, interesting and informative Museum much used by schools, local people and visitors. We, in Huddersfield, can be proud of our Museum. The Friends want to help and support the staff to highlight this and make it better.

At the 'Friends' committee meeting in the Museum yesterday we discussed your letter. We find your response very disappointing.

It does not move us on at all.

Yours sincerely

Ann Denham

Chair, Friends of Tolson & Ravensknowle.