# St Ives community unites against Premier Inn hotel amid fears for town’s character and care home



The picturesque town of St Ives, renowned for its stunning coastal views and vibrant arts scene, has recently found itself embroiled in controversy over proposed developments that threaten its unique character. The latest uproar centres around the approval of a new Premier Inn hotel by the Planning Inspectorate, following Cornwall Council's previous rejection. This decision has met with significant backlash from local residents and council members alike, reflecting deep-seated concerns about the impact of such developments on the town's infrastructure and aesthetics.

Councillor Andrew Mitchell, representing St Ives West & Towednack, voiced strong opposition to the hotel plans, stating, “The town council was unanimous in its resolve against this development.” He commended the residents' tenacity in opposing what he described as an "outrageous over-development." The local community, described as remarkably organised, has rallied to fight the proposal, branding the planned hotel a “corporate carbuncle” and a “needless monstrosity.” Such sentiments echo the objections raised by the nearly 600 residents who have formed an alliance against this project, citing concerns over the hotel’s potential to breach the historic skyline, and the ramifications for privacy and noise pollution.

Moreover, the risk to St Ives' last remaining care home has added an emotional layer to the opposition. Residents fear that the construction of the hotel would undermine the town’s commitment to preserving essential services for its elderly, further exacerbating the area's housing crisis. The local care home has been a point of contention, particularly as the town grapples with balancing tourism-driven development against the need for permanent housing. In a parallel case, Cornwall Care's proposal for a new care home faced rejection due to similar community concerns about suitability, demonstrating a broader tension in the area between development and the preservation of local needs.

The community's response has not been merely rhetorical. They have mobilised substantial resources, including raising £7,500 to support their campaign against the hotel proposal. While Premier Inn has appealed the council's decision, calling for a public inquiry, the future of the development remains uncertain. A public hearing is anticipated, which will provide a platform for residents to articulate their objections and for the company to justify its plans.

This conflict in St Ives is emblematic of a larger trend seen across Cornwall where the pressure from tourism-driven developments often clashes with local interests. Recent years have seen a wave of similar planning proposals facing backlash from communities that worry about losing their historical and cultural identities amid commercial expansion. The St Ives Town Council has been at the forefront of these battles, having successfully opposed multiple applications for hotels and holiday lets that do not align with the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan, which prioritises providing housing for residents over commercial enterprises.

As St Ives stands at this crossroads, the community’s resolve is palpable. Residents and their representatives are not merely engaged in a fight against the hotel; they are advocating for the very essence of what makes their town special. The outcome of this ongoing debate may well set a precedent for how Cornwall manages the delicate balance between development and heritage in the future. As these discussions unfold, the commitment to preserving the charm and character of this beloved tourist destination remains unwavering among its inhabitants.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraph 1, 2
3. Paragraph 3
4. Paragraph 4, 5
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraph 6, 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055889/uk-seaside-hotspot-beloved-tourists> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyjnk0g761o> - Premier Inn Ltd has appealed Cornwall Council's decision to reject its plans for a 90-bedroom hotel in St Ives. The company has requested a local public inquiry to review the decision. The council's planning committee had previously voted against the proposal, with concerns about its impact on the town's landscape and infrastructure. The appeal is currently under consideration by the Planning Inspectorate.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crke8602yrvo> - A group of 600 residents in St Ives has raised multiple objections to the proposed Premier Inn development. Their concerns include potential breaches of the historic skyline, loss of privacy, noise, insufficient parking, and the impact on the local care home. The group has raised £7,500 to oppose the development, which they describe as a 'relentless monstrosity.' A public hearing is scheduled to discuss the appeal.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-13205138> - Cornwall Care's proposal to build a £12 million, 72-bed care home and 26 flats in St Ives has been rejected by the council's planning committee. Protesters argued that the site, near a historic monument, was unsuitable. The decision was a significant milestone for the campaigners, who had gathered over 800 signatures against the plan. Cornwall Care is considering an appeal against the decision.
5. <https://stivestowncouncil-cornwall.gov.uk/town-councillors-turn-the-tide-on-the-cottage-hotels-planning-approval/> - St Ives Town Council successfully opposed a planning application to convert 37 over-55s apartments into an aparthotel. The council argued that the development did not align with the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan, which prioritizes permanent homes. The planning committee, after considering local views, refused the application, marking a victory for the community's efforts to maintain housing for residents.
6. <https://stivestowncouncil-cornwall.gov.uk/two-controversial-planning-refusal/> - St Ives Town Council celebrated the refusal of two controversial planning applications: one for the Carbis Bay Hotel enhancement and another for a Premier Inn on Trewidden Road. Both applications were recommended for refusal by the council's planning committee. The decisions followed extensive campaigning by local residents and the town council, highlighting the community's commitment to preserving the area's character and addressing housing needs.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-13191905> - Plans for a new £12 million care home and flats in St Ives have been met with strong opposition from local residents. Protesters argue that the proposed site, near a historic monument, is unsuitable. Cornwall Care, the organization behind the proposal, is considering an appeal after the council's planning committee rejected the plans. The decision reflects ongoing tensions between development and preservation in the area.