

This is an urgent appeal for you to register now (below), to join a renewed campaign by the Seale-Hayne Future group (SHF). The positive objective is that education should return to Seale-Hayne College but also strongly to oppose conversion (“Change of Use”) of the estate for housing development.

The University of Plymouth (UoP) recently announced that the Duke of Buccleuch’s Property Group (DoBP) is their preferred buyer. DoBP has a reputation for sensitive development but their current plans for Seale-Hayne do not appear to feature education.

At cordial meetings with the Duke’s agent, our chairman and secretary apprised him of the “unfortunate” sequence of events leading to closure and the Seale-Haynians’ determination to save College for education. The Duke’s agent invited Seale-Haynians to propose how we might have a continuing small presence at the site. However, this would not alter DoBP’s present intentions.

DoBP plans have not yet been formally submitted to Teignbridge District Council (TDC) although they outlined their plans to TDC members recently. Indications are that all non-listed peripheral buildings (whether or not erected from bequests) would be demolished, except perhaps the Great Hall and Lambert Lecture Theatre. Initially 600 houses are planned. The Grade II listed quadrangle will be converted to retirement apartments with extension ‘wings’ built either side. All this will require planning permission based on “change of use”. UoP insist Seale-Hayne is no longer viable for education, even though two organisations, which bid for the College required it for exactly that purpose, - education!

TDC has said all along that it will refuse planning permission for a housing estate but they could be overridden by Westminster. However, we have been advised the one thing that would deter any planning authority is the weight of public opinion. Accordingly, we are establishing a register of people who are willing to petition to keep Seale-Hayne for educational use, just as the Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hayne intended.

Since 2003, SHF has challenged the rationale and process of UoP acquiring and closing Seale-Hayne. Despite the UoP chancellery reassurances that the educational heritage of Seale-Hayne would be respected they seem about to do what we feared all along, - sell to a property developer.

*We will use the register to keep people updated and if planning permission is applied for, we will then ask registrants to sign an on-line petition or write, calling for TDC/Westminster to refuse planning permission for housing and for Seale-Hayne College to be retained for land-based education.*

We intend to keep in contact and on good terms with DoBP (who are aware of our register) in the hope of persuading them to think again and keep education at Seale-Hayne. But we must be ready to do all we can to prevent housing development should we fail to be persuasive. **You can register here at [www.seale-hayne.com/form.html](http://www.seale-hayne.com/form.html), please do it today.** Moreover, please e-mail/phone your contacts, whether Seale-Haynians or other interested parties and forward this letter. Encourage them to register and in turn, mail their contacts. If you pass this letter to someone who wishes to register but is without a computer, we will of course need his or her postal address and phone number. Would you please e-mail his or her information to Simon Daligan [simon@seale-hayne.com](mailto:simon@seale-hayne.com) or [ray@bairstowe.myzen.co.uk](mailto:ray@bairstowe.myzen.co.uk) Thank you.

Raymond Bartlett.  
Vice Chairman, The Seale-Haynians.

P.S. The Seale-Haynians and SHF have been in contact with other bidders such as Lifeworks and Egregoria who do have educational intent for the College. For further information about the latter's plans, please look at their website [www.seale-hayne.org/egregoria](http://www.seale-hayne.org/egregoria) R.B. Please see P.P.S. below.

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P.P.S. Some people have found difficulty in logging on direct to the register website above – ([www.seale-hayne.com/form.html](http://www.seale-hayne.com/form.html)). It may respond by pressing Ctrl key simultaneously. If still no response, go to the Seale-Hayne website [www.seale-hayne.com](http://www.seale-hayne.com) then at the top right hand, click on “Register here” which will bring up the register.

Don't I just love computers? Wonderful instruments – if only they would work! R.B.