

# News

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→ Latest news

→ Sounding off

→ In brief



The Penhallow Hotel on 18 August

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## Councillors spurn FBU cuts pleas

### CORNWALL

**T**he Union has condemned Cornwall County Council's refusal to reverse its decision to downgrade Falmouth and Camborne fire stations in the wake of the fire at the Penhallow Hotel, Newquay, on 18 August. The FBU's campaign continues to gather pace with local politicians, media and the community rallying behind it.

In meetings on 21 August with Cornwall County Council leader David Whalley and fellow councillor Ken Yeo, executive

member for public protection, the Union called on the county council to drop the cuts proposals.

The councillors refused, saying instead that they wished to await the outcome of a detailed investigation into events at Newquay. The proposals were to be considered by the full council on October 9.

The FBU also called for the shortfall in fulltime firefighters, currently standing at 17, to be addressed as a matter of the utmost urgency.

This equates to almost 1 in 10 of the

wholtime establishment in Cornwall.

The FBU also urged the councillors to increase retained firefighter numbers in Cornwall in line with a review that has been gathering dust on a council shelf for three years.

Both requests were refused.

As *Firefighter* went to press, a local newspaper, *The West Briton*, was organising a march, backed by the FBU, to save 24-hour fire cover in Cornwall. Taking place on 29 September, it was to go between Falmouth and Camborne fire stations.