

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 14TH MAY 2019**

**ITEM 8 – PETITIONS**

**Text of a petition containing over 2,739 signatures presented by Isabel Lambourne**

Please keep Castle site in Council ownership

To: Cambridgeshire County Council

We call upon the County Council to:

- keep Shire Hall and its site in Council ownership
- ensure public right of access to the scheduled monument, grassed areas on the Shire Hall site and the cut through from Magrath Avenue to Castle Street
- retain rights of access to the site for lawful sport and pastimes

**Why is this important?**

The County Council has taken steps with the apparent aim of denying public access to Shire Hall grounds, including The Mound and grassed area used for sport, play and pastimes.

For centuries, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire residents have walked, played and climbed to the top of The Mound to see the views of Cambridge.

The County Council has lodged documents by way of 'landlord's deposit' under the Highways Act and Commons Act which appear to deny the public access to the grounds of Shire Hall - the entire site including The Mound and grassed forecourt.

This is a part of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire history and heritage.

Will we stand by, allowing barring of our public asset and denial of the public's rights?