



Please see below a news release (*embargoed until 23 October 2009*) from the Federation of Small Businesses regarding their Keep Trade Local Campaign:

**For more information please contact:**

Carol Wells, FSB Cornwall Region Chairman and FSB National Chairman on: 01726 862820 or 07813606064

Mike Eathorne-Gibbons, FSB Cornwall Economics Spokesman and KTL Event & Media co-ordinator on: 01872 275 007 or 07979 864 555

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### **Cornwall FSB Launches Manifesto to Keep Trade Local**

At a Special Campaign Event on Lemon Quay Truro on Saturday 25 October Cornwall Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) launches its manifesto to urge Local Authorities and other agencies to take practical steps to support local business. Large companies and national chains are asked to support local providers and traders. Members of the public are invited to sign a petition to go to Number 10 urging the Government to support local businesses which are vital to the prosperity and well being of the local community.

The Manifesto urges Council planners to defend local high streets and oppose out of town developments. Small business rate relief should be automatic with no need to engage in application procedure. Local Government should ring fence 30% of annual procurement budgets for small business contracts and make it easier for them to apply and the Police are invited to make business crime a priority.

*'We need strong practical steps to help businesses, especially through the current difficult times.'*  
**Carol Wells FSB Regional Chairman and National Vice Chairman said, 'This is about people, local shoppers and businesses that make up our communities. We can demonstrate Action not just words by signing the petition and sending a clear message to Government.'**

### **David Whalley, Leader of Cornwall County Council said;**

*'I am delighted to support the FSB Campaign to Keep Trade Local. This is particularly pertinent in the present adverse economic climate where everyone is feeling the pinch. Suggestions on how Local Authorities can help local business and their communities make sense. We value the work of the FSB. Over the coming months we will be engaging with the FSB to see how we can work closely together.'*

FSB presence on Lemon Quay will be seen in its Event Support Unit which will be attended all day by FSB Officers and other members. This will supported by visits from Multiple retailers based in Truro as well as Council officials and Police representatives. Several MPs have also been invited. It is expected that FSB National Policy Chairman, John Walker, Leader of the FSB campaign across the Country, will also be there.

The formal, brief part of the day will be at 11 am with a welcome from the Major of Truro and other keynote speakers.