

THE RUSKIN MUSEUM

15 Yewdale Road
Coniston, Cumbria
LA21 8DU

Tel: 015394 41164 www.ruskinmuseum.com

E-mail: information@ruskinmuseum.com

Registered Charity Number: 222234

FAO The Bluebird Project Ltd
66 Hudson Street
North Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE30 1DL

Date: 24th September 2021

FAO: Mr W. H. Smith, Directors of The Bluebird Project Ltd., and Volunteers of The Bluebird Project

An open letter

Re: *Bluebird K7* - The Coniston Institute & Ruskin Museum and The Bluebird Project Ltd.

With regards to the public statement dated 23rd September 2021 within the diary section of your website.

It appears that although you have adopted a more conciliatory tone, you have not made any reference to an altered position regarding the title to Bluebird K7, nor have you indicated any change in your demands regarding running and access permissions. For the avoidance of doubt, we repeat that the partnership between the Ruskin Museum and The Bluebird Project has terminated as previously stated in our letter to you dated 17th September 2021.

As such and as stated in that same letter there will be no further mediation between the Ruskin Museum and The Bluebird Project Ltd. Please will yourselves and all third parties respect our final decision by ceasing to contact Museum representatives or our lawyers in an attempt to pursue such.

The position of the Ruskin Museum with regards to this matter as set out within our open letter to yourselves dated 17th September 2021 remains unchanged. This includes the demand for some elements of our property that you currently hold to be available for collection from your premises at Hudson Street, North Shields on the dates set out within that letter.

Should you wish us to collect the entire craft Bluebird K7 (excepting the current engine which is on loan to the Bluebird Project Ltd) within 28 days of the date of that letter then please let us know in order that we may make appropriate arrangements to do so.

Volunteers who have been involved with the restoration of Bluebird K7 we presume would much rather see the fruits of their labour displayed by the owner of the craft in our museum and running upon the water at speed, than their entire work over all these years be lost forever should the Directors of the Bluebird Project Ltd refuse to unconditionally hand over to ourselves the entire craft.

Having had the opportunity to reflect upon the resolute position of the Ruskin Museum to take possession of its property Bluebird K7 without further delay and in the knowledge that we have concrete plans to run the craft; the volunteers associated with the project to date may or may not wish to consider being further involved with the vessel once in our possession. That is to say the Ruskin Museum, the owners of Bluebird K7 hereby reach out to these dedicated volunteers and enthusiasts who only had the very best of intentions to see this legendary craft rebuilt and run, to continue their association with it should they so wish.

The Directors of the Bluebird Project Ltd are reminded that the less material that they remove from Bluebird K7 prior to us taking possession of our entire property, the quicker we will be able to get the craft signed off for public display at speed upon Coniston Water and hence the sooner everyone will see Bluebird K7 running at her spiritual home on Coniston Water and on display in Ruskin Museum, which was the original aim of the entire project.

Yours sincerely

The Trustees of The Coniston Institute & Ruskin Museum