

CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT BOARD – NOTES

WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2022 at 14.00, MEETING BY ZOOM

Present:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty

Chair, Councillor Rachel Brooks

Vice-Chair, Councillor Annette Lee-Julian

Councillor Richard Dorling

Councillor Naomi Taylor

Councillor Nick Craker

Ian Hutchinson – Head of Development, Arts University Plymouth

Town Clerk – Stephen Vinson

Deputy Town Clerk / RFO – Yvette Hayward

In attendance:

Project Manager – Alec Charles

Project Administrator – Jack Rockliffe-King

Apologies:

Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy

Councillor David Ambler

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed board members and fellow councillors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor David Ambler (and, received after the meeting, Mayor Councillor Simon Cassidy).

2. Notes of previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record (proposed Rachel Brooks; seconded: Yvette Hayward). Actions from the previous meeting were addressed in the agenda.

3. Promotional activities

The Project Manager reported that the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth issues of the project's newsletter were published on 16th May, 31st May, 13th June and 29th June.

Social media engagement continues to hold strong, with 67 followers on Twitter, 130 on Instagram, and 367 on Facebook.

The Project Manager is in contact with the social prescribers at both GP surgeries in Liskeard to promote the project's ESF-funded skills classes; and is also in discussions with the Lighthouse Centre about possible taster activities.

On Saturday 4th June, Liskeard Town Council's jubilee arts & crafts show, staged at the Public Hall on West Street, included an exhibition of the work of members of the Market Makers group alongside the exhibition of the work of the finalists in the jubilee competition. A dozen members of the Market Makers group exhibited more than 150 pieces of work. These included representatives of all businesses mentored by the Market Makers programme, and five current and former participants in the ESF-funded skills course, three of whom have gone onto the projects' programme for new entrepreneurs. The first and second prizes in the jubilee art competition were won by two of these new entrepreneurs. Market Makers member, ceramicist Ray Toms gave a popular demonstration of pottery skills and encouraged enthusiastic visitors to take part.

Market Makers' participation in this event, and the success of Market Makers members in the competition, received positive coverage as part of the Liskeard Voice's reporting of the jubilee weekend on 8th June.

The programme's first woodcrafting class received positive coverage in the 22nd June edition of the Liskeard Voice.

It was noted that, despite some unhelpfully sensational headlines on 29th June in relation to the project's capital scheme, both the Liskeard Voice and the Cornish Times provided very positive coverage that day of project client Lee Rendle's exhibition of paintings in project client Abi Alister's gallery.

4. Skills courses

It was reported that the project's programme of Thursday afternoon skills classes has moved to a pattern of different weekly subjects in order to meet the interests, and maintain the interest, of a varied cohort of participants. Recent classes have focused on painting, drawing and art contexts, and have included participant-led sessions. The programme's first woodcrafting session took place on Thursday 16th June, receiving strong positive feedback from participants, as a result of which the tutor has been rebooked to deliver two sessions in July. On Thursday 23rd June, the popular Shari Hills delivered a painting class, and on 30th June the Project Manager delivered a session on modern art. Fourteen people have now registered for these ESF-funded sessions.

5. Capital build

It was reported that the plan for the container-based capital build construction programme of works had been shelved by Liskeard Town Council, as a result of extensive delays from the contractor in signing the agreed contract, delays which had pushed the construction programme beyond the safe margins of the project's funding window.

It was noted by the Town Clerk that any further delays would have involved the Council in a level of risk up to approximately £450,000.

6. Enterprise support initiatives

6.1 Creative incubation unit proposal

The CMM Board had received a paper offering options for the redeployment of extant FabLab budgets following the curtailment of the original capital build programme.

The Project Manager commented that he supported this proposal in terms of its potential for promoting the economic regeneration of businesses in Liskeard's town centre.

It was noted that the original proposal had not included information on disabled access. It was reported that the Fore Street option was accessible in terms of both approach-way and door-space, and that the project would look to use height-adjustable desks. The information on both options needs to address disability access and Councillor Lee-Julian volunteered to advise on points of disability access going forward.

It was noted that the cost of utilities etc. would be defrayed by hire fees within the limits of market tolerance. Initial work on costing and pricing had already been produced in relation to the FabLab space envisaged as part of the original capital build; this had demonstrated feasibility. Information on financial sustainability will be included in the paper for the Town Council.

The booking for option A would be managed through the same system and process as the booking of spaces in the Public Hall. It would be envisaged that as an incubator space, usage would focus primarily on registered creative entrepreneur subscribers (rather than to be open on an ad hoc basis to random members of the public), as well as on usage by LTC staff and councillors and local public services for pop-up and surgery events.

The representative of Arts University Plymouth observed that it was 'great to see two strong options, especially as one is about animating the high street'.

Concerns were raised as to the management of public expectations, following the shelving of the original capital build plan. It was agreed that any public information should be kept low-key, and any big announcements would be deferred until the facility's launch.

Concerns were also raised about the timescale for the appointment of contractors and for drawing up a lease for option B. LTC's Facilities Manager had informed the team that (in relation to the Fore Street property), by keeping the refurbishment works simple and focused, and delivered by local suppliers, it would be expected that these works could be completed at minimal costs and at speed

(before the autumn), according to quotations already provided on the adjoining unit. More details would be sought on these costs and the implications for option B would be explored.

It was noted that, as these premises would be intended for business incubation rather than for educational purposes, it was likely that the current planning designation of the Fore Street property ('commercial, Business and Service - Shops, restaurants, financial and professional services, indoor sport, recreation or fitness, not involving motorised vehicles or firearms, health or medical services, creche, nursery or day centre principally to visiting members of the public, an office, research and development, or any industrial process that can be carried out in any residential area without detriment to amenity') would cover this usage. Advice would be sought from Cornwall Council on this.

Given that this should not (in relation to the Fore Street property) require redesignation, and that no structural work was envisaged (the refurbishment process involving redecoration, fittings and utilities connections), the building's listed status should not give cause for delay.

The Chair noted the need to include information on appropriate loading/unloading access.

It was noted that CLLD had expressed a willingness to recommend this proposal to the relevant LAG, which is meeting on 21 July.

It was agreed by vote to put both options to a special meeting of Liskeard Town Council. Before the meeting further information will be assembled, including exploring with the Liskerrett Centre how option B could work.

It was agreed the Town Clerk would look at how the special meeting and agenda item should be set up to ensure compliance with standing orders.

6.2 Ongoing activities

The Project Manager continues to run regular mentoring sessions with the six enterprises thus far registered on the project's creative business-mentoring programme. This includes one enterprise (run by an individual who originally joined the programme as an ESF-course participant) which completed its formal business registration following participation in the project's new entrepreneurs programme in May. All these enterprises (both new entrepreneurs and new and established businesses) exhibited in the jubilee show on 4th June.

The team is currently in the process of working with several other potential businesses with a view to possible registration.

The team has been working to support the development of the new Unique Crafts Cornwall shop which opened on Fore Street at the start of July. This shop features the work of a number of craftspeople and artists in the Market Makers group.

A third participant has completed the entrepreneurs' business readiness programme.

The fifth workshop meeting of the project's creative enterprise network forum took place on 26th May, and included a talk on the history of western painting delivered by the Project Manager.

Members of the group plan to participate in the Liskeard Unlocked programme of Heritage Open Day events in September, showcasing studios at the Old Brewery and Looe Down Farm. The project also continues to collaborate with Liskeard in Bloom in plans to access to shop-window space during July for the display of group members' work in unoccupied retail premises on The Parade. Having gained

provisional agreement to access the premises for these purposes, the team are currently in the process of seeking the keys to the property. In the event that these cannot be located by 20th July (when the RHS judges are scheduled to arrive), the Project Manager has agreed with Liskeard in Bloom that he will present to the judges a photoshopped mock-up brochure of the intended display.

7. Any other business

Congratulations were offered to Arts University Plymouth (formerly Plymouth College of Art) on its new status.

8. Dates of future meetings:

14.00, 10 August 2022

14.00, 7 September 2022