Making the most of the Gorsedh opportunity

The Town Council has already agreed to support the Gorsedh ceremony coming to Liskeard next year and to make the most of this opportunity to show what Liskeard can offer, involving as many people as possible and increasing footfall for local businesses.

If this is to be really effective then we should maximise activities in the months leading up to the Gorsedh, as well as during the Esedhvos, the cultural programme which happens immediately around the Gorsedh.

This would enable us to build on the summer programme of events we trialled in 2026, encouraging locals and visitors to explore what Liskeard has to offer. We could also link with events such as 'Speak Cornish Week' in June.

One key way to do this would be by supporting a grant application called
Out of the Blue. It is a bid to the Arts Council for a programme of workshops, performance and exhibition opportunities responding to and leading up to the Gorsedh ceremony in September 2027. It is being put together by Lois Taylor from Dance Centred on behalf of the Liskeard Culture Collective. The proposed project would span April to September 2027 and would build awareness and momentum for the Gorsedh, offering the local community a chance to explore traditional Cornish Culture and make a creative contemporary response through a variety of art forms. Local artists would lead open sessions and also work with local groups. Activity will be documented via photography and video to create a permanent record. There would be opportunities for outputs to be shared during the Esedhvos and Liskeard Unlocked.

Arts Council funding is very competitive at the moment. To have a chance of success, it is important that key local organisations, including the Town Council demonstrate support. It's also worth planning so that some activities can take place whether or not the bid is successful.

Town Council contribution

Ways that the Town Council can contribute include:

In kind support

Use of the Public Hall for a large scale performance of work from different organisations (in July or during the Esedhvos?) [Facilites team to cost]
Staff time in promoting the project and summer programme [need to estimate and value this time]

Publicity for the summer programme

In 2026 the Liskeard Culture Collective trialled a summer programme to bring together activities by different organisations and encourage people to come into town. It is planned to build on this in 2027. The Out of the Blue workshops and activities would form part of this summer programme of events. It is proposed that the TC will coordinate and, where necessary, fund, the publicity for this.
Possible elements:

- Creating the brand
- Design and print for leaflets and posters
- Paid advertisements eg Blackbird Pie, Cornwall 365
- Social media campaign
- Press liaison with newspapers, radio, television, parish newsletters
- Publicity via local schools
- Other?

[Lucy to estimate costs/time]

Permanent installation to commemorate Gorsedh 2027 in Liskeard

It is proposed to develop a permanent art installation of clay tiles made by local people and led by local clay artists. A site for this will need to be agreed. Options include Castle Park (where the ceremony will be held), the Cattle Market (in consultation with Cornwall Council) or the alleyway between Dean Street and Westbourne Car Park (where a previous mural project was discussed).

- Artists time to develop the design and work with local people
- Materials
- Installation costs
- Maintenance costs?

Aim:
Working in collaboration with Clay Haven, to engage a wide cross section of the community in making tiles inspired by our Kernow Celtic themes

To create a piece of public art as a lasting memory for The Gorsedh to be installed at a site agreed with the Town Council

We can reduce cost by reducing the number of session and the number of tiles made. I would suggest not less than 70 tiles. This would mean good participation and enough tiles to make an impact on the site chosen.

Workshop Costings for (approx) 100 tiles

Item	Calculation	Cost
Workshop facilitator	5 hours × £20 × 10 sessions	£1,000
Clay	£20 × 10 sessions	£200
Firing and glazing	£15 × 10 sessions	£150

Installation costs
100 4inch tiles - 15kg tub tile adhesive is approximately £25

Grout 5kg bags Approx £21

Tile backer board £20

Installation consultation and installing - 300

Total Cost
£1,716

Working with local business to maximise the benefits of the Gorsedh for them

When the Man Engine came to Liskeard the Town Council worked with Golden Tree and other organisations to run sessions for local businesses on how they could be involved and it is proposed to do something similar. Ideas include:

- Two sessions for local businesses, including the opportunity to learn some simple Cornish phrases and have key words translated into Cornish
- Shop signs in English and Cornish
- A project to bring together local artists and businesses to design themed shop windows
- A Cornish-language themed family trail round local shops, building on the success of the trail run by the Community Treasure Chest in summer 2026. It would be good to provide small prizes for children taking part.

[Need to estimate costs for each element]

The Out of the Blue bid needs to be submitted as soon as possible and in fact has been delayed in order to include the outcome of the Town Council decision on funding. More details need to be worked out to enable the TC to agree a specific budget for Gorsedh-related activity and this will be brought back as part of the budget-setting process for 2027/8.

At this stage councillors are being asked to agree:

- In principle support for the Out of the Blue Arts Council bid to maximise artistic and community involvement in the run up to the Gorsedh.
- That Town Council support will include the key elements set out above.
- That the Town Council will provide a minimum of £2,000 match funding which will be used to pay towards those elements. If the bid is successful this will be seed money for much greater funding. If it is not successful if will ensure that some key aspects of the programme can go ahead.