

Liskeard Renewal Partnership - Session Report

Third Facilitated Workshop – 4 March 2026 | Wildanet

Prepared for Liskeard Town Council by Fin Irwin

Attendees: Julie-Anne Sunderland (Wildanet), Sue Jewell (SECTA), Dan Sturrock (The Workshed), Kate Reed (Real Ideas), Cheryl Bailey (Liskerrett Centre), Tracy Adams & Lin Moore (Liskeard Traders Association), Nick Craker & Rachel Brooks (Liskeard Town Councillors), Kevin Grey (Cornwall Councillor), Steve Vinson & Yvette Hayward (Liskeard Town Council)

The third facilitated session of the Liskeard Renewal Partnership focused on clarifying the aims behind emerging themes and identifying practical actions for the next 6–12 months.

Participants worked in small groups and were asked to consider:

- why the issue matters
- what success would look like in five years
- challenges facing the town
- realistic actions in the short term

We discussed the following key themes during the session:

- Business and Economic Development
- Events, Evening Economy and Youth Activity

Due to limited youth representation at the meeting, the Events / Evening Economy and Youth discussions were combined, although the need for youth-specific work was recognised.

1. Business and Economic Development

Why

Participants discussed the importance of strengthening Liskeard's economic role within South East Cornwall and ensuring the town makes the most of its opportunities.

There was recognition that Liskeard already has significant assets but that these are not always fully recognised or promoted.

Discussion highlighted factors such as the town's location, transport connectivity, housing costs and its role as a service centre for the wider area.

There was also a strong sense that local businesses and organisations already provide a foundation for future growth.

Opportunities down the line, such as the Devonport Defence Deal were discussed in terms of workers looking for accommodation, but also industry looking to supply Plymouth.

Vision

The group articulated an ambitious long-term goal - "Liskeard will be an economic powerhouse."

This was linked to the aim of creating jobs, prosperity and investment in the town while strengthening Liskeard's identity as the capital of South East Cornwall.

Participants also highlighted the importance of recognising and celebrating successful businesses already operating locally.

Actions

The key actions identified focused on better understanding and promoting Liskeard's business base, including:

- mapping businesses operating in and around the town, including those not currently engaged in local networks
- mapping key sites, buildings and economic opportunities
- developing a stronger "offer" or portfolio that showcases Liskeard as a place to invest
- improving opportunities for business networking and information sharing

2. Events, Evening Economy and Youth Activity

The second group explored how activity in the town centre could be strengthened and how Liskeard could become a more lively and inclusive place during evenings and weekends.

Why

Participants highlighted gaps in the current offer, particularly around the evening economy and activity for young people.

Issues identified included:

- limited evening food options
- limited weekend and evening activities for young people
- the need for more coordinated events and activity

There was a strong sense that increasing activity in the town centre would benefit residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Vision

Participants described a future where Liskeard is a vibrant place to spend time in the evening and at weekends.

In five years the town could feel like a safe, exciting place to spend your evening seeing and eating interesting things.

The vision also included:

- a sustainable space for young people with an anchor activity
- a town centre with lots of options and things happening with a clear programme of events
- stronger collaboration between organisations
- activities that bring different ages and interests together
- a welcoming and inclusive environment with free or low-cost activities

Participants also suggested that Liskeard could increasingly host regional or national events, helping to raise the town's profile.

Actions

Several practical actions were identified for the next 6–12 months:

- bringing together organisations involved in events and culture to strengthen coordination, potentially building on the Liskeard Culture Collective
- developing a shared calendar of events and activities
- exploring an additional anchor event within the town's annual programme
- developing a process to engage young people directly in shaping future activity
- speaking with organisations already supporting young people about how best to support them
- continuing to support emerging food traders and activity linked to the Workshed

Next Steps

Participants agreed that the next stage of work will take place through working groups developing ideas further and identifying practical actions.

There was a strong view that maintaining momentum is important and that groups should continue developing ideas before the partnership moves to a more formal structure.

Working groups will continue to meet and bring updates back to the wider partnership at the next session.