

CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT BOARD – NOTES

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022 at 14.00, MEETING BY ZOOM

Present:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty

Chair, Councillor Rachel Brooks

Vice-Chair, Councillor Annette Lee-Julian

Councillor Naomi Taylor

Councillor Nick Craker

Councillor Jane Pascoe

Ian Hutchinson – Head of Development, Plymouth College of Art

Town Clerk – Stephen Vinson

Deputy Town Clerk / RFO – Yvette Hayward

In attendance:

Project Manager – Alec Charles

Apologies:

Mayor, Councillor Simon Cassidy

Councillor Nick Craker

Councillor Richard Dorling

Project Administrator – Jack Rockliffe-King

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed board members and fellow councillors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Simon Cassidy, Councillor Richard Dorling and Project Administrator Jack Rockliffe-King. Councillor Nick Craker had sent apologies for expected lateness but was able to join the final section of the meeting.

2. Notes of previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record (proposed Councillor Brooks; seconded: Councillor Taylor). Outcomes of actions from the previous meeting had been addressed in

the notes resulting from that meeting. All other actions from the previous meeting were addressed in the agenda.

3. Capital build

It was reported that, following staffing changes at Brady Construction Services Limited, LTC were awaiting receipt of the contract from the company. A meeting has been scheduled for 12 May to visit the site with Brady and the consultants; a further, virtual meeting has been scheduled for 16 May.

4. Promotional activities

The fifth issue of the project's newsletter was published on 14 April.

Social media engagement continues to increase, with 61 followers on Twitter, 125 on Instagram, and 339 on Facebook.

The project has completed the delivery of five after-school-club sessions at Hillfort Primary School: in fabric work, woodcrafting, watercolour painting and printmaking. Although these sessions proved popular in themselves, they have not proven successful in their intended promotional function of recruiting participants to the project's core activities of practical and business skills programmes.

The project has been included in the directory of social prescribing services published by Arts Well for Cornwall Council.

A piece about the project was included in the Spring 2022 issue of 'Art: Creative & Cultural Living' published by myCornwall.

An article about the programme for new creative entrepreneurs appeared in Liskeard Voice on 11 May.

5. Skills courses

Sian Bush completed the delivery of a highly popular five-week course on printmaking on 28 April. The Project Manager delivered a class on the history of commercial and artistic printing on 5 May. Sessions are set to continue on the established weekly basis (all classes take place 13.00-16.00 on Thursday afternoons), with the programme scheduled for the next month to include participant-led sessions (led by skilled participants with ambitions to teach their crafts: these participants have progressed to the entrepreneurship stage of the programme) and guest artist sessions, as well as further contextual content to be delivered by the Project Manager.

Participants also meet regularly for professional development tutorials with the Project Manager to progress the development of their aspirations and plans in education, employment and entrepreneurship.

In total twelve participants have thus far registered on these ESF-funded practical skills courses.

It was noted that the Town Economic Vitality Index (in which Liskeard ranks fourth in Cornwall for intervention priority) would offer an important tool in rationale for project targets and future funding applications.

It was noted that the project has a good relationship with Adult Education Services in Liskeard, and is in the process of referring a number of participants to their provision.

It was noted that the project has been recruiting more successfully than broader trends might suggest, but that one of the main issues in terms of recruitment to this ESF-funded provision relates to eligibility criteria and documentation requirements. Postcode criteria had led to being unable to take a number of participants; where possible, these participants have been referred to other opportunities.

6. Enterprise engagement

The Project Manager continues to run regular advisory sessions with five enterprises thus far formally registered on the project's creative business mentoring programme. A sixth enterprise is currently in the process of registration.

The Project Manager initiated the delivery of weekly four-hour training sessions for three participants registered on the programme for new entrepreneurs on 26 April. These three participants have progressed from the ESF-funded skills programme. This course concluded on 10 May.

It was clarified that the new entrepreneurs programme was supported by ERDF funds.

It is anticipated that a second iteration of this provision will commence for a new cohort in late May or early June.

It is expected that enterprises established and registered as a result of this new entrepreneurs' programme will progress onto the programme of mentoring for established creative businesses.

The fourth workshop meeting of the project's creative enterprise network forum took place on 14 April, and focused on product photography and enterprise branding, featuring presentations from Tiff and Marlon Biddle (Pot Stars Studio) and Abigail Alister (DAK Art / Alister Designs). The next masterclass session for this group is scheduled for 26 May (a talk on the history of painting to be delivered by the Project Manager).

Members of the group have volunteered to participate in the Liskeard Unlocked programme of Heritage Open Day events in September (Old Brewery and Looe Down Farm), including displays of group members' work.

The project continues to collaborate with Liskeard in Bloom in the hope of securing access to some shop-window space during July for the display of group members' work in unoccupied retail premises.

The group is also supporting and participating in the Jubilee Art Competition.

7. Any other business

The change of date for the June meeting was noted.

It was noted that the Project Manager had provided to the Mayor and Town Clerk, for discussion with Councillors, two draft proposals for applications to funding opportunities as an initial move in a strategy to address possibilities for continued project activities following the cessation of ESIF funding at the end of March 2023. The PM would forward these draft documents to the Chair, and of course to any members interested.

8. Dates of future meetings

14.00, 15 June 2022 (please note change of date)

14.00, 6 July 2022

14.00, 10 August 2022

14.00, 7 September 2022