

## **CATTLE MARKET MAKERS PROJECT BOARD – NOTES**

**THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2022 at 14.00, MEETING BY ZOOM**

### **Present:**

Chair, Councillor Rachel Brooks

Councillor Richard Dorling

Councillor Naomi Taylor

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

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Christina Whitty

Councillor Nick Craker

Ian Hutchinson – Head of Development, Plymouth College of Art

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed board members and fellow councillors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Simon Cassidy, Councillor Christina Whitty, Councillor Nick Craker and Ian Hutchinson.

### **2. Notes of previous meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record (proposed Councillor Brooks; seconded: Councillor Dorling). It was noted that the consultants had, as requested at the previous meeting, provided advice on site clearing costs; it was also noted that, as suggested, the Project Manager had contacted Liskeard's Wave School to request a conversation about possible collaborative opportunities, but had received no response. All other actions from the previous meeting were addressed in the agenda.

### 3. Capital build

It was reported that on 29 March, following an open tendering process, Liskeard Town Council approved the contract with Brady Construction Services Limited to build the project's studio facilities as part of the redevelopment of Liskeard's historic Cattle Market site.

Copies of the contract had been produced by the consultants and would be progressed to the parties for wet ink signatures by the end of the week.

It was noted that it was expected that work on the site would commence following the issuing of the licence by Cornwall Council. This was expected imminently.

Sincere thanks were expressed to colleagues in the town council and in Community Led Local Development and Cornwall Council for their support in this process.

### 4. Promotional activities

It was reported that the fourth issue of the project's newsletter had been published at the end of March.

The project's social media engagement had continued to increase, with 57 followers on Twitter, 118 on Instagram, and 316 on Facebook.

The Liskeard Town Council decision to approve the capital build contract had generally received favourable coverage in the local press and on social media. The story appeared on the Lyrical SW website (<https://www.lyricalsw.com/post/plans-moving-forward-for-liskeard-cattle-market-makers-project>), the Cornish Times website (<https://www.cornish-times.co.uk/news/contractors-appointed-to-build-liskeard-cattle-market-site-arts-studio-542927>), and in the 6 April edition of the Liskeard Voice. That issue also included a report on the first of the project's print-making classes.

It was noted that the tone of one social media posting (posted in favour of the development) had provoked a hostile response; and that such communications were not considered helpful.

### 5. After-school clubs & courses

A pilot programme of weekly after-school-club sessions had been delivered at Hillfort Primary School (22 March, 29 March, 5 April). Interest in these had been reasonably strong. Further sessions have been scheduled for 26 April and 3 May. The project team would assess the impact of this provision in encouraging interest in the project's programme of core activities.

Unfortunately, planned provision at St Martin's Primary School had been cancelled due to lack of interest. It was unclear whether this was the result of geographical or demographic factors.

Nine people had thus far registered for the project's ESF programme of skills courses. Of these, three had said they wish to pursue the creative entrepreneurial route (two of whom had registered for the project's entrepreneurs programme); one had been put in contact with adult education services to register for courses; one had started applying for HE courses; and one had been offered (and accepted) a place on a Bachelor's programme in Art & Design.

A five-week course of classes in watercolour painting (run by local artist Shari Hills) concluded on 17 March. This was followed by a session on the history of western painting delivered by the Project

Manager (24 March); the following week (on 31 March), local craftsperson Sian Bush commenced the delivery of a five-week course on printmaking. This new class received positive feedback from the participants:

- 'I learnt new creative techniques which I will apply to my practice – and it was fun.'
- 'It was great meeting new people and learning new ideas. I can't wait to try them at home.'
- 'Really having fun experimenting with things I don't normally do.'
- 'It helped me concentrate in areas I hadn't previously looked at – learning different techniques and how to refine them. Now I'm going to go home and steal my mum's placemats to use as printing boards – and make more of my own prints!'

It was also reported that participants have regular professional development tutorials with the Project Manager to support the development of their aspirations and plans in education, employment and entrepreneurship.

## 6. Enterprise engagement

It was reported that the Project Manager continues to run regular advisory sessions with four businesses thus far formally registered on the project's mentoring programme, and with a fifth business for whom the project team are awaiting the final piece of documentation to confirm full registration. The Project Manager is also in discussions with a number of other local enterprises in relation to joining this scheme.

The project had thus far registered three participants on its programme for new entrepreneurs, and anticipated the delivery of the first iteration of this provision in the near future.

It was noted that the profiles of twenty local artists, craftspeople and creative enterprises now feature on the project's website. The fourth workshop meeting of the project's creative enterprise network forum is scheduled for 14 April.

It was agreed that strategies to enhance footfall to retail and hospitality businesses in town were essential. These strategies include liaison with those businesses and the promotion of those businesses' engagement with the project as sites where local makers' products could be viewed or purchased, and the encouragement and facilitation of makers' engagement in in-town retail and event activities.

It was suggested the PM liaise with the Liskeard Hive. (Update 7/4/22: action completed.)

The PM was asked to liaise with Liskeard in Bloom re: contacting property owners in relation to a window display in an unoccupied retail facility on The Parade. (Update 7/4/22: action completed.)

## 7. Any other business

The dates of future meetings (below) were confirmed.

## 8. Dates of future meetings

14.00, 11 May 2022

14.00, 8 June 2022

14.00, 6 July 2022

14.00, 10 August 2022

14.00, 7 September 2022