

Museum Meeting Thursday 16 November 2017 at 10am in the Refreshment Room

Present: Bryony Robins and Emmie Kell (Cornwall Museums Partnership (CMP)), Jayne Buchanan, Amanda Soady and Stephanie Meads (Museum Management Team (MMT)), Councillors Rachel Brooks, Sue Pike, Christina Whitty and David Ambler. Yvette Hayward (Support Services Manager).

Apologies: Hella Tovar, Gordon Stokes, Tina Hitchings and Frances Foulkes (MMT), Councillors Sally Hawken, Susan Shand, Anna Clarke and Jane Pascoe

AGENDA

1. Updates from Liskeard TC cultural plans

The Town Council have recently agreed new Aims for 2017 – 2021. These include:

- Protect and enhance the culture and heritage of the town.
- Promote and market Liskeard as the commercial and cultural centre for South East Cornwall

Following this the Communications and Engagement Committee have agreed an objective for 2018/19 of 'Securing grant funding and development of a cultural and heritage strategy for Liskeard'.

To achieve this, they are already working with other groups in the town including the museum, Stuart House, RIO and the Town Forum. The initial driver for this work was the proposal for a Liskeard Looe trail, where there was a need to ensure that people using the trail would have a reason to come into Liskeard town centre.

Meetings have taken place with Tamsin Daniel and Nick Cahill at Cornwall Council, and Emmie (CMP) with the aim of obtaining grant funding for a heritage and cultural strategy, which would include supporting existing heritage assets (museum and Stuart House) and possibly developing new ones, improving the town scape and street furniture, and working and learning together with other organisations. Emmie advised this was a positive move to which funders would respond well, but warned time was needed for comprehensive research, and ensuring sustainable models. Some funds have already been secured, and this will be taken forward in January when Tamsin and Emmie are able to support us.

Meanwhile, there are some other programmes, such as Cultivator - Business Support from which bits of money can be obtained for study visits and professional mentoring. In addition, some of the RIO work with young people could be used to get evidence for the bigger bid. CMP are the gateway to these funds.

2. Update on CMP activities and programme for 2018-22

Emmie explained that their role was to be encouraging, supportive and provide honest and constructive feedback to the museum. They are currently working on a business plan for 2018 – 2022, and putting in a £4m bid to the Arts Council. They also expect to have completed a new plan for Museums in Cornwall, which should be available before Christmas.

Museums exist to record history in the making, and they need to get to a point where they can play a contemporary collective role.

Emmie will provide a link to a Networked Heritage Report which may be useful.

<https://medium.com/networked-heritage/networked-heritage-f89130ee643f>

3. Review - What has worked well this year? What could we do differently?

Communication has improved, and Councillors attending MMT meetings has helped this. Visitor numbers have increased. The social engagement over the plastics exhibition has been fantastic – a good example of making history for the future. The museum entered the South-East Cornwall Tourism awards and scored well, and will also enter the Heritage Awards next year.

Concerns were raised about the sustainability of the core team, thus impacting on the museum's future. The museum would welcome a paid member of staff, particularly to help with business administration and volunteer coordination. An option could be a peripatetic curator. CMP advised there were 2 considerations; a short term 12 month fix, and a long term solution which could be encompassed within the overall strategy discussed earlier. With budget setting due by January it will be important to consider this within the process. A paid member of staff would open up other opportunities to have apprentices at the museum, and also look at the prospect of a training museum.

4. Looking at ways forward

Bryony felt it was important for the museum and the Town Council to work together effectively. It was also important to understand what its unique selling point is or what makes it special – the same will be needed for other buildings. Working more closely with Stuart House (and CHP) would be a benefit, combining efforts and working in partnership and collaboration.

5. Support for the Museum – what their forward plans are and how we can support them

Arrange a meeting in January to work on the heritage and cultural strategy, which should include the museum, Stuart House, RIO and the Liskerrett Centre. Yvette will ask Tamsin for possible dates.

Yvette will contact Clare Pennington from CMP who will come and help with applications to access some of the small funding pots Emmie spoke about. Jayne will attend from the museum. Some of the funding could be used to access demographics information from Audience Finder, which will help identify potential types of visitor.