

5. FACILITIES MANAGERS REPORT – 15 March 2022

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Welcome Back Fund

The static PA equipment for Fore Street has been installed and an order has been placed for the 16 additional metal planters together with the compost, plants, and initial watering.

The Spring Celebration Day is taking place on Saturday 26th March 2022. The event has been put together by Liskeard Traders Association and Hall for Cornwall with support from the Welcome Back Fund and Liskeard Town Council's Community Grant. For further information see www.visitliskeard.co.uk. Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain a road closure order for Bay Hill.

Following a call for additional projects the purchase of two heavy duty gazebos plus weights, the purchase of a portable PA system and a deep clean of the public toilets at Westbourne Car Park, Sungirt Car Park and Dean Street have been given the go-ahead and we will use this opportunity to re-decorate the toilets after cleaning. The total additional funding amounts to £2,199.87 + VAT. Some other projects, including gutter cleaning were rejected.

Schedule of Charges and Terms & Conditions

The 2022/23 schedule of charges for the hire of the Public Hall and the Terms and Conditions have now been updated and will be added to the Town Council's website - <https://www.liskeard.gov.uk/services-info/hire-the-hall/>.

CCTV Update

Awaiting response from Cornwall Fire & Rescue

Units 2&3, The Guildhall

The tenants at both Unit 2 (PH Fish Ltd) and Unit 3 (Cornwall Hypnosis) have given notice. This means that subject to any repairs and safety checks both units will be available from April 2022. Unit 2 is charged at £3,459.00 per annum plus utilities and comprises the shop with WC to rear. Unit 3 is charged at £3,459.00 per annum plus utilities and includes a storeroom and WC. The last rental re-evaluation was undertaken by Jeffrey's in 2018. A proposed rise of 3% would increase the rent to £3,655.47 per annum. This will only apply to new leases and lease renewals, not existing tenants.

We are attempting to obtain quotes from contractors to improve the ventilation to the upper levels of the main hall in the Guildhall to reduce humidity and stop mould growth which is now affecting the structure of the ceiling. It will be necessary to clean the ceiling once ventilation has been improved which will put the main hall out of action for a period and we will need to liaise with the tenant. We continue to have problems with the Fire Alarm beam detector and hope to be able to move to the provision of smoke detectors in the ceiling when the redecoration occurs

Floral display for the Fountain

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and as part of the RHS Britain in Bloom Pennant Cup competition Liskeard in Bloom are proposing to create a floral display for the Fountain. The proposal is to extend and modify the previous displays installed on the structure. So, as with earlier years, there will be four small window boxes at the top of the monument, four slightly larger ones at the level below, and four troughs around the base of the monument. The troughs at the base will be bespoke and their size will be proportionate to the shape and scale of the monument. None of these installations would require any fixing into the structure. As with last year's display, Liskeard in Bloom would also like to install three smaller custom made planters inside each of the stone basins. Judging for the Pennant Cup will take place in early July. The Facilities Committee has committed £500.00 towards the cost of the Platinum Jubilee floral display.

The Town Council received the following comment from the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) at Cornwall Council regarding the floral display on the Fountain:

"We would be supportive of celebrating the Fountain and Queens Jubilee through the creation of a temporary floral display. Listed Building Consent would not be required providing that the timber frame required to support the display is entirely freestanding and can be erected without physically fixing into the listed structure."

Water ReFILL Station / The Fountain Project Update

The Town Council has received some positive feedback (see below) from the Senior Development Officer (Historic Environment) at Cornwall Council regarding the reinstatement of the water supply to the stone basins on the Fountain.

"We would also be supportive of the principle of re-connecting the water to the Fountain to an operational condition. This would not require consent unless the works required to facilitate this affect the character of the building as one of special architectural or historic interest. If there is going to be visual change, or the structure requires any form of dismantling and reconstruction to facilitate the reconnection then LBC may be required. If you have further details, I'd be happy to look at these."

We are now awaiting recommendations and a quote from a local contractor regarding the re-connection.

Councillor Ambler has been in contact with Rebecca Caterrall of Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership regarding the possibility of installing a water ReFILL station at Liskeard Railway Station. The feedback from GWR is that they had plans, pre-Covid, to install water ReFILL stations at their highest footfall stations e.g. Paddington, Reading, Bristol. Clearly Liskeard does not fit into this category, so unless there is external funding GWR are unlikely to support a water ReFILL station at Liskeard although they have said they would be happy to work with the Town Council if there was funding available from our side.

Of the potential town-based locations Westbourne Car Park and Dean Street would be relatively straight forward in terms of mains water connection, drainage, accessibility and so on. The Public Hall or Foresters' Hall could also host a water ReFILL stations but access would be restricted to opening hours.

Data Cabling

Data Cabling works are well underway, though there has been some delay due to the current high booking levels of the public hall rooms. Old redundant cables have been stripped out and new interconnections between the various parts of the building have now been laid. Cabling to all parts is expected to be complete by the end of this month.

Castle Park

We have no further updates on the progress of the transfer to the Town Council at this time.

Devolution

The list of property assets which we seek to be transferred to the Town Council has been submitted to Cornwall Council, and we are awaiting their response.

Room Bookings

Bookings are very strong at the moment, and we should see a considerable surplus over budget on our income. The level of Bookings is also looking very positive for the new financial year.

Staff

We are looking to recruit a further Caretaker at 23 hours per week to meet increased demand for hiring public hall rooms. This salary has been included in next year's budget.

Public Hall Main Hall

We are looking at upgrades and redecoration needed in the main hall including replacement of the safety curtains. There are also maintenance and electrical works ongoing.