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4 Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JL

Report to Saltash Town Council: March 7 2019

We held a Board meeting last week, which was well attended and productive. We are very pleased to have Councillor Steve Miller as an active member.

Here is a summary of key issues discussed:

CIC Membership

Following a recent reminder to Members to update their membership, we have now issued over 400 new membership cards. This was roughly our target when we had to abandon the old system, so we are very pleased to be possibly exceeding it now.

We are shortly going to publicise the ability for local organisations (both voluntary groups and small businesses) to become CIC Members on a corporate basis, nominating a link person to be engaged with us, and vote on key decisions. This is something which we have not tried to develop before, but which is part of our Articles of Association. We would benefit from having more members, and more diversity of opinion and ideas in our work. For new corporate Members, there would be advantages in being able to use our services, eg the Hopper, access resources and knowledge at our Hub, join with similar bodies in speaking up on key local issues, and gain access to funding opportunities.

NB Planning for the Saltash Card re-launch has already commenced.

Scrapstore

I am pleased to be able to report that we have been able to secure an extension to our lease at 89 Fore Street on the same favourable terms. Leasing is now going to be on a month-by-month basis, which suits the landlord if a commercial tenant willing to pay a higher rent does appear.

It goes without saying that this building suits the Scrapstore very well, and we hope to be able to hang on to it. Business Rates are high, but these costs are being offset to a degree by our trading income. And, of course, the availability of volunteer help is essential to the financial equation.

We are confident, therefore, that we should be able to extend the pilot period to the end of our financial year in May; and then be able to see if we can organise a budget to sustain the Enterprise over 2019/20.

Becoming a Charity?

I have mentioned before that Directors have been thinking about whether the organisation should seek charitable status. We have now decided to explore this in detail, with a view to applying to be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

As a CIC, we have evolved to the point where we have a balance of (1) obviously charitable activities (like Dementia Voice and most of our Community Transport services) and (2) trading activities like the Market and the letting of 18 Belle Vue Road - although we have to show that these are run for community benefit. We think this balance would work equally well under a charity banner, and our

purpose consequently perhaps be better understood by the public at large. In so doing, we would gain the financial benefits which are available to registered charities.

If Directors decide during the current month to recommend this change to Members, we would hope to proceed to become a CIO at the end of our financial year. I will report to you more fully next month. I should add that we would hope to keep the name Community Enterprises PL12 and to maintain our current core aims and objectives, ie minimal change to our operations.

Strategic Priorities

We have almost completed the two years of our last strategic action plan. We therefore need to refresh this and will do so in the next few weeks. I would like to invite suggestions from Members of the Town Council about issues that they believe we ought to consider tackling over the following two years.

Peter Thistlethwaite
Chair

March 4 2019