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4 Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JL

## **Report to Saltash Town Council: June 6 2019**

Things are generally going well with our Enterprises. Here are a few updates.

**Membership** - we now have 620 members, a great outcome following the introduction of the new membership card in January

**Conversion to Charity** - still no decision from Charity Commission

**Saltashcard** - we will be re-launching the card to coincide with the Regatta. It would be really helpful if the Council could support both (1) our s106 application for funds to support the re-launch (which has been brought back to you by Cornwall Council for technical reasons), and (2) our use of your logo on the new Saltashcard, as in the past.

**Future Health Services** - progress with the NHS consultations still seems to be satisfactory, although I personally had to miss the latest session last week. I understand that there were concerns about the NHS not yet bringing new services to St Barnabas which were promised last year; and also about the legal position on future uses of the hospital.

**Hopper buses** - all our drivers have to be trained under a scheme called MIDAS. There are often delays in getting new drivers onto a course, so two of our experienced drivers have recently become qualified to run MIDAS courses locally. This cost us a lot of money, but we see the investment paying off in the long run. It should help driver recruitment; and we may be able to run courses for other Community Transport schemes in the wider area.

**Foodshare PL12** - we are in the early stages of a new project aimed at making better use of unwanted food locally. We are collaborating with the Foodbank and with Saltash Environmental Action at this stage. We warmly invite interested councillors and members of the public to contribute their ideas to us on this, ahead of a formal project to be launched shortly.

**Strategic Priorities** - Directors have just agreed 7 priorities for the next two years, see summary attached. These will indicate to you the direction we shall be following.

**Peter Thistlethwaite**  
**Chair**

June 3 2019

## **Community Enterprises PL12: Strategic Priorities 2019/21**

\*Approved by Directors, May 2019\*

### **1. Secure conversion to CIO during 2019 and achieve its benefits for the community**

We have prospered as a CIC, but the new option to become a charity has convinced us to make a change. Our key charitable purpose would be the promotion of citizenship and community development. We wish to build greater public understanding of our work through this, and expand our opportunities to fund new projects. Our Members have voted to support the conversion whilst maintaining current Enterprises, and Directors must now seek to put this in place. [We have no control over the final decision, of course.] New Trustees would be appointed as the CIC is wound up, and they must work together well to establish and promote the new organisation. All current assets would be transferred to the CIO, which means we have a secure financial base on which to move forward.

### **2. Ensure continuing growth in membership numbers**

The number of members matters in a community-led organisation. As a CIC we have been governed by our Members, and this type of constitution would be continued if we become a CIO. Recently we re-established our Register of Members with a new membership card, and numbers are expanding well. We are also encouraging local voluntary groups of all types to become Group Members, through which we hope to build links across the local voluntary sector so that we can all speak as citizens with a united voice on key issues. This will need continuous attention over the two years of this plan.

### **3. Build further on the partnerships we have established with public, private, community and voluntary sectors**

As strong as we are, we can only have a positive impact on the development of sustainable community services and other initiatives in partnership with others. The investment of time and patience to nurture these relationships is essential, and we ought to consider playing a leading role in bringing people together.

### **4. Increase active engagement of members and volunteers**

Processes for communication with members via a Newsletter and our website developments have been put in place, alongside a more coordinated approach to marketing and publicity, inc social media. The task for the next two years therefore is to exploit this to the full, reaching out to the wider public, increasing awareness of what we have done, and being innovative in setting up interaction and discussion - our work in Health and Social Care is a good example of how to do the latter. We must achieve a continuous flow of volunteers out of this process, including a new type of volunteer who can make specialist knowledge available on an ad hoc basis (eg in legal matters, finance, HR).

### **5. Encourage and support new charitable Enterprises to be established**

We have expanded nicely over the last two years, with expansion of Transport and dementia services, setting up the Scrapstore and the pop-up shop, and starting the Belle Vue toilet block conversion. We wish now to increase the rate of establishment of new projects, especially aimed at charitable service provision to meet needs we have identified through consultations and partnerships. Possible priorities are: making unwanted food available in the community, and engaging more with younger people and families. Greater expertise in fund-raising and project management will be required.

## **6. Continue to strengthen governance and administration**

We have made good progress in matching the increased scale and diversity of our Enterprises with a broader policy framework and the appropriate administrative/IT systems, inc GDPR, Safeguarding, membership register, and recruitment practices. We are looking to have completed this work by the autumn of this year. We are also investing time into the development of the governance role of Directors. Irrespective of the outcome of our CIO application, we will seek to consolidate this progress and take it forward. This should include a set process for reviewing and updating the business plans for all Enterprises annually.

## **7. Safeguard current assets, and seek to expand the asset base to ensure sustainability**

An extension on the lease of 18 Belle Vue Road was achieved in the last two years, but we still should aim to secure the freehold under a Community Asset Transfer at the end of 2019. This is a critical goal if the organisation is to become sustainable over time. We have recently taken on a long-term lease on the former Belle Vue toilet block, ready for refurbishment, which will be a good asset to have. At the same time, it is important to find the means of securing long-term leases for the Hub (which we are currently refurbishing to enhance its role) and the Scrapstore; and to consider every other opportunity to acquire and manage assets for the community.