



**LOOE TOWN COUNCIL
KONSEL TRE LOGH**

Looe Library and Community Hub,
The Millpool, West Looe PL13 2AF.
Telephone: 01503 262255 VAT Reg: 381 5093 50

LOOE BUSINESS AND LEARNING INITIATIVES

Report from the Working Group to Full Council 21 October 2024

Purpose of report

To keep Full Council regularly informed of the pace of progress on fulfilling Council's earlier resolutions.

Report

1. The Working Group has continued to meet monthly with occasional exceptions. Attendance has been consistently good by core players with other invitees attending when relevant items were on the agenda. Thanks particularly to Simon Barker, Stuart Haresnape, Jamie Pearn and Kim Spencer and to Tony Smith for attending when he could. Lynda Powell and the office team have given great support.
2. It was always intended that a decision about the potential new building at the Millpool should be made after the May 2025 elections so that a new or refreshed Council could decide.
3. Meanwhile the planning application for the potential new building is still "awaiting decision". There have been two public comments, by David Gamblin and Alastair Pearn. Mr Gamblin expressed concern over some specific aspects of the design and Mr Pearn is concerned that the width of access to his property is not reduced during or after construction. Of the statutory consultees, several have raised important matters of detail that will need to be resolved. As reported to Full Council on 5 August, these include tree issues, flood risk assessment, potential for contaminated land and requirements of South West Water. Our architect has been asked to chase progress with Cornwall Council.
4. The agreed timeline has been closely followed until recently but, while some progress has been made on each, the four pilot projects are taking longer than predicted to set up. We are aiming to make an initial assessment of their progress in March 2025. The four pilot projects are:
 - 4.1. Mentoring support for all types of local businesses (Kim Spencer/Simon Barker)
 - 4.2. Supplementary training for school leavers and young adults (Caleb Barron)
 - 4.3. Business, creative and professional development through the arts (Stephen Remington)
 - 4.4. Training support for local hospitality businesses (Stephen Remington/Lynda Powell)
5. The arts strand is being developed through a group, still in the early stages of formation, that will not only look at the arts business and learning strand (the concern of the Working Group) but also how Looe can be enriched and enhanced more coherently than now by the wealth of creative talent around and, in turn, how can our town better promote and support that talent. This second strand will form part of the future Marketing and Communications Strategy currently being developed.
6. Additional costs arose in August for the updating of reports and adjustments to the designs. These amounted to £1,326 and were authorised by the Clerk and RFO.

SR 18 October 2024