

Milly Southworth

From: Torpoint Artists Collective <torpointartistscollective@proton.me>
Sent: 14 January 2025 09:08
To: Milly Southworth
Cc: 'Sarah Brittain Edwards'; 'Tony Walsh'; 'Julie Martin'; 'Gary Davis'; 'Harriet Bastin'
Subject: RE: Section 137 app - 16th Jan

hi Milly, thanks... I'm not sure we were aware of the reason for deferral of the decision, as we had this from minutes:

Minute no 107-24F&O (b)

Following consideration of the grant application from Torpoint Artists Collective CIC, members' agreed to defer making a decision on the application and advised other suggestions of support, which the council could offer, including the following immediately: -

- i) To provide free of charge use of facilities at the Council Chambers for workshops/events;
- ii) To provide free of charge advertising in future editions of the council newsletter.
- iii) To provide support to advertise events/activities being put on by Torpoint Artists Collective CIC.

Regarding the ask about future 'events', a brief update here (and if any scope to get our application onto the agenda for this week we'd really appreciate it).

Ongoing efforts to support the town's creative sector**Lease Secured for 61 Fore Street**

We signed the lease for 61 Fore Street (formerly Pricebusters) in November, marking a significant step forward. However, the project has been slightly delayed due to a leak from the flat above. We're actively working with the flat leaseholder to try and resolve this issue.

Our vision for the space is to transform it into a vibrant gallery, workshop, and studio hub for developing creative projects and making opportunities in Torpoint. Phase one involves clearing the space to host welcoming, pop-up activities as volunteer availability permits.

Funding and Volunteer Support

We currently have three small funding applications submitted to various funders, with decisions expected in the coming months. These funds are essential for moving the project into the second phase of refurbishment. In the meantime, we're putting out a call for volunteers to help get things off the ground.

Learning from Others

To guide our business development, we're exploring insights from other creative organisations across Cornwall, including:

- **Groundswell** (developing Newquay's arts strategy)
- **Salt Arts CIC** (establishing Saltash Studios)
- **Bodmin Revival CIC** (we're visiting their shop space this Friday for inspiration).

We're also exploring support from **Good Growth** to draft a comprehensive TAC CIC business plan. This will focus on sustainable investment in Torpoint's creative sector and the wider community arts scene.

Building a Resource, Not Just Events

As a support organisation, our priority is to create a sustainable platform that resources artists and fosters opportunities for the future. While we're not immediately hosting events, we're positioning ourselves to signpost artists to opportunities as funding arises. Currently, we're engaging with 10 local artists (will be more as we grow) and are keen to support any arts initiatives the Town Council may have, provided there's a budget to work with.

Fore Street History Project

We're particularly interested in a potential first project centred around the history of Fore Street - this could involve collaborating with archives, shopkeepers, and the local community to celebrate the area's rich history.

Your email from September 18th, referencing the Town Team Project Board's enthusiasm to collaborate on the hoardings, aligns perfectly with this idea. We believe this project could attract Arts Council funding and deliver an engaging and visually stunning outcome that aligns with Torpoint's "destination" aspirations.

Strategic Partnerships and Inspiration

We recently had a productive meeting with Gary Davies and Tony Walsh to discuss TAC's ambitions for potential across the town. Together, we're exploring a partnership to propose an Arts, Culture, and Creative Industries strategy for Torpoint. A letter outlining these next steps will follow shortly.

In addition, we discussed East Quay in Watchet as an inspiring example of integrating the arts into town planning. If any Town Council representatives are interested in visiting East Quay, we'd be happy to arrange and join.

Next Steps and Feedback

We hope this update gives you a clear picture of our progress and aspirations. If any revisions are needed for our Section 137 application or if further feedback is required, we'd greatly appreciate your guidance.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working together to enhance Torpoint's creative and cultural landscape.

Warm regards,

Matthew and team

on behalf of TAC CIC



<https://linktr.ee/torpointartistscollective>

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Torpoint Artists Collective CIC is registered at Cardiff
Company number 15571272

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On Tuesday, 14 January 2025 at 08:40, Milly Southworth <clerk@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk> wrote:

Morning



Torpoint Artists Collective (TAC CIC)

61 Fore Street

Torpoint

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16th January 2025

Torpoint Town Council

1-3 Buller Road

Torpoint

Cornwall

PL11 2LD

FAO Gary Davies, Tony Walsh and members of Torpoint Town Council,

Subject: Collaboration Request to Develop an Arts, Culture, and Creative Industries Strategy for Torpoint

On behalf of Torpoint Artists Collective (TAC), we are writing to propose a collaboration with Torpoint Town Council in leading the development of a comprehensive Arts, Culture, and Creative Industries Strategy for our town. As a new social enterprise established in 2024, TAC is committed to a pathway towards nurturing creativity, cultural engagement, and community pride in Torpoint and its surrounding areas.

We envision this strategy as a transformative blueprint for Torpoint, addressing a growing need to enhance the town's cultural offer and creative potential. This proposal is inspired by successful initiatives such as Newquay's recent cultural strategy project, and we are eager to follow their example by commissioning a consultant to undertake a detailed mapping exercise as the foundation for our own strategy.

Project Overview and Objectives

The proposed strategy will:

1. **Commission a Consultant:** Exploring using the Community Capacity Fund (TBC) we would engage a consultant to map existing cultural assets, identify key organisations, businesses, and initiatives, and highlight gaps and opportunities within Torpoint's cultural fabric.
2. **Stakeholder and Community Engagement:** The consultant will lead a robust engagement process to ensure the strategy reflects the needs and aspirations of residents, businesses, community groups, and visitors. This will involve establishing a diverse and inclusive steering group to guide the project.
3. **Deliver a Five-Year Strategy toward 2030:** The culmination of this work will be a five-year Arts, Culture, Events, and Creative Industries Strategy. This document will provide a roadmap for:
 - o Developing studios / venues / arts spaces
 - o Establishing a cohesive cultural calendar featuring festivals and public events.

- Creating a skills hub and talent development scheme to link young people and schools with real-world opportunities in the creative industries.
- Strengthening partnerships within the town and beyond, connecting Torpoint with the Rame Peninsula, Plymouth, and Cornwall's broader cultural ecosystem.

Alignment with the Torpoint Neighbourhood Plan

The Torpoint Neighbourhood Plan (2010-2030) highlights a need to improve arts and cultural facilities, with 15% of respondents identifying a poor level of provision. The plan also identifies "potential to develop an improved role for the arts in the town." TAC seeks to act as the "spark" to realise this potential, collaborating closely with the town council and other stakeholders.

Proposed Collaboration

We invite Torpoint Town Council to partner with us by supporting TAC's leadership in this initiative. By working together, we can:

- Leverage funding as TAC CIC to undertake this work leading to a report
- Embed this strategy development process within the council's priorities and plans.
- Ensure alignment with Cornwall Council's Culture Manifesto and Creative Kernow's vision for cultural growth in the region.
- Position Torpoint as a destination for arts, culture, and creativity, strengthening its identity and growing the visitor economy.

Additional Town Website Development Collaboration

We understand that Torpoint Town Council has been allocated £12,500 for the development of a new website. TAC CIC would like to explore the possibility of collaborating with the council to manage and deliver the town website, including cohesive town brand - working alongside with 51 Studio who is local and advocate of TAC ambition. This approach would reinforce Torpoint's identity and demonstrate the council's commitment to creativity and culture within the community. Additionally, allocating part of these funds to this collaboration would serve as a tangible commitment to TAC's efforts in applying to the Community Capacity Fund and advancing the cultural strategy, which talks to a town brand and vision.

Timeline and Next Steps

We propose to undertake this project (pending successful funding) over the course of 2025, with key milestones including:

- **Winter 2025:** Scoping, meetings and agreements on next steps, achieve funding
- **Spring 2025:** Initial meetings, consultant recruitment, and mapping exercise kickoff.
- **Summer 2025:** Stakeholder engagement, community consultations, and interim findings.
- **Autumn 2025:** Finalisation, design, presentation and publishing the five-year strategy for adoption by the Torpoint Town Council.

Overview

The Torpoint Artists Collective is keen to collaborate with the Town Council and other key stakeholders to bring this vision to life. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community, rooted in the arts and enriched by opportunities for creative expression and cultural engagement. We believe this strategy will not only benefit current residents but will also attract future generations and visitors, making Torpoint a beacon of creativity both locally and nationally.

We look forward to discussing this proposal and scope of working on the brand / website for the town in greater detail and exploring how we can work together to achieve these shared goals. Please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Pontin, Sarah Brittain Edwards, Camilla Rose, Tim Sullivan, Miranda Housden, Kathy Wray, Simon Edwards, Mandy Smith, Arthur Hamel, Carmen Wong, Dave Tetley

on behalf of

Torpoint Artists Collective

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