



CEPL12 Report to Town Council

Date 26.08.24

This is a difficult report to write as, I am sure, you will all be aware of the difficult situation we find ourselves in.

Over the last few months I have repeatedly referred to our priority to secure financial stability, this is in order for us to make long term plans and continue with, and develop further, all our services.

Like many households and other businesses and groups, we've been significantly impacted by rising costs—wages, electricity, food, petrol, and other essentials have all become more expensive, and further increases are planned for October. At the same time, we've seen a drop in donations as people face their own financial pressures. This combination has made it increasingly difficult to cover the costs of running our essential services.

To give you a clearer picture, it currently costs around £1,300 per week to keep our Community Kitchen open, when you factor in the other services we provide, such as the Community Shop, Memory Box, Fridge & Larder, and more, the total weekly cost to run all of our enterprises is around £2,400 per week. These are significant expenses, and, as you know, we are totally dependent on donations, (to the tune of 58% of our costs) and grant funding to cover our expenditure. We have made a number of applications for funding and, whilst we have been successful in securing some of these bids they are for specific purposes, eg: Memory Box Singing group and a new storage container that meets food safety regulations, however funding for on-going projects is hard to find.

After many months of trying to find other solutions we had, regrettably, to take the decision to make the post of Kitchen Manager redundant. You all know Chris, and the amazing impact he has had on the local community, he is not only our Kitchen Manager but a true friend and we are all saddened that we have had to take this decision. We aim to keep No 8 open, but it will, initially, be in a reduced capacity as we try to rebuild for the future.

To address our financial challenges, and to help us to continue our work in the community, we've launched our SOS campaign—Save Our Space. This campaign is our urgent call to the community to help us keep our doors open. It is about raising awareness of the vital role we play in Saltash and encouraging people to donate, whether it's through a small contribution for food at the Fridge & Larder, a donation over tea and cake in the Kitchen, or a direct gift to support our work.

This is just one part of the plans to make and save funds. We're actively pursuing and working incredibly hard to secure additional funding, identifying cost-saving measures, and brainstorming new ways to increase donations. We're committed to doing everything we can to ensure Community Enterprise PL12 remains the vital lifeline it has always been for Saltash. We are being proactive to recognise and address the current situation in order for us to keep Community Enterprises PL12 going.

Whilst we have been investing much time and energy to mount our SOS campaign, life in CEPL12 continues to provide vital services to the community.

We are thrilled that our growing links with Oaklands Community Centre have resulted in our mobile fridge and larder using the centre as an outreach. The first visit was really successful with many visitors coming to the Centre for the first time. We are also planning to further links by running 'Step into Wellness' sessions there from September.

Our Memory Box group continues to thrive,

Rose Edwards spoke at the Dementia Covered event that took place at The Guildhall earlier this month. The session was delivered to 21 people, including, Julia Pegg, Jean Dent and Mandy Thompson and proved to be very successful (despite problems with technology!)

An added benefit was that three more people joined our singing Group after attending the session.

Our huge thanks go to Rose for her on going support for all who are impacted by cognitive impairment.

We have organised a quiz to take place at The Ploughboy on 2nd September, (7.00 for a 7.30 start) all proceeds will go towards supporting our Veteran's Group. We would really appreciate your support by putting in a team for the event.

We were thrilled to receive a donation from Cecily Baker in order to support our work, every penny counts and we truly appreciate their support.

We are eagerly awaiting the delivery of our new, purpose built port a cabin next month, this has been funded by a National Lottery grant specifically for this purpose. The unit has been built to high standards enabling us to comply with food standards, and potentially increase the space to take in more food that would otherwise have gone into landfill. It will be a major feat maneuvering it into place and so we have a team of volunteers on standby to keep the road clear.

Looking forward, our Annual General Meeting is to take place on 25th September, 5.30 at Isambard House. This will be my last one as Chair as I am stepping down from the position at the AGM. I hope I will be able to remain involved in CEPL12 in the future as, I believe, it is such a valuable asset for the town and, despite the current situation, will continue to be so for many years to come.

Your support at the AGM would be very much appreciated.

In conclusion, my thanks go to all the volunteers who continue to devote so much time to supporting all our activities. In particular, the directors who have been working especially hard over the last few months and, I know, will continue to do so as we regroup and look to the future with optimism.

Jo Grail
25.08.24

For more information about any of our activities please check out our facebook and Instagram pages, our website or pop into No 4 or 8 to find out more.

'Together we can, together we do.'
War-barth 'gan gallos War-barth 'gan gwul