



CEPL12 Report to Town Council

Date 31.10.24

I should start this report with thanks to Jo for her sterling leadership and to wish her well in her house move, rated as one of life's more traumatic events. Jo's last report noted the momentous time in which CEPL12 found itself and the challenges ahead. We have risen to these challenges with some difficult decisions and hard work, including the SOS campaign, the establishment of the crowd funder and the reorganisation of the kitchen volunteers. These efforts have moved the horizon, with the estimate for the reserves extended to give sufficient breathing space to establish more definitive routes to self-sufficiency.

The most telling success in this has been the response of our volunteers, including our directors, pulling together to achieve this. This was evident in the recent Memory Box Tea Party, where volunteers from the shop and the kitchen supported the event, making it both successful in raising funds for Memory Box but also a really good advert for the work it does.

Our AGM took place on 25.09.24, 5.30pm at Isambard House. It promised to be a spirited affair given the background, and it was well-attended. The reports were received and a number of questions which had been asked in advance were addressed within these reports. Because of the wider interest and because some were unable to attend the AGM, the reports were also published on our website to help the wider public understand the position and the reasons for our decisions. It would appear that this was well-received.

Over the next few months, it is clear we still have much to do to improve our position, but we need to become settled in the 'new normal.' The crowd funder seems to be progressing, although an ambitious target was set. We are looking to set up a 'Friends of CEPL12' scheme to provide a longer term alternative.

Looking further ahead, we need to consider how we will become self-sustaining. This may give the opportunity to address other needs within Saltash. Grant funding is only a part of the answer. While we have been successful in gaining a number of grants, most funding opportunities will only fund new activities and often exclude core costs. The new activities bring with them their own costs, and there is a limit to the number of new things we can do; since our current activities are not covered in this way, we have to be careful not to end up with a cycle of replacing activities. Alongside this, we need to continue to recruit volunteers and directors to keep this moving forward.

In summary, we have weathered the storm, but there is still work to do; as a board, we cannot continue to work at the rate we have over the last couple of months, but equally we cannot ease off too much. We need to work smarter, not harder. All we need to do now is work out how to do that! Undoubtedly the teamwork and spirit that has been characteristic of the last couple of months is a key ingredient.

Some good news is that we have found some volunteers to take up the MB Veterans group to replace Carol Emmet who is stepping down for personal reasons. Their plans are developing and sound very promising. The enthusiasm and energy is palpable. More on this as their plans progress.

The purpose built portakabin and the storage container Jo mentioned in her last report have now been delivered. Thanks are due to the local businesses for their support and accommodation during the day of the delivery. This went without a hitch and these are now in place. Thanks are also due to the team of volunteers involved on the day, without their support and hard work, this would not have happened. Chris our Kitchen Manager had been closely involved in this and one of his last official acts was to cut the tape and declare the portakabin open.

As I said earlier there is still much to be done, but I have every confidence that our board and our fantastic volunteers will rise to the challenge and we will secure our future.

Chris Bailey.
31.10.24

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.'

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