

## **Saltash Gateway CIC, trading as Community Enterprises PL12**

**AGM 2021, 29/09/2021**

### **Chair's Report**

#### **Governance**

During the year, David Landers and Julia Peggs have stood down as Director, Julia will continue to support us as a volunteer. John Penney has joined us as Transport Director. Carol Emmett, Rose Edwards are both standing down as Directors at the AGM, but will continue their fantastic work with the Dementia Voice groups. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work and selflessness during the past year.

We have a strong team of Directors, who have worked hard on updating administration & policies.

#### **Covid-19**

As with other businesses, the Covid pandemic hit us hard. Our income has been seriously affected during the previous and current financial years. We have been fortunate to receive grant funding from a number of sources, and are continuing to source further funds to enable us to continue with our community- led projects.

Our volunteers have been amazing, and have provided help and support wherever they can. We have a number of new volunteers on board, and have a Thank You evening for volunteers on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

#### **Financial**

Our income is much lower than previous years, and we are currently operating at a net loss; however we do have capital reserves, and are actively seeking funding for projects.

Considering the circumstances of the past 12 months, the situation is not as onerous as it could be. We are confident that income will increase as we all return to some normality.

Our Financial Director can provide further details.

**Enterprises Transport;** Sue Ellingham has stood down as lead Director. John Penney has now taken her place; he has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the transport sector, as well as being an ambulance driver and volunteer driver for Plymouth Argyll. Day trips have now resumed, although the current driver shortage means that we're not organising as many as we have in the past. We have sold our older Hopper bus, and replaced it with a 9 seater, which can be used as the Mobile Larder, and to collect Community Fridge donations.

**Community Hub.** The Community shop has re-opened, & now has goods from 25 local crafters. Produce markets continue. The Hub is now a collection point for donated produce for the Community Fridge, jigsaw swaps, plant sales, recycling schemes and face masks. Our volunteers have made over 1,000 face masks. The Hub is also a temporary home for the Community Fridge, until we find a permanent home for it.

**Dementia Voice.** All activities have now resumed. Several users are no longer able to attend. The Walking Group has ceased. Activities take place in a number of venues around Saltash; we are looking for our own premises we can use for the various groups.

**18 Belle Vue Road.** This currently has 2 empty offices, although we are currently using these ourselves for storage. Tenants will be sought as soon as the stored items are in use.

**Belle Vue Project; Toilet Block, Belle Vue Road.** During the Covid crisis, this was used as a store for the jigsaws and books we were distributing. It is now used as additional storage space for the Foodbank and the Community Fridge.

Digital Inclusion. We are currently seeking suitable premises. We have received funding from Waitrose & Partners and the Co-op.

**Foodshare.** In November 2020, we reacted to a community need and opened the Community Fridge from 4 Fore St. It now shares the space with the community Shop and Hub, so space is very tight! During holidays, we have also run a Mobile Larder, helping residents who are unable to come in to Fore St. We also ran a communitykitchen during lockdowns, providing soup & nutritious meals. Our volunteers collect surplus food from various sources, including supermarkets, bakeries, farmers & growers, and re-distribute it, thus preventing perfectly good food from being wasted. We have served over 8,000 people, and re-distributed over 15 tonnes of surplus food. We are now part of the Cornwall Gleaning Network. We have plans to expand on the services that Foodshare can provide.

**Future projects.** During this year, it has become evident that we have outgrown our existing premises, and we have been actively seeking additional premises to expand into. We hoped to move into the Barclays building at 24 Fore St, but sadly this wasn't to be. We are now in negotiations to take on a lease on another empty Fore St property, which will become the Foodshare hub, and somewhere to use as a base for Dementia Voice and Digital Inclusion. We hope that negotiations will be finalised before the end of this week.

### **Partners**

During the past 12 months, we have strengthened links with numerous other groups and organisations, to provide help & support wherever needed. We are members of the Saltash Food allinace, and instigated the PL12 LifeSkills Alliance, bringing together organisations to work together to provide job skills, job seeking skills and life skills to the community. The Community Fridge works closely with Saltash Foodbank, Callington Foodbank, Citizens Advice and debt management organisations.

**Recognition.** In recognition of the community support provided by CEPL12 volunteers, As Chair I was invited to a Big Lunch at the G7 summit, one of just 20 people chosen to represent the community sector in Cornwall. Here, I had the honour and privelege of meeting Her Majesty the Queen, the Duchess of Cornwall, and the Duchess of Cambridge. It was a day I will never forget.

## **Conversion to CIO**

The CIO application is almost complete, we are just waiting for accounts to May 2021 to accompany the application. We anticipate submitting our application in October 2021.

## **Other news**

The website has now been handed over & is ready to go live once hosting has been finalised.

We have had a presence at both Saltfest and the Saltash Regatta, with volunteers on hand to promote our activities.

We are holding a volunteer Thank You evening on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, to thank all our volunteers for their community support during what has been a very difficult time. Our organisation is run almost entirely by volunteers, and that is a massive achievement. Without you all, we wouldn't be able to do what we do.