

Community Enterprises PL12

Chair's Report to Saltash Town Council

The plans for the Community Kitchen are running smoothly, with a “soft opening” & a very enjoyable feast night held for key volunteers, with a vegetarian feast cooked with surplus food. Volunteers are being trained, classes are being booked, & there is a general buzz of excitement around it; it will be a welcoming, comfortable community space. After a very lengthy & time-consuming process, we have been awarded funding Social Enterprise Fund, to employ a Kitchen Manager for 2 years.

We have also been awarded £2500 from Tresorys Kernow for a Community Kitchen food-based project, “Feed the Soul - Food, Culture and Community” I am liaising with Weatherhead Shop Designers, who funded the refit, to get some of their employees volunteering, & instigating some skill-sharing in different enterprises. A core team have been meeting regularly to guide Transport into profitability, sadly our plans are currently not working & we are seeing very few bums on seats for our day trips, and Transport continues to run at a loss.

Our Observer advert & editorial this month stress the “Use it or Lose it” situation. The Community Fridge and Mobile Larder both continue to be popular and well-received, and we are publicising the ethos behind it; saving perfectly good food from being wasted, the food is available to anyone who can use it. The Dementia Voice Café moves into the Community Kitchen in April. The dementia groups are well-supported. We are looking to start a “Memory Lane” café in April. I attended a Dementia Conference in Ivybridge last week, which was very informative & I came away with some ideas & some useful contacts. Our CIO application has currently stalled, with the Charities Commission unhappy about a number of elements of our organisation being community-led rather than charity-led. David, Peter & I are meeting with our solicitor to discuss. We have received two nominations for a Community Award in this year's Town Council/ Rotary Citizen of the Year awards. The winners will be announced at the Civic Service on Sunday 3rd April, unfortunately I am on holiday so I am looking to fellow Directors to attend.

I have met with Charlotte from The Core to discuss how we can work together to provide activities & food for youngsters during the summer holidays; we aim to put a joint funding application together to cover activities.

David & I are exploring other funding opportunities, as our income post-Covid is very depleted.

We have been delaying discussions on our Strategic Priorities. Now that the Kitchen is open, we need to meet to discuss roles, responsibilities, & the future of CEPL12.

We are continuing our plans to implement a tiered management structure, with lead volunteers in place for the shop and Community Fridge.

In March we became a collection point for essential aid for Ukrainian refugees, we sent two packed minibuses to the Romanian Orthodox Church, and Devon Ukraine support. A coffee morning in the Kitchen raised £142 for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.