

CEPL12 – REPORT TO SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

Our Chairperson, Jo Grail, is on the road to recovery but it will be several months before she is back running CEPL12. We do, however, have a strong Board and therefore we are able to continue without her support for the time being.

As Acting Chairman, I have been doing some analysis into the role of CEPL12 in the town. The obvious one is that we have occupied 4 Fore Street for 11 years. This had been an empty shop for many years prior to us coming to an arrangement with the owner. We were responsible for setting up the pop-up shop at 5 Fore Street (now known as Lovingly Local) and this has now been open for almost 6 years. It was an offshoot from CEPL12 that Scrapstore was formed and now, with the recent opening of the unit in the Courtyard, occupies 3 trading units in the town centre. We of course also have the Community Kitchen, which was previously vacant for 2 years prior to us taking it on.

Some of the statistics that come from the above:-

1. A total of 6 shops are occupied as result of our continued or initiating activities which represents almost 7% of the retail units in Fore Street.
2. A total of circa 50 local crafters are presently selling their craft work through either 4 or 5 Fore Street.
3. No. 4 is on the threshold of having its best year ever, based on turnover.
4. 75 people a day, on average, visit the Community Kitchen and the fruit and veg stall to the front thereof.

In addition, through our occupancy of 18 Belle Vue Road, we also provide a base for other charities e.g. Foodbank and Citizens Advice Cornwall by having additional commercial lettings therein which help to fund the running costs of the building. Also, we have been able to provide additional space for Foodbank by sharing our occupancy of the former toilets in Belle Vue West car park.

Also, on a further positive note we have had several volunteers who, having got back into the work ethic, have gone on to find employment. We are pleased for them.

Despite all the above we sometimes get criticism, the latest being that because the Community Kitchen is mainly run by volunteers the cost of food/drink is cheaper (i.e. voluntary payments) and this is taking away trade from other coffee shops in the town, but, it was acknowledged that by having shops occupied there was a greater attraction to the town than having them empty. We will never win.

In our last report we reported that our AGM was coming up and we were asking members to approve the change of name from Saltash Gateway CIC to Community Enterprises PL12 CIC. This was approved.

The vision of those who set up Saltash Gateway CIC (including your present Mayor, Richard Bickford) has certainly been a benefit to the town and with our ongoing involvement in decisions making processes, e.g. Town Team and S.106 Panel, we hope that the benefit will continue.

Peter Ryland
Vice Chairman
Community Enterprises PL12 CIC