

General Manager's Overview **MONTHLY REPORT MAY 26**

Project Updates

Guildhall Gateway Centre Complex:

- A meeting is being held with the WHS Lead to discuss the 20th anniversary inscription celebrations where a WHS Immersive interactive dome is being housed in the Town Hall on 22nd August. The intention is to expand on this opportunity with heritage partners and Tavistock BID. Resources will be allocated to this event meaning the provisional date in July to repeat Heritage Fair in Guildhall has been postponed.
- The Guildhall Gateway Centre in May/June has and will host activities relating to paranormal bookings, Discovery team half term activities, Simon Dell talks, meetings (VIC volunteers/Abbey Remains project/Active Devon first aid training etc).
- The centre has had its 5 yearly fixed installation electrical test completed with remedial works actioned.

Multi-use Wheeled Sports Area:

- Contamination, soakaway and strength/loadbearing tests to the soil has been rescheduled to June 26.
- The project Crowd Funder is now active.

Abbey Remains Project:

- Following completion of the site surveys and the drafting of the tender docs pertaining to Betsy Grimbals Tower and Stillhouse, available funds for capital £390,000, the contract was advertised on Contract Finder and our website with a return 29th May. The Council have received 5 compliant tenders based on technical and price return, and due diligence is being undertaken week commencing 1st June. It is the intention to be in a position to let the contract week commencing 8th June with a pre-meet to be scheduled shortly after. Meetings have been held with adjoining neighbours pertaining to agreeing arrangements for access, site security and privacy etc. The project programme, partially driven by grant funding timeframes requires a start date end June and completion by mid-Nov 26.
- Pertaining to recent meetings held with Historic England, scheduled monument consent applications have been submitted for Stillhouse repair works and archaeological digs around Betsy Grimbals Tower.

- Arrangements for community engagement projects with partners/volunteers are underway specific to Viking Ship concept and surveying the Abbey Remains.
- The Evaluation Framework for the overall project has been developed and signed off.

Operational Update

- Following a meeting held on 24th April to explore options around applying for a Museum Estate and Development Fund grant to assist with funding the above anticipated short to medium term works, partners were informed that the grant process went live on 18th May 26 with a closing date of 12th June. Due to the tight timeframes, several consultants have been engaged (structural/M&E/measured survey/cost plan analysis) to assist with the partners and Gillespie Yunnie Architects compiling an application with RIBA stage 3 information and an associated condition survey, for an application IRO 1M. Such an application will either require 5% or 10% match funding. It will include detail pertaining to significant enveloping improvements, structural repairs/stabilisation, treatment of dry rot as well as improving mechanical and electrical infrastructure.
- Regarding compliance, the review of the Council Health and Safety Policy will be complete by end June. Officers have also started work on drafting a policy document pertaining to Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 for venues and events which fall within the qualifying criteria.
- I would like to pass on my thanks to all the Council staff involved in the delivery of Tavistock Country Garden Show.
- Several meeting have been held with WDBC regarding Goose Fair, more specifically pertaining to understanding WDBC's rationale around approach to the letting of the bus station and Bedford car-park to showmen this year and future years.
- Discussions are ongoing between legal representatives pertaining to the potential transfer of the Guildhall toilets.

Yours Sincerely



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General Manager