

General Manager's Overview

MONTHLY REPORT JUNE/JULY 26

Project Updates

Guildhall Gateway Centre Complex:

- Positive meetings have been 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 interactive film is of 20 minutes duration, free of charge, and will have two showings per hour between the period of 10am and 4pm. To support this celebration, heritage partners will be in attendance to showcase their respective organisations, as well as the Discovery team providing children's activities, Simon Dell holding a talk, and the Abbey Remains project team and main contractor attending to engage around the project deliverables.
- Usage of the Guildhall (most of which aligned with the approved purposes) from June to August includes:
 - 1: Abbey Remains – since the beginning of June the Robing Room has been used for meetings to discuss the tender for the main contractor for the work to Betsy Grimbals Tower and the Still House as well as hosting regular Partnership meetings.
 - 2: Paranormal Evenings – there are six paranormal events taking place between 1st June and 31st August run by five different companies.
 - 3: Monday openings – starting 27th July aligned with Pannier Market.
 - 4: Discovery Team – there has been one arranged visit from High Street Academy Plymouth on 8th July and five events open to all children running on Wednesday mornings from 28th July.
 - 5: Simon Dell talks – running on a Friday each month.
 - 6: Ad hoc use of the Robing Room – Active Devon first aid training on 23rd June, Royal British Legion on 12th August, Heritage Alliance meeting on 22nd July.
 - 7: Exhibitions – Policing Plymouth from 2nd – 30th July and Mining from 1st August until 31st October.

Multi-use Wheeled Sports Area:

- The Crowdfunder has been launched and is live until the end of July 26 and a Skatathon had been organised for 12th July as a fund raising and promotional activity. Project viability (as currently designed) and project timelines to be reviewed in last quarter of 26.

Abbey Remains Project:

- Regarding the capital aspect of the overall project, following a tender process with 5 compliant returns and associated due diligence, the contract has been let to DBR (London) Ltd for the sum of £379,529.94. Following a pre-start meeting, the agreed start date was 2nd July 26 with completion mid Nov 26. Relating to capital, the associated supporting contracts have also been let specific to archaeology and structural. The Council have also received scheduled monument consent to proceed with all the specified works on Still House which was not covered by the grant application consent with Historic England.
- Several progress meetings have been held with Historic England and NLHF during this period, with all matters satisfactory from grant providers perspective.
- Regarding the community engagement project with the Youth Café pertaining to excavations/archaeological digs etc, this has been moved in the programme to 2027. Project partners are holding meetings with Historic England and Diocese to agree the process and parameters for achieving consents to deliver these project deliverables.

Operational Update

- The Council have been notified that the grant application to the Museum and Estate Development Fund was unsuccessful. The developed proposal was just under 1M, including external enveloping improvements such as replacement of RWGs, repointing, re-slating, new leadwork etc, as well as internal works to address such aspects as dry rot, e.g. structural lintel replacement works, removal of lime plaster, repairs/replacement of timber windows/door lining etc and to upgrade mechanical and electrical infrastructure. The application was aligned with applying for the necessary statutory consents. Even though it is disappointing to have been unsuccessful on this occasion, the compilation of structural/M&E/measured survey/cost plan analysis data will assist with reviewing next steps and applying for future grant funding opportunities.
- Regarding compliance, in June structural testing was carried to Council streetlights, out of a total of 47 columns, 31 were tested for swage joint corrosion, 7 of which have been identified for removal/replacement asap. The works have been commissioned for their removal and replacement with single

hinged columns, with no overhanging brackets (same light fitting). These works are being treated as a proprietary item, estimated IRO £13,000 due to the urgency and sector experience. In addition further slips/trips and falls inspections and memorial safety inspections have been completed.

- Awaiting meetings/updates with WDBC regarding aspects pertaining to Goose Fair. The waste management contract for 2026 is currently under review prior to commissioning. The first Goose Fair stakeholder operational meeting was held on 6th June. The Council and Castlebridge School are again collaboratively working together for this year's event.

Yours Sincerely



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