

General Manager's Overview

MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 26

Project Updates

Guildhall Gateway Centre Complex:

- Positive feedback has been received by visitors and heritage partners appertaining to the event held in Town Hall on 22nd August relating to the 20th anniversary inscription celebrations where heritage partners were in attendance to showcase their respective organisations, as well as the Discovery team providing children's activities and Simon Dell holding a talk. A lot of interest was generated with the Abbey Remains Project, with DBR Contractors in attendance.
- Servicing of the audio visual system and reprogramming within the courtroom has been completed.
- Usage of the Guildhall (most of which aligned with the approved purposes) in August includes:
 - 1: Ruins and Monuments Exhibition in the Robing Room- running from the 1st August-31st October (running in line with the 20th Anniversary of the WHS).
 - 2: Paranormal Evenings throughout the whole of August and Sept.
 - 3: Monday openings completed as aligned with Pannier Market.
 - 4: Two Abbey Remains Partnership and Steering Group Meetings in August.
 - 5: Discovery Team- weekly summer activities, every Wednesday throughout August.
 - 6: Simon Dell talks – One in August and one in Sept.
 - 7: Ad hoc use of the Robing Room – including VIC Volunteer Meetings and Heritage Alliance Meetings.
 - 8: Busy programme within the Guildhall Heritage Centre appertaining to Heritage Open Days, running from 11th to 20th Sept, including 4 talks and a performance.

Multi-use Wheeled Sports Area:

- A meeting is to be arranged with TaviSkate to discuss project next steps considering the well documented partner funding challenges relating to the overall project.

Abbey Remains Project:

- The capital works to Betsy Grimbals Tower and Still house are on target pertaining to both budget and completion date.

- An extremely positive meeting was held with Historic England and DCC Archaeologist relating to how to achieve the project deliverable specific to archaeological excavations at Betsy Grimbals Tower and within the churchyard. An approach has been agreed 'in principle' which will mean that this aspect will be deliverable within 2027, working in conjunction with appointed specialists and community partners.
- A comprehensive schedule of community engagement activities has been agreed with DBR Contractors pertaining to the works to Betsy Grimbals Tower and Still house. In addition the community information boards for the public have now been produced and are located on Plymouth Rd by Betsy Grimbals Tower.
- The geophysical consultants tender brief has been compiled and this is currently being advertised on Contract Finder and TTC website, with a return date for tenders of 29th Sept 26. The timescales for achieving statutory consents, undertaking survey work and producing the final report is targeted for completing by end Dec 26.

Operational Update

- It is anticipated that week commencing 14th Sept, Officers will advertise a tender for the replacement of the Town Council Offices boiler system. Refer to report submitted to 1st Sept Budget and Policy. Target for completed by end Dec 26, subject to length of mobilisation period.
- The previous General Managers Report advised of the implications of capital commitment to refurbish/replace street lighting units within the Meadows and surrounding areas. Following this update, arising from an additional structural inspection report, as reported at 1st September Budget and Policy Committee, additional financial commitment is required. An 'in principle' approach has been agreed to the sequencing of the works, starting third week of September. The sequencing of works will ensure that temporary lighting arrangements are implemented throughout the Meadows etc whilst remedials are undertaken, to assist with public safety. The full replacement schedule is anticipated to be spread over a three months period.

- Officers are investigating the replacement of audio systems and associated infrastructure within the Pannier Market and Town Hall. Three specialist contractors have visited the site to discuss options and submitted associated proposals following the clients brief requirements. It is anticipated that the overall cost to achieve what is required for both venues will be IRO £35,000. This project is currently unfunded.
- The Council has applied for listed building consent, following a pre-app visit, appertaining to remedial improvements to Tavistock Museum. On receipt of such consents, next steps will be considered pertaining to sequencing/priority of works and budgeting implications.
- Following the Goose Fair operational meeting held on 7th September 26, it has been confirmed that arrangements for the letting of space for the showmen on WDBC land have reverted back to previously years relating to bus station and Bedford car-park. The waste management contract again is being facilitated through WDBC. A significant amount of positive revisions to the emergency planning documentation have been undertaken by the Works Manager following feedback from emergency services. Arrangements have been finalised relating to the use of Castlebridge School car-park.

Yours Sincerely



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