



Brixham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett

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Report Type	Public	Meeting	F&GP Committee
Contact Officer	Tracy Hallett	Job Title	Town Clerk
Report Title	Business Support Grant		

Summary

Brixham Town Council has been awarded £12,000 from the Restart Grant to support businesses as COVID restrictions are eased.

There have been some allocation of funds as follows:

- £1,000 has been allocated for the potential purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (see report 49-2021).
- £1,000 is being retained for consumables / minor alterations which will only be established once the building has been reopened.

This report has been put together to consider other expenditure from the grant to ensure the Town Hall can be reopened and safely.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Town Council:

- 1) Allocate £1,000 for a reopening launch to celebrate the Town Hall, its tenants and the community.
- 2) Purchase Carbon Dioxide monitors for the theatre.

Town Hall Reopening

The Town Hall has been closed to the general public since March 2020. Guidelines from the Government meant the Council was restricted in reopening to the public due to the lack of reception space on the ground floor and the need to monitor numbers in the building, the use of track and trace and the access to the toilet facilities.

These restrictions will, in the main, be lifted from 19th July. However, it is clear from the latest set up guidelines that it will be up to the individual to manage their own risks.

Brixham Does Care plan to restart their group meetings from Monday 19th July and the Town Clerk has agreed with them that the reopening of the Town Hall will be delayed to support the reintegration of a core group of community members back into society.

It is anticipated that the Town Hall will be reopen to the general public from Monday 23rd August. However, reopening the Town Hall should be taken with caution and a review will be carried out prior to opening. Rooms at the Town Hall continue to available to hire and the Town Council will work with individual groups to support their needs during this phase of transition to normality.

Given that the Town Hall has been closed for a long period of time, it is considered that a reopening launch should be held to celebrate not just the Town Hall reopening, but also its 135rd birthday.

A date of Saturday 23rd October has been pencilled into the calendar, subject to approval by the Council with the following arrangements:

Function Room	Serving free fairtrade refreshments and cakes (eat in only)
Scala Hall	<p>To be full of stalls including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Hall and what it has to offer including a facilities booking table • Town Hall Regeneration Task and Finish Group • Budget Task and Finish Group • Any other work the Council has done / is working towards • Council services: Lengthsman Service, Gardening Assistance Scheme, Information Point, Allotments • Tenants • Shoalstone Pool • (Subject to availability) Community Organisations

The event will give Councillors an opportunity to meet visitors and discuss projects the Council is working on and gathering helpful data to enable these projects to come to fruition.

The event will be advertised in the October issue of the Brixham Signal as well as the website and all social media channels.

It is anticipated that a maximum of £1,000 should be allocated for the event to include:

- Fairtrade refreshments (Tea, Coffee and Squash)
- Cakes
- Biodegradable / Environmentally friendly merchandise such as pens and small gift bags

Town Hall Ventilation

The Government have announced that we are to proceed with Step 4 on the easing of COVID lockdown on 19th July. Lifting of restrictions does not mean that the risks from COVID-19 have disappeared. The latest guidance issued states that:

“Businesses will be encouraged to ask staff and customers to clean their hands regularly and clean surfaces that people touch regularly. The Government will provide guidance on how businesses can reduce unnecessary contact in the workplace, where it is practical. Operators will still be encouraged to use outside space where practical, and to consider the supply of fresh air to indoor spaces. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitors could be used to help identify where a space is poorly ventilated with businesses encouraged to take steps to improve ventilation if CO₂ readings are consistently high.”

The Town Hall benefits from ventilation through the use of opening windows and doors. However, it is considered that keep doors and windows open in the winter is not economically viable. The following are the areas have been taken into consideration for this report.

Scala Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows do not open • Doors can be kept open, but the number of doors are restricted based on the type of event taking place. Ie a private meeting would require the main doors closed with the possibility of the fire escape doors closed if the Foodbank is open
Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows do not open. The outside noise volume would affect the quiet enjoyment of the performance. • A ventilation system is available, but it is thought that this was the original one installed and was most probably installed to reduce the level of smoke in the room. The outside noise volume would affect the quiet enjoyment of the performance.
Function Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows do not open • Doors can be kept open, but the doors lead to internal areas and therefore external doors will also need to be open. Again this is restricted based on the type of event taking place. Ie a private meeting would require the Function Room doors closed • A ventilation system is available.

The Clerk is seeking advice from a local business on what measures will be suitable for the Town Hall. Following a site visit, it is considered that the most problematic area is the Theatre. This is based on the number of people likely to be in the room raising the CO2 levels and harvesting the ability for viruses to spread.

As mentioned above, the Theatre's suffers from being on a busy junction and therefore even if windows and doors could be open, the outside noise volume would affect the quiet enjoyment of the performance.

A further report will go to the Town Hall Regeneration Task and Finish Group for discussion on a suitable system. The pandemic is still part of every day life and there is a need to ensure that the Theatre has a suitable system in place to enable it to continue to open to the public. However, in the first instance, it is suggested that CO2 monitors that have separate alarms should be installed in the Theatre. This will enable the Town Council to collect data that will support any possible grant funding for a ventilation system. The Clerk is currently waiting for advice from the local business on what CO2 monitors would be most suited for the theatre.

It should be noted that there will be a requirement for an architect to work with the successful contractor to ensure that any work undertaken meets the requirements for a Grade II Listed Building.