

Torbay Art Centre

Torbay Council's publication "On the crest of a wave" A Strategy for the Arts and Creative Industries in Torbay 2006-2016 page 19, states "*Develop a multi-purpose centre with particular emphasis on the visual arts for permanent and temporary exhibitions*" (This ambition was also in the Councils earlier strategies).

To address this and other cultural questions, the Council together with the Arts Council called a meeting at the Riviera International Centre on the 17th Oct. 2012 "What could Torbay's cultural future look like? "

The wish of the majority of attendees was to facilitate the Councils stated aim of an Arts Centre.

To that aim a group was formed "Torbay Action for Art -TAA "and formally constituted.

This group has identified Parkfield House as being a highly suitable Council owned property that would meet the Councils stated objectives.

The TAA committee have been in discussion with Steve Parrock, Adrian Sheen, Marissa Wakefield, Cllr Dave Butt, Cllr Darren Cowell, and have had valuable assistance from Brian Roberts of Number One Consulting .

Cllr Dave Butt Executive Lead for Culture and the Arts referred to the possibility of an arts centre in his article in the Herald dated 24th April 2013.

As the project develops we would look for ongoing advice and support from the above as well as those we have had informal contact with:-

Carolyn Custerson English Riviera Tourism Company, Tracey Cabache Community Development Trust: Anna Gilroy Torbay Council Arts Officer, Mischa Eligoloff Cultural Partnerships Officer, et al.

TAA's committee sees the Council's stated aim as admirable and of benefit to all ages and groups in Torbay and tourists alike and have submitted our suggestions to be included in the three towns Neighbourhood Plans.

The added benefit of providing this cultural facility is that Torbay could earn the reputation of " Coast, Countryside and Culture" , thus raising the nature and number of its visitors.

It is recognised that thriving economies in the towns and cities of the UK invariably also have a thriving art scene.

Bodies such as the Arts Council and the United Kingdom Arts and Design Institutions Association (Ukadia) have acknowledged this in several publications by highlighting the £60bn the creative industries contribute to the economy and demonstrate why sustaining that contribution with continued investment, will become increasingly important to economic recovery.

The TDA have addressed aspects of the situation with their Innovation Centres, they are also giving guidance on writing a business plan (currently at draft stage) for the use of Parkfield House as Torbay's Art Centre.

Peter Stride