

# Vitality Fund special

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## WHO'S WHO

### Meet the team behind the project

CORNWALL Council's programme requires that Helston creates a Place Shaping Board to oversee the implementation of the funding.

In November Helston CIC advertised for residents, community group and business representatives to become part of this group.

A number of people came forward and the board has now been established.

All voting members are volunteers and live locally to Helston.

They are:

**David Turnbull** – Chair, South Kerrier Alliance CIC, Helston CIC

**Jenny Morris** – Vice-Chair, Helston CIC

**Anthony Gilbert** – Business Representative

**Katharine Lewis** – Helston Climate Action Group

**Jude Carroll** – Helston CIC

**Teresa Gleadowe** – CAST

**John Warwick** – Resident Representative

**Dave Potter** – Resident Representative

**John Martin** – Helston Town Council Representative

**Mike Thomas** – Cornwall Councillor, Helston North

**Guy Foreman** – Cornwall Councillor, Helston South & Meneage

**Martin Searle** – Helston Town Council Projects Officer (non-voting)

**Maxine Hardy** – Cornwall Council Community Link Officer (non-voting)

**Jessie Hamshar** – Director of Strategy & Engagement, Cornwall Council (non-voting)

There are still places available and the group would particularly like to have more town centre business representation within the group.

Anyone interested can message the team via the Discover Helston website <https://discoverhelston.co.uk> and clicking on the 'More' tab, then 'Give Us Feedback'.

**HCIC**

helston community interest company

DISCOVER  
*Helston*

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**CORNWALL COUNCIL**  
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### PROJECT 1: Helston's Cultural Quarter

The area behind the Guildhall, together with Helston's Market Place and Drill Hall Yard, are at the heart of the original settlement of Helston. The site is surrounded by history – an enclosed space between several of the most culturally strong buildings in the town.

However, the area is in a state of disrepair with poor walking surfaces and most parts allocated to car parking and access. Although still attractive it does not encourage people to dwell and enjoy the town.

The surrounding buildings of the Museum of Cornwall Life, CAST and the Guildhall, as well as many adjacent listed buildings, have a strong cultural heritage but the space around them detracts from their work and limits their ability to attract visitors and serve the local community.

Sympathetic refurbishment of the area will link these organisations, creating a joined public space – an outdoor facility for use by the museum, CAST and other community organisations. The space will be able to host a broad range of activities, markets, events and performances as well as being a sheltered outdoor place for everyone to simply meet and enjoy.

A pedestrian link from the Drill Hall Yard alongside the museum,



■ The area behind the Guildhall, along with Market Place and Drill Hall Yard, are at the heart of one of the projects

## Making a future from history

with new steps to CAST and Wendron Street, would reopen one of Helston's historic 'opes' and help connect Helston's Cultural Quarter.

Town Vitality Funding has al-

ready been allocated to employ a heritage architect to perform the necessary surveys and assessments which will be used to develop detailed plans. Input and comment will be sought from local

businesses and residents and the designs will be available publicly for comment as they progress. This work will provide costings and designs which the team can then submit for capital funding.

# How £100k windfall is set to transform Helston

FOLLOWING Cornwall Council's announcement in March that Helston has been awarded £100,000 from the Town Vitality Fund, the formal Funding Agreement has now been signed and project work can begin.

The money is for design, development and public consultation activities which will define projects to a level where applications for capital funding can be made. The funding bid submitted in January was the culmination of work by Helston CIC with input from Cornwall councillors, Helston Town Council, Helston Climate Action Group and various community groups, businesses and public consultations.

It's based upon a 'Place Shaping Plan' which is aimed at improving Helston town centre and bringing much needed vitality back to the town. David Turnbull, chair of the Place Shaping Board, said: "It has taken a long time and a lot of work to gain the support of Cornwall Council and put Helston onto a path which has previously been followed by Penzance, Truro and other larger Cornish towns.

"The results of these towns'



■ The project hopes to develop Helston's 'Cultural Quarter'

work can be seen in the amount of capital funding they are starting to attract. To achieve these levels of investment in Helston, we need to define specific projects to a level of detail which will convince Government, Cornwall Council

and other capital funders to invest. The Town Vitality Funding will enable us to do this work."

Helston's plan includes proposals to refurbish Helston's Market Place and Drill Hall Yard, creating an outdoor space for events, markets and community activities; measures to promote the conversion of empty high street premises for residential, community and workspace use; plans to improve transport connectivity around Helston; as well as improvements to pavements, paths, traffic flow and cycle ways in town.

All of these projects will be developed with input from public consultations. Now that the funding is approved work can begin. Regular updates will be published in the Helston Packet with plans and proposals available to view online and at specific events over the next 12 months.

**What is 'Place Shaping' and 'Town Vitality Funding'?**

'Place Shaping' is promoted by Cornwall Council as the process by which funds will be allocated and projects prioritised for the recovery and re-development of town centres in Cornwall. It's a

nationally recognised term with similar groups and activities underway in many towns across the country.

Potential Government and council funding will be targeted and managed via 'Place Shaping Boards' in each town, charged with defining and overseeing the implementation of a 'Place Shaping Plan'.

Town Vitality Funding is money from Cornwall Council to take forward specific development work and advance proposals that will improve the economic, social and environmental revitalisation of town centres.

Stephen Rushworth, Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for economy, said: "We want to help communities across Cornwall to develop their ambitions for their high streets and improve the future for their residents.

"The Town Vitality Fund is about supporting our towns to take the next steps – for example research, planning or consultation activities – necessary to make these plans a reality and put them in the best position for future investment opportunities."