

# Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Tourism and Visitor Economy Panel have asked to monitor progress on the following issues. This briefing contains the latest position as at 10 January 2022.

## Subject: Grimsby Creates (Cultural Development Fund) Update

In January 2019 North East Lincolnshire was one of just five local authority areas in England to secure a Cultural Development Fund (CDF) grant award from Arts Council England. Developed as part of the Government's Industrial Strategy and Creative Industries Sector Deal, CDF investment of £3.2m over the period to March 2023 will:

- provide mentoring and other support for the Borough's creative industries
- deliver a new studio/workspace facility for creative industries businesses through conversion of vacant buildings within the historic Kasbah area of the Port of Grimsby
- establish a programme of events, festivals and public art, focused on Grimsby Town Centre and building on the Borough's international links
- build local capacity, sustainability and sector leadership.

This report provides an update on the progress made since the revised proposal was approved in June 2020 and is approximately halfway through this new timeline with activity delivered such as:

- The reopening of St James Square in May 2021 with an open aspect integrating Grimsby Minster, a natural amphitheatre and featuring public artwork created by community engagement.
- The inaugural vibrant Festival of the Sea in July 2021 which highlighted Grimsby's heritage, looked towards our future and celebrated local talent whilst welcoming world class performance into newly regenerated and underused community spaces.
- Creative, business and heritage sector collaborations throughout the year on a number of projects such as Creative Start, Grimsby Town Football Club and Grimbarians with paint the town proud, The Culture House and Grimsby Minster with museum of the moon and international artists (Annabel McCourt and Adrian Riley) with Blackrow Engineering.

Through delivering these activities there is newfound confidence within the local creative sector, audiences and other stakeholders that North East Lincolnshire is a confident and creative place with solid foundations for future projects.

### **Business Development and Support for Creative Practitioners and Organisations**

Grimsby Creates has commissioned business support and an artist development programme to inspire, retain and attract creative and digital industries to build their creative practice in North East Lincolnshire. The provision of development grants will look to foster a strong network of ambitious creative organisations and individuals who are able to develop and showcase their work and are well connected locally.

#### Spark Grimsby

CDI Alliance were appointed to deliver the Spark Grimsby business support programme in November 2020.

In a little over a year, they have supported 67 clients for their 'Spark Grimsby' programme which is near to the target level expected at the outset. As a result of this successful first year, we are discussing how



the next year will be shaped to ensure that all local creative and digital practitioners have the opportunity of seeking and experiencing this valuable specialist support service.

Spark Grimsby have delivered 9 monthly events, which have included 'evaluating programmes', film/TV and professional development funding. Dialogue continues with meetings being held between Spark Grimsby, NELC and Grimsby Institute on a suite of activities for students during National Careers Week in March 2022. Regular drop-in sessions have been available to Grimsby Institute students onsite with more limited uptake. Students and learners from other education provision are also able to access this support and contact has been made with Franklin College and sixth form providers locally to reach out and share the support available.

### Artistic Development

East Street Arts (ESA) are continuing to deliver their artistic support programme to provide support including mentoring, networking and artistic support. Their first artist support programme discussion took place in summer 2021 with Doorstep Arts, an arts education charity based in Torbay. ESA have since delivered a creative support programme including one-to-one 'Developing Your Creative Practice' sessions and a 'Working with Communities' event in November. There are further workshops and talks arranged for delivery in early 2022.

### National Arts Fundraising School

Six local practitioners have now attended the National Arts Fundraising School (NAFS) programme (online) with positive and successful outcomes of funding secured for delivering creative activity in the borough. Those benefiting from the investment are Lisa February (lowercase theatre), Charlotte Bowen (The Culture House), Laurie Kennedy (The Faraway CIC), Lynsey Powles (Lyns Urban Arts), Jo Smith (Jo Smith textiles) and Paula Denton (Our Big Picture).

### Development Grants

We have also launched a development fund that creatives can apply for, for up to £2,500. In the first round, there have been 3 successful applications who are developing their practice in 2022 namely Paula Denton (Our Big Picture to focus on developing a strategy for National Portfolio Organisation status in the next round), Dale Wells (individual artist exploring the feasibility of a pop-up style gallery in Grimsby) and Wendy Chan (3 practising artist makers to research and develop ideas and approaches to sustainable creative practices in NEL).

### Creative Workspace

The redevelopment of buildings on Grimsby Docks aims to facilitate a new cluster and hub including new studio, communal & project space to meet an identified gap in provision. The workspace aims to act as a catalyst for the creative sector to co-create, co-produce and collaborate as well as provide network opportunities for local creative practitioners.

The agreed option for the Creative Workspace, as outlined by Donald Insall Associates for RIBA stage 3 conveys a phased approach, initially concentrating on buildings 8, 9 & 10 for 1,136m<sup>2</sup> comprising of 22 studio units, meeting room, operator's office and communal exhibition/project space/kitchen area.

Planning consent has been approved for phase 1 and 2 with relevant conditions. Phase 2 will be progressed subject to additional funding being sought and awarded. The workspace now features on the newly launched Kasbah website ([www.thekasbah.co.uk](http://www.thekasbah.co.uk)) which shows the area is open to a diverse array of creative activity and welcomes people to explore the heritage of this unique place within Grimsby.



Tender documents are being drafted for the procurement of a management operator. 11 potential tenants have already expressed an interest in studio rental for the creative workspace. Significant interest in vacant buildings on the Docks continue to progress with individuals and organisations pursuing leases for buildings, some of which are adjacent to the workspace.

Over the last few months, the following activities have taken place:

- Legal documents:
  - Tenancy at Will is agreed between NELC and ABP and signed.
  - Partnership agreement has been signed by NELC and ABP.
  - Draft head lease has been received and reviewed by NELC legal advisor and is back with ABP for consideration.
  - Tripartite agreement is agreed between ABP (new internal property solicitor now commenced in post) and NELC (pending ACE reviewing Certificate of Title).
  - CPSE7 form completion and a review of the land registry are being progressed by NELC's solicitor.
  - Certificate of Title is dependent on receiving final draft Heads of Terms from ABP.
  
- Enabling works:
  - Asbestos sampling and a detailed refurbishment survey took place in September 2021. Asbestos removal was completed in December 2021.
  - CCTV work for underground drainage was undertaken in October 2021 with silt removed from the drains around the workspace buildings.
  - Programme timeline has been scoped out and further opening up works are being planned for.
  - Following completion of the enabling works and technical detailed design (RIBA4), the Council will have a comprehensive understanding of the construction costs as associated risks.

## **Creative Programme**

The Creative Programme includes seven strands of commissioned activity to deliver events and activities utilising key town centre space and heritage assets celebrating Grimsby's heritage in new, exciting and innovate ways where residents have the opportunity to participate and enjoy creativity and culture.

Walk the Plank and The Culture House successfully delivered the inaugural Festival of the Sea in July 2021 amidst Covid restrictions. Planning for the 2022 Festival is taking place with a date for your diary of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Creative Start have completed one wall of the family fanzone part of the 'paint the town proud' project at Grimsby Town Football Club and have moved onto the second wall. Alongside, they are collecting memories to prepare and record podcasts, with the first podcast 'Memory Lane' completed.

Emergency Exit Arts recruited a local project manager and have a steering group in place and are working with 6 local community groups on their theme of Edible Grimsby 'grow, cook and share'. Event Show Support will launch their #myfish digital projection in February 2022 and have discreetly sought fish, through community engagement with Centre4 and Climb4, to be creatively developed that are then digitised.

The Culture House's development work for 'The Future Starts Here' has taken place and programme plans for the events in 2022 are being formed.



The Museum of the Moon at Grimsby Minster curated by The Culture House brought a varied and interesting programme of events for a month in November and December 2021. Grimsby Creates contributed funds towards the educational visits and silent disco enabling a highly successful programme of events inspired by the Museum of the Moon driving footfall into Grimsby town centre, new visitors to Grimsby Minster and reaching new cultural audiences.

The People Power Partnership (PPP) for the international scale participative theatre project is well underway. Auditions have now been completed and 8 young people have been selected to perform to represent the UK and for performances to be held in Grimsby in 2022 and 2023/4. The first performance will be on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as part of a 'Grimsby Creates Noise' event. NELC Music Hub and Noise Academy will deliver a programme of build-up activities followed by a number of performances alongside the PPP event in March 2022.

Grimsby Creates have contracted Threshold Studios to work with Annabel McCourt and Adrian Riley on a Digital Democracies programme to further engage audiences with the public artwork in St James Square. This follows the successful partnership of Annabel and Adrian who have delivered other creative projects across the country since they were selected for the St James Square public art commission in 2020.

### **St James Square**

The Cultural Development Fund has contributed to the creation of a space where cultural events can take place with relevant infrastructure, a natural amphitheatre and stronger ties with Grimsby Minster. Artists were commissioned to develop new public artwork with community engagement at the core exploring the people and their stories in Grimsby.

Come Follow Me etched paving and the Murmuration installation has transformed this area of the town to welcome visitors to the Minster and enjoy the peace and tranquility in the centre of town. Recently, the Gobo projector (dotty for the 'Museum of the Moon' and snowflake throughout December) and Christmas décor in and around the Square has been positively received and viewed. Footfall counters installed as part of the regeneration has seen an increase in visitors to embrace the culture and heritage within the Square.

The 'Murmuration' artwork on Wilko's Wall unveiled on 4 November 2021 alongside the official opening of St James Square by the Mayor reached wider regional and national audiences with articles in both the i and Yorkshire Post. Two of the artists commissioned for this artwork have since collaborated on a number of significant regional and national public art installations having worked together on St James Square for the first time.

The information guides for the artwork is available in Grimsby Minster and also on the Discover NEL website where residents and visitors can view the stories and people of our town ahead of a visit or from the comfort of their own home.

### **Overall Programme Aspects**

Grimsby Creates continue to enable local cultural and creative organisations to flourish by brokering relationships, making introductions and nurturing the local creative and digital talent.

CDF collaboration takes place amongst the 5 places (Thames Estuary, Plymouth, Worcester, Wakefield and Grimsby) on a regular basis. As a result, there will be 2 sessions at the virtual Creative Coalition festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 where we all celebrate our achievements in place shaping and creating a thriving cultural centres.



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