

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEVAGISSEY ACTIVITY CENTRE
7th May 2024

Following on from the advert from the Parish Council outlining the need for volunteers for the MAC, the directors felt it was important to hear directly from the board and update the community on the current process happening.

In January 2024, the Mevagissey Activity Centre approached the Parish Council with a need for funding due to serious projected shortfall during the first 6 months of 2024. In response to this request, the parish council felt it was important to attach the condition that a task group be formed from members of the committee to carry out due diligence into the workings of the MAC. As such a broad financial and operational review of the MAC was carried out, in addition to a local community survey through focus groups from a variety of demographics and ages. The results of the due diligence and the community feedback from this process was recently fed back to the current Board of Directors with a variety of recommendations and suggestions.

We are truly grateful to the members of the parish council who have given their time and expertise to input into the MAC and bring a constructive assessment of the current situation.

We have also been overwhelmed by the support of the local community who have responded to the news of financial struggles by increasing bookings and footfall at the centre whilst giving ideas and feedback on how the MAC could improve its offering of services.

The majority feedback from this process was that the MAC not only has the potential to be a viable and sustainable enterprise, but that it is considered a vital part of the community for Mevagissey and the surrounding parishes who value being able to access such a fantastic facility.

At the same time, the directors recognise their responsibility for a number of areas of governance and executive function that have historically and currently fallen short (in part due to a shortage of sitting directors) and have contributed to the current situation. This has resulted in an overreliance and unfair burden in on the current staff team to be the responsible for the strategy and developments of the MAC, and carrying misplaced responsibility for the activity centres future.

In response to the feedback from the Parish Council team and the community focus groups, a process has been initiated by the current board to implement key changes over the coming months, alongside developing a clear strategy for the centre in conjunction with a wide variety of voices and input from the team and local community.

To bring about these changes, we have highlighted three key areas which we need to invest in:

- 1. The recruitment of a number of new Directors to create a visible and accountable oversight board with specific skills, experience and time availability to take responsibility for key aspects of the operational, financial, commercial and legal components of the MAC to ensure its long-term sustainability.***

Firstly we must recognise the investment of the current board who have freely given their time to step up and take responsibility for the MAC. They have navigated the MAC through very tough times over the years, including COVID-19 restrictions and the resulting recovery period, doing so with integrity and dedication. The changes to the boards executive function in light of the current situation recognises that there is some fatigue within the board and that new personnel recruited for specific roles will be the best way forward for the future of the MAC.

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It is important here to further recognise the service of Anita Peters who has invested so many years in the MAC as staff member, treasurer, Director, listening ear and friend, who has decided to step down as director with immediate effect as part of this process. Alongside her, we are truly grateful for the input and direction of Miles Avery who has been part of the board for the last 7 years and who will also be stepping down once the new board is established and business plan begins to be implemented.

Our commitment to the recruitment of a new board has already begun and we are pleased to have been able to appoint Charlie Clayton as the new Operations Director & Andrew Mitchell as Finance Director both bringing a wealth of experience in their respective areas. They are currently undertaking further detailed reviews of every aspect of the MAC which will build the backbone of the new development plan. We also reviewed the remaining board members in order to refocus key roles. We are pleased that Peter Shiers has been appointed as Land and Buildings Director, Walter Eyre has been appointed Health and Safety & HR Director and Garry Peters continues as board director maintaining continuity and retention of key experience and knowledge of the MAC, alongside a focus on facilities and maintenance.

We are now actively recruiting further directors to fulfil the roles of Legal Director, Commercial Director, Marketing & Comms Director and Community Involvement Director alongside the key role of Board Administrator. All roles are voluntary positions.

The commitment of the new board will be to produce a full business plan showing the proposed way forward which will be presented to the parish council and made public. The directors will take on being 'the voice and face' of the MAC, regularly communicating what is happening and available for regular forums and meetings.

2. The MAC becomes re-rooted in local community life, with Mevagissey and other local parishes having felt ownership by having regular input and influence in the ongoing development, useability and strategy of the MAC and offering their skills to maintain and improve the facility and surrounding land.

Whilst the MAC needs to be commercially viable, it is a Community Interest Company, which means its main purpose of delivering viability is so that it can re-invest its resource for the benefit and needs of the local communities. In order to do that, we would love to form a group of individuals representing different demographics of the local parishes who will meet regularly with representatives from the board and the centre manager to provide feedback and suggestions for the future. This group will be key to keeping the centre grounded in the needs of the local community.

Alongside this, we would love a group of people who use their gifts and talents to keep the centre maintained and developed as we go along. An example of this would be a team of gardeners who could help to develop the front carpark area or individuals with trade skills who can assist or advise on repairs or developments. It would be great to have a number of people who feel they can give to and feel part of the support services that the MAC can offer.

3. That there is a dedicated focus on varied funding sources including individuals, grant making organisations and enterprises who can champion the MAC, by investing in key identified infrastructure and resources that can add to the current offering and improve opportunities for increased revenue.

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Over the last year the MAC has seen significantly increased revenue from its day to day activities due to the brilliant efforts of Angela Taylor and the staff which has involved going above and beyond in order to provide an ever improving service and offering at the centre. These increases have unfortunately been negated by continued rising costs and one off repairs to the building. Although commercial revenue has to be a cornerstone of the MAC income stream, our non-profit status means we need to broaden our funding streams. These additional revenues often come through fundraising, generous individuals, grant making organisations and sponsorships. We are looking for people who would want to partner financially with the MAC, fundraisers who have experience in grant making or ideas and ways that the MAC can generate additional funding streams,

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED

The MAC isn't going to be sustainable from just a small group of people being responsible for it. It needs a community! We would love to hear from anyone interested in being part of the future of the MAC.

Board of Directors

Legal Director | Commercial Director | Marketing Director | Community Involvement Director | Board Administrator.

Community Forum Group

To be part of the community forum who meet regularly to discuss and give feedback to the board and centre management.

Community Team

Utilising your skills to be part of a community team who help to maintain & develop the land and buildings, alongside offering specific skills for the development of the centre and its activity offering.

Fundraising Team

Helping the MAC to identify funding opportunities, grant writing, individual or business donations or fundraising ideas.

For enquiries about any of the above please email directors@mevac.co.uk

Be assured that over next few months a number of people are working hard and investing in the MAC from all aspects of the community and we hope the work done now will enable a strong and prosperous future for the MAC and the communities it serves.

Regards,

Current Board of Directors

Mevagissey Activity Centre

CIC Number 05464886