Torbay Action for Art: STATEMENT OF INTENT

Coast, Countryside and Culture

A group of artists and culturally interested individuals have been meeting regularly to work towards a dedicated arts space in the bay, to make some provision for culture and the arts in the Neighbourhood Plan and to make sure that art in the Bay is accessible to all. The group is called Torbay Action for Art and is open to anyone interested in these issues.

The group feel that a thriving artistic and cultural scene is vital to a thriving tourist economy and necessary for resident's well-being. We acknowledge that there have been a whole host of exciting and stimulating cultural events, festivals and initiatives in the Bay in the past few years. The strong feeling amongst group members is that what this area needs is a physical way to signpost and publicise these many initiatives, as well as generating more. The group would like to see a dedicated arts space in a central location which can act as an arts space in its own right, and also come to be known as a first-stop space for anyone interested in arts and culture, whether resident or tourist. When considering what we would like to see we acknowledge that some of these activities already exist but point out that a central location would generate more interest and increase involvement and accessibility. The Arts and Cultural Strategy 2006-2016 identifies a need for a dedicated arts space. http://www.torbay.gov.uk/arts-strategy.pdf

What we would like to see

A dedicated arts space in a town central location

- A centralised location to publicise and promote the various creative activities in the Bay
- A variety of creative facilities
- A variety of creative festivals
- Innovative and integrated use of the existing landscape
- A physical representation of 'Cultural Hotspots'
- A way to make sure that art in the bay is accessible to all
- A way to encourage participation in the arts
- A venue to encourage people of all ages to engage with the arts
- A place to promote festivals of film/comedy/literature etc.
- A way to encourage joined up thinking for creatives in the Bay
- Historical tours
- A place to promote the Bay's cultural heritage
- Interactive activities to encourage engagement with heritage and culture
- A place to promote open air events (including music)
- An opportunity to stimulate an art trail
- A venue to collaborate with artists outside of the Bay
- A place to stimulate inter-disciplinary work
- An organised charitable trust to oversee the art's space

What would it look like?

- Multi-use
- Gallery space
- Café
- Workshops
- Interactive displays
- Performance
- Signposting
- Cultural hub
- (Similar to Harbour House, TAAG, Flavel, The Phoenix)

Broadsands ideal place for arts centre

THE Torbay Strategy for the Arts 2006-2016 proposes: "Develop a multi-purpose centre with particular emphasis on the visual arts for permanent and temporary exhibitions."

Any development of existing premises would be a compromise development. If the development was a new build it could be designed to fulfil all requirements. Broadsands beach has good access and 1,500 car park spaces. The proposal to build a sailing club on Broadsands offers the opportunity to combine it with an arts centre/ restaurant/cafe and make good use of this under used resource.

A well designed building (art deco?), set within the existing use of the beach, would provide an attractive, accessible and profitable resource. The existing beach huts which add to the ambience should be retained.

Such a use would be in sympathy with the original plans for the area (see the Churston Ferrers Housing Scheme, available in Torbay libraries). This scheme conceived by William Lescaze, architect, envisaged a club house on Broadsands beach. Lescaze had a long association with Dartington Hall Trust and designed, among other buildings, High Cross House and properties in Broadsands Road and Rock Close.

Funding would need to be private/council partnership or grant aided but Torbay Council would have control via the lease and planning system.

PETER STRIDE
Hookhills Road, Churston

■ MULTI-PURPOSE: An artist's impression of the arts centre

Where would it be?

We are mindful that sites shown includes some buildings which are council-owned and some which are privately owned. A small amount of work has already taken place by the group to consider the feasibility of each site but we are at a very early stage. We are aware that some locations are town central whilst some are out of town. The Arts and Cultural Strategy 2006-2016 suggests a new-build would be preferable (possible sites identified for this include new build at Broadsands Beach, Hollicombe Park or Torquay Inner Harbour, but the group are still considering all sites at this stage.

Rear of Palace Theatre - Paington

Old Opera House - Torquay

The Lighthouse Paignton

Parkfield House and Grounds - Paignton

<u>Broadsands Cafe and Artist Impression - Paignton</u>

Bishops Place - Paignton

Old Paignton Library

Town Hall - Torquay