

## Buy the Amulet Public Engagement Meeting – The Art Bank 7pm 22 February 2024

25 attendees

Following the inaugural meeting, amendments were made in response to your feedback. Participants discussed these amendments (itemised below) in small groups. Comments were shared across the room.

### **The Amulet - New Vision - Draft February 2024 Community Pantomime & Drama**

*Annual community pantomime and drama*

town community engagement community entertainment old people families young people income generating

### **Live Music**

*Small number of quality acts, with Glastonbury Festival connections, regional bands, emerging talent*

town mendips national civic pride economic regeneration community entertainment income generating

### **Cinema**

*Mainstream films would be screened for the local community*

town mendips economic regeneration community entertainment

### **Saturday Youth Cinema**

*Saturday morning cinema, staffed and programmed by young people aged 16 to 30*

town community engagement training young people community entertainment

### **Best of the Southwest - Arts Festivals**

*Two annual arts festivals, with a varied program of events, to a high quality*

town mendips national civic pride community entertainment economic regeneration community engagement young people income generating

### **Community Groups**

*Local groups, such as choirs, dance groups, carnival rehearsals and exercise classes.*

town community facility community engagement

### **Private Hire**

*Weddings and private events for locals to celebrate in their own town*

town mendips community facility income generating

## **Somerset Cider Museum & Tourist Information**

*To Showcase Shepton's special place in the world of cider. With the amulet & other local displays*

national civic pride volunteering income generating

## **Cafe Bar**

*The cafe bar offering would be carefully curated to not compete with other venues in the town centre.*

town employment training income generating

## **Friday Market**

*Craft and lifestyle traders will boost the weekly Friday market, flowing in from the market place outside*

town mendips community engagement

## **Artists Studios**

*Areas in the building will be converted for medium term hire to artists and makers.*

town community engagement income generating

## **Art Workshops**

*Community art groups will hold workshops in the flexible spaces.*

town mendips community engagement

## **Fairs and Events**

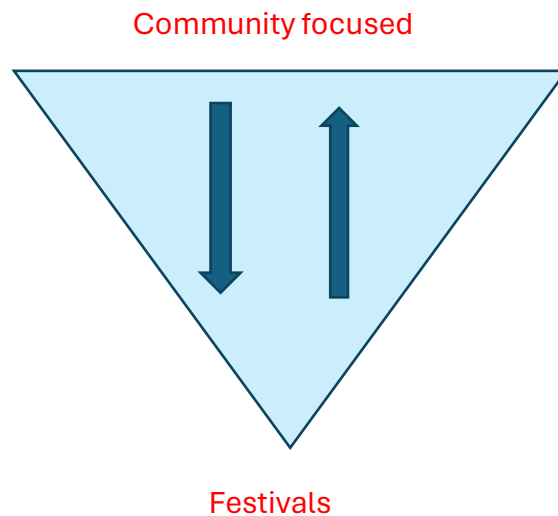
*Sunday Market, record fairs, vintage clothes, maker's emporium, cider festivals and food festivals*

town mendips economic regeneration community entertainment income generating

## **Comments:**

- Focus on the possible and positive. The list needs to be refined given the number of suggestions; it will not be possible to do all well.
- There needs to be collaboration between all venues in Shepton (and possibly beyond). Viability assessment with any available data needs to be undertaken.
- Any coffee or bar offering needs to be carefully curated to not take away business from other venues in town. Perhaps focus on evening trade.
- It needs to be revenue generating to sustain both the offer and the building. Viability studies for the structure and assessment of ways of making it cost effective in running costs and contingency for repairs need to be considered.

- Think about great styling of the building so that it becomes a destination – it's already a brutalist building of note.
- The concept of a limited number of festivals supporting many community events and the interdependency of both was described. In part this is because 2 festivals will raise finances and community events will make use of the building for a lot of the year – mutual dependency.



### **Introducing team members working on the Community Ownership Fund bid present at meeting**

Louise Lappin – Cooke

- Louise is a director of the CIC Make the Sunshine. Experience of running theatres, working with children in the performing arts, setting up a festival for 7-11 year olds, working on intergenerational events are among Louise's achievements in Shepton Mallet and beyond.

Oli Moule

- Passionate about music and has founded 2 music venues. He is a music producer, director of Sotones Music and a session musician and brings a wealth of experience and network from the music industry which will provide opportunities for promotion and sponsorship.

Dan Simon

- Director of the charity Interim Spaces which brings back empty buildings into use either as low cost workspaces or art venues. Recently moved his headquarters to 10 Marketplace. Dan has been successful in sourcing and applying for funding.

Russell Hepplewhite

- A composer of national standing focusing on operas for young people, many of which have been performed internationally. He has been involved in many festivals. Russell has a wealth of contacts relevant to the project.

Laura Miller

- Sourcing opportunities for funding and leading writing bids. Involvement with many community ventures and frequent user of the Amulet/ Centre in its heyday.

Gill Sakakini

- Gill is a Pioneer Priest in the Arts in the Church of England based in Shepton. She is a painter, works in community engagement, leads workshops and is a director of SMart (currently residing in Create@#8).

Martin Berkeley

- Local businessman producing Pilton Cider with a passion for live theatre and music. Has a track record of starting up events in Shepton including the Lantern and Snowdrop Festivals. His latest venture is the successful Runaway Train, a running event with a difference. Town Councillor

Jane Nicklin

- Experienced in facilitation, community engagement and strategy. Past trustee for the Firefighters Charity, managing a complex estate. Chair of town development and planning committee Shepton Town Council

## **Next steps**

The team will continue to focus on the Community Ownership Fund bid.

*Other comments to note:*

Make sure that meetings are advertised on the website, MailChimp contacts and Facebook page