

# FALMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## Culture, Leisure, Health and Well-Being Background Paper

### *Introduction*

This paper is intended to put forward possible planning objectives and suggestions for land-use policies that will help deliver the Falmouth Cultural Strategy.

The culture, leisure, health and well-being section mainly focusses on the need to address some of the eleven key objectives that resulted from the Neighbourhood Plan community engagement results of 2015. These were to:

- Build a sustainable and balanced community
- Tackling deprivation
- Raising/delivering aspirations
- Ensuring services are adequate for Falmouth and the surrounding area

These may be captured in the single sustainability aim of '*Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society*' and action to achieve that aim can be directed through several themes.

Supporting a rich culture is a significant way of ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. Culture can be defined by what we do and how we do it, either individually or collaboratively. Participation in and engagement with cultural activity improves and inspires us, providing meaning to our lives.

### *Policy Background*

The transformative role culture can play in shaping our communities has been recognised by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and set out in *The White Paper for Culture*, published in March 2016.<sup>1</sup>

*Arts and culture are growing twice as fast as the national economy. They are the incubator of the creative industries* (Sir Peter Bazalgette; Chair, Arts Council England)

Their four main overarching priorities are:

1. Everyone should enjoy the opportunities culture offers, no matter where they start in life
2. The riches of our culture should benefit communities across the country
3. The power of culture can increase our international standing
4. Cultural investment, resilience and reform

These priorities are echoed in the *White Paper for Culture, edition 2, 2016-2020* published by Cornwall Council in April 2016.<sup>2</sup> The Council's stated ambition is to be:

*A leading rural region for creativity and culture: where excellence is achieved by keeping in balance community engagement, high value creative industries and cultural distinction.*

Cornwall Council's *Cultural White Paper* sets out five clear goals:

- Goal 1: A place of global renown (being a leading rural region for creativity and culture)
- Goal 2: A place to inspire (achieving excellent community and social engagement)
- Goal 3: A place to create (growing high value creative and cultural industries)
- Goal 4: A place of distinctiveness cultural and sustainability (achieving cultural distinction and greater sustainability in the cultural sector)
- Goal 5: A place of growth (Being a leading creative industries cluster)

The Council has prioritised four areas for investment:

- Cultural infrastructure
- Talent development
- Supporting innovation
- Cultural education

Broadly speaking, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 gives responsibility for health protection to the Secretary of State and health improvement to upper tier and unitary local authorities. The Secretary of State will also delegate some health protection function to local authorities.

Local authorities should embed these new public health functions into all their activities, tailoring local solutions to local problems, and using all the levers at their disposal to improve health and reduce inequalities. They will create a 21st century local public health system, based on localism, democratic accountability and evidence.

<sup>1</sup>In the 2009 *Falmouth & Penryn Community Plan*, the following priorities were identified:

Leisure, Recreation and Culture (Theme 3)

- Maximise the opportunities for leisure and recreation provided by our water-front environment
- Improve our leisure and sporting facilities
- Ensure a stronger and more varied cultural offering

A Healthy Community (Theme 4)

- Ensure access to healthcare provision for all
- Promote emotional health and well-being
- Promote physical Health and well-being
- Ensure good access to public toilets in Falmouth and Penryn

### *Cultural development and support in Falmouth*

In the light of the Devolution Deal by the present government to Cornwall Council and the ensuing ‘double devolution’ of certain cultural services to Local Authorities, **Falmouth Town Council voted in April 2016 to create a cohesive Cultural Service to sustain and develop the rich cultural life that already exists in the town and promote the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors.**

Falmouth Town Council is evolving its own **cultural strategy** in the light of national and regional aspirations and feedback from the local community. The aims are:

- to promote job creation and economic growth;

---

<sup>1</sup> *The new public health role of local authorities*, Department of Health, 2012

- build stronger and healthier communities;
- offer hope and aspiration to our children and young people, and
- put Falmouth on the map.

Effective partnerships will be key to this strategy uniting the Town Council with the Universities, the business community, the town's arts organisations and its schools and colleges – all have a role to play in making Falmouth an exceptional place to live, work and play for people of all ages, interests and abilities.

As the list at Appendix A shows, Falmouth rejoices in a wide array of organisations dedicated to enriching our cultural lives and making more engaged, healthier and happier.

Falmouth's cultural past is enshrined in its built environment; its quays, wharves and docks, its heritage parks and gardens, its domestic architecture, stations, churches, shops and street names. The human stories associated with its history and maritime heritage are well conserved and presented in the collections of Pendennis Castle, the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (Falmouth History Group) and Falmouth Art Gallery.

These organisations are dedicated to promoting access to this heritage through their exhibitions, websites and learning programmes and these are well used by local schools, students, community groups and general visitors.

Falmouth's cultural future will be enshrined in its heritage, but also in its ability to build on the creative industries budding from the universities, and the opportunities offered new technology

In November 2016, Falmouth Town Council entered a partnership with Cornwall Council to deliver Library services. This addition to cultural services will greatly reinforce our access to the wider community.

*Libraries are, let us not forget, a golden thread throughout our lives... The library does more than simply loan books. It underpins every community. It is not just a place for self-improvement, but the supplier of an infrastructure for life and learning, from babies to old age, offering support, help, education, and encouraging a love of reading. Whether you wish to apply for a job, or seek housing benefit, or understand your pension rights or the health solutions available to you, or learn to read, the library can assist<sup>3</sup>*

Open space recreation is dealt with elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan by the Environment and Open Space Group but it is important to stress that unlike many neighbourhoods we are bordered by the sea which gives rise to many activities for young people such a surf-life saving which are particularly good for promoting self-confidence but also introduces the idea of volunteering into their lives, enhancing the sense of citizenship.

The Town celebrates its cultural heritage with a vibrant programme of festivals including the Spring Festival, Zestifal, Shanty Festival, Classics Week, Falmouth Week and the Oyster Festival. Many of these 'Festival Falmouth' events showcase the rich culinary heritage of local growers which also plays a significant role in our cultural day to day. Falmouth Town has a regular Tuesday Farmer's Market and is encouraging specialist local food producers to use the Moor to promote their produce.

Falmouth's heritage parks and gardens, Fox Rosehill, Gyllyngdune Gardens, Kimberley Park and Queen Mary Gardens celebrate the pioneering and philanthropic nature of Falmouth's most influential families as well as introducing our young people to exotic flora that is inextricably linked to our maritime heritage.

There are other undercover recreational facilities in Falmouth but most are fee paying. New gym facilities have been opened on the Tremough campus and new 'state of the art' sport facility has recently been granted planning permission at Falmouth School. Many yoga, pilates, dance, theatre, arts organisations and clubs rent space to meet in church halls or other public spaces like the Athenaeum Club annex.

Falmouth currently has six nurseries, five primary schools and one secondary school, a Marine School whose strap-line '*making learning work*' chimes with regional ambition. Falmouth University and Exeter University share a campus in Penryn but Falmouth School of Art (a significant and historic part of Falmouth University) is based at Wood Lane.

The Marine College and universities have an important role to play in reinforcing regional goal 3 – A Place to Create.

Falmouth University, ranked at the UK's No.1 for Arts in the Sunday Times 2016 University league table, comprises the following creative departments: School of Architecture, Design & Interiors; Falmouth School of Art; School of Communication Design; Fashion & Textiles Institute; School of Film & Television; Games Academy; Academy of Music and Theatre Arts; Institute of Photography and the School of Writing & Journalism.

With nearly 5,000 students in the Creative Industries (and plans to grow to over 8,000 by 2020) there are over 1,500 students graduating per year into the sector. Falmouth University graduates' employability levels reached 96% in 2015, against a UK average of 91%. Falmouth students are also at least four times more likely to be running their own business, with 25% self-employed after six months against 5.9% across the UK.

The great challenge is to try to encourage creative businesses to Falmouth to take advantage of this rich harvest and to persuade the best and brightest to set up business here in Falmouth. The new 'incubator offices' planned for the second floor of the Town Council's Old Post Office Building could help to support innovation at this scale.

#### *How might the Neighbourhood Plan support Cultural development?*

Planning for culture and the arts can bring key benefits:

- **Economic and environmental value** – by leading regeneration and providing the support for creative industry development
- **Physical and psychological health and well-being** – by providing opportunities for activity, building social engagement, and supporting the 'sense of place'.
- **Place-making** – by providing venues and activity that adds value to the built environment, attract visitors, building vitality and viability.
- **Stronger communities** – by building and maintaining social capital, encouraging strong community bonds, active citizenship and participation
- **Support for education, skills and life-long learning** – through partnerships between providers and the community.

Given the national and regional cultural agendas Falmouth wants to position itself locally in alignment with their aims. The summary of resource that we already have at our disposal justifies our stated vision:

*To be a regional centre for excellence and enjoyment of arts, culture and heritage, where residents, visitors and communities can be entertained, develop inspiration, learning and wellbeing*

To do this the Town Council is developing several cultural themes for 2016-2020:

These five aspirations provide the basis for objectives for the land use planning-related objectives:

- Supporting the cultural sector in Falmouth and influencing development proposals to ensure that they respect or enhance cultural interests that help to build a sustainable and balanced community.

- Building or improving places and spaces for the delivery of cultural and health and wellbeing activities thereby tackling deprivation, raising/delivering expectation and ensuring services are adequate for Falmouth and the surrounding area, including a 'cultural hub'
- Supporting creativity, innovation and the creative industries by enabling the provision of space and facilities that help to embed creative industries as an essential and accepted part of Cornwall's economy.
- Developing ways of funding the cultural sector, through planning agreements and community infrastructure levy, and the provision of opportunities for cultural expression through development.
- Introducing measures that support and help develop community arts and the 'festival culture'

To deliver these land use related objectives, policies should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan which:

- Support development, regeneration or starter schemes that include facilities for the arts, creative industries, innovation and cultural producers, and ensure that new development provides cultural opportunities
- Provide for the development of a cultural hub
- Support opportunities and initiatives for University spin-off facilities for the creative arts
- Support for schemes that refurbish and regenerate existing buildings that support and strengthen the arts and culture of the Town
- Encourage the use of open spaces, in conjunction with the policies set out in Section 7, for performance, pop-up exhibitions, and other creative outdoor activities, and supporting health and wellbeing
- Direct the expenditure of 106 or CIL monies accruing from developments in the Town to help support its cultural services and help build a sustainable and balanced community.

1. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/510798/](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510798/)

DCMS\_The\_Culture\_White\_Paper\_\_3\_.pdf

2. [https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/20869269/white-paper-for-culture-2016\\_web\\_aug2016.pdf](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/20869269/white-paper-for-culture-2016_web_aug2016.pdf)

3. William Sieghart & Panel, Independent Library Report for England

## Appendix A Cultural and Sports Organisations Active in Falmouth 2016

Theme	Organisation
Council and Politics	Falmouth Town Council
Council and Politics	Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan Group
Council and Politics	Labour Party
Council and Politics	Liberal Democrat Party
Council and Politics	Conservative Party

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Council and Politics	Independents
Council and Politics	Mebyon Kernow
Council and Politics	Green Party
Council and Politics	UKIP
Council and Politics	Liberal Party
Council and Politics	Cornish Democrats
Arts & Crafts	Falmouth Knit Clubs
Arts & Crafts	Falmouth Mindful Art
Arts & Crafts	Falmouth Camera Club
Arts & Crafts	Falmouth Arts Society
Arts & Crafts	Falmouth Decorative & Fine Arts Society
Arts & Crafts	Outlaw Arts & Crafts Market
Arts & Crafts	Colour your cares away
Health & Wellbeing	Cornwall Rural Community Charity (CRCC)
Health & Wellbeing	Care & Support in Cornwall
Health & Wellbeing	Falmouth/Penryn Bi-polar support
Health & Wellbeing	Pink Umbrella Group
Health & Wellbeing	Falmouth Memory Café/Dementia Aware
Health & Wellbeing	Falmouth Age Concern
Health & Wellbeing	50+ Leisure and Social Club
Health & Wellbeing	Be Me - NHS Talking Therapies
Health & Wellbeing	Cruise Councillng
Health & Wellbeing	Walking for Health
Heritage Parks & Gardens	Gyllingdune Gardens
Heritage Parks & Gardens	Fox Rosehill Gardens
Heritage Parks & Gardens	Queen Mary Gardens
Heritage Parks & Gardens	Kimberley Park
Economic Development	Falmouth BID
Economic Development	Falmouth Town Management
Adults & Older People	Falmouth Rotary
Adults & Older People	Falmouth Lions
Adults & Older People	Falmouth & Penryn Adult Education Centre
Adults & Older People	U3A
Adults & Older People	Falmouth Probus Club

**Theme****Organisation**

Adults & Older People	Falmouth WI
Adults & Older People	Royal British Legion
Adults & Older People	50+ Leisure and Social Club
Adults & Older People	Free beginners computer classes
Adults & Older People	Falmouth Chess Club
Adults & Older People	Falmouth Bridge Club
Adults & Older People	Tea Dances at Gyllyngdune Gardens
Children & Young People	The Park Children's Centre
Children & Young People	Lighthouse Children's Centre
Children & Young People	Falmouth College of Arts Day Nursery
Children & Young People	The Garden Christian Pre-School
Children & Young People	Bouncers Day Nursery
Children & Young People	Happy Days Nursery and Pre-School
Children & Young People	First Friends Nursery
Children & Young People	Smiling Faces Pre-School
Children & Young People	Bongo Babies, Captain Todler & Toy Library
Children & Young People	Baby Jam, Baby Paint and Little Fingers
Children & Young People	Rhyme-time
Children & Young People	Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers
Children & Young People	6th Falmouth Sea Scouts
Children & Young People	4th Falmouth Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers
Children & Young People	Ninjagarten
Children & Young People	Drop-in
Children & Young People	Young Women's Group
Children & Young People	Young Generation, Youth Theatre
Children & Young People	Falmouth Chess Club
Cultural & Community	Falmouth twinning (Douarnanez)
Cultural & Community	Falmouth twinning (Landkreis-Rotenburg)
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Cruise Ship Ambassadors
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Art Gallery
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Library
Cultural & Community	National Maritime Museum, Cornwall

**Theme****Organisation**

	Pendennis Castle
Cultural & Community	Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Local History Group
Cultural & Community	Falmouth & Penryn Old History Society
Cultural & Community	Falmouth & Penryn Churches
Cultural & Community	All Saints Church (CofE)
Cultural & Community	Emmanuel Baptist
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Methodist Church
Cultural & Community	Harbour Church, Elim Pentecostal
Cultural & Community	King Charles the Martyr
Cultural & Community	New Life Church
Cultural & Community	Penwerris (cofE)
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Quakers
Cultural & Community	St Marys Roman Catholic Church
Cultural & Community	Salvation Army
Cultural & Community	United Reform Church with Trinity Baptists
Cultural & Community	Exeter University Falmouth Campus
Cultural & Community	Falmouth University
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Marine School
Cultural & Community	Falmouth School
Cultural & Community	Falmouth Primary Academy
Cultural & Community	King Charles Primary School
Cultural & Community	St Francis Primary School
Cultural & Community	St Mary's Primary School
Cultural & Community	Marlborough Primary School
Cultural & Community	
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	Princess Pavillions
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	The Poly
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	The Performance Centre
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	Young Generation, Youth Theatre
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	Phoenix Cinema
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	Falmouth Area Community Choir
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	Falmouth Community Gospel Choir
Music, Dance, Theatre, Film	Falmouth Vocalz



**Theme**

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Music, Dance, Theatre, Film

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

**Organisation**

Lynn Paula School of Dance

Victoria's Dance Academy

Falmouth Theatre Company

Frantic Theatre Company

Swamp Circus Trust, Circus skills

FalMAC, Falmouth Musical Arts Studio

Troubadore

Aqua House Studio

Speed of Sound Studio

Lightvessel Mastering Studio

Pendennis Brass Band

Arts & Dance - Shellal at Dracaena

Special Olympics at Dracaena

Ships & Castles

St Michaels Swimming and fitness

Royal Duchy Swimming and Fitness

Merchants Manor Swimming Pool

Falmouth Hotel Swimming Pool & Spa

Falmouth Sports Club

The Gym Project

Penryn Campus Sports Centre

Fitness & Performance Gym

Falmouth Judo Club

First Defence Blackbelt Schools

Capoeira

Tae Kwon Do

Falmouth Yoga Space

Yoga Classes

Falmouth Town AFC

Falmouth Cricket Club

Falmouth Hockey Club

Falmouth Road Runners

Falmouth Track Club

Falmouth Bike Park/Carrick Riders

**Theme**

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

Sports & Games

**Organisation**

Falmouth Wheelers

Ocean Bowl

Falmouth Bowling Club

Royal Cornwall Yacht Club

Falmouth Yacht Club

Falmouth School of Sailing

Falmouth Watersports Centre

Falmouth Gig Club

Falmouth Kayaks

Elemental Uk

Sea Kayaking Cornwall

Cornish Diving Centre

Falmouth Divers

Gyllyngvase Surf Life Rescue

Falmouth Chess Club

Falmouth Bridge Club

Carrick Ramblers

Falmouth & Penryn Boxing Club