

Liskeard Renewal Partnership – Meeting 5 Report

Wednesday 13 May 2026 at Liskeard Public Hall, Emily Hobhouse Room.

Attendees: Dan Sturrock (The Workshed), Cheryl Bailey (Liskerrett Centre), Tracy Adams & Lin Moore (Liskeard Traders Association), Sue Jewell (SECTA), Kate Reed (Real Ideas), Rachel Brooks & Nick Craker (Liskeard Town Councillors), Kevin Grey (Cornwall Councillor), Vicky Reece-Romain (Liskeard Culture Collective), Steve Vinson & Yvette Hayward (Liskeard Town Council)

Apologies: Sam Jackman (Boost), Julie-Anne Sunderland (Wildanet), Jane Pascoe (Cornwall Councillor), Chris Gilbert (Oak Tree Surgery), Dan Wendon (Liskeard School), Jem Verran (Young People Cornwall), Christina Whitty (Liskeard Town Councillor), Catherine Thomson (Community Link Officer)

1. Business Working Group

5 Year Aim

The group discussed the need for a clear understanding of Liskeard's economic opportunities and gaps, with a focus on building confidence, attracting investment and supporting sustainable growth. Discussion focused on mapping larger industries and employers connected to the town, alongside mapping available industrial units and sites and town centre properties. There was also discussion around identifying gaps in Liskeard's business offer and associated provision, including housing and services linked to growth.

The group discussed engaging the wider parishes and the Community Area Partnership (CAP) as part of developing a stronger economic picture and wider regional links.

Key Activities for 2026

Some informal conversations have taken place with Cornwall Council officers linked to skills and inward investment, and it is worth exploring whether there could be opportunities for funding to support initial feasibility work.

The main current project is the development of a promotional video for Liskeard, with the working title *Liskeard Means Business*. The group is sourcing footage and imagery from local organisations and events, and has identified an animator to support elements of the production. The next stages of development are expected to be supported by the upcoming consultant role.

Challenges

Challenges discussed included understanding and evidencing economic gaps, availability of suitable premises, wider engagement beyond the town centre, and ensuring long-term momentum while the work is still at an early stage.

How Success Will Be Measured

The group discussed the need for baseline benchmarking around properties, sectors and opportunities in order to measure future progress. Success would also include stronger engagement between businesses and partners, improved visibility for the town and clearer evidence of confidence and investment.

2. Events and Evening Economy Working Group

5 Year Aim

The group's ambition is for Liskeard to become a more vibrant, welcoming and collaborative town with stronger evening and weekend activity. Discussion focused on increasing pride in the town, improving coordination between organisations and supporting businesses through greater footfall and visibility.

The longer-term vision includes a clearer and more consistent programme of events, stronger collaboration between organisations and businesses, and more activity that brings together different ages and interests.

Key Activities for 2026

The group reported progress on a coordinated summer events programme involving the Town Council, Library, Workshed, Museum and other partners. Plans include a shared programme identity and branding, a focus 'anchor day' likely to be Thursdays, and encouraging exploration of the town through events, trails and activities.

The programme aims to involve local businesses, hospitality venues and food traders alongside cultural and community organisations. Promotion will include social media, print publicity, school and tourism networks and coordinated marketing.

The group is also continuing to build links through the Liskeard Culture Collective and exploring opportunities for additional seasonal events, particularly around gaps in the calendar during spring.

Challenges

Challenges identified included limited staff and volunteer capacity, short delivery timescales before summer activities begin, and demonstrating value and engagement opportunities for local businesses.

How Success Will Be Measured

Suggested measures include website traffic and engagement, attendance data where possible, audience feedback, trail participation, business engagement and increased awareness of town centre activity.

3. Young People Working Group

5 Year Aim

The group discussed the importance of creating stable, long-term and sustainable youth provision in Liskeard. The long-term ambition is for an open-door style provision that is easy to maintain, welcoming and affordable for young people.

Key Activities for 2026

The group has already met with a wide range of youth practitioners and organisations involved in youth provision. There was recognition that many youth workers are unable to attend evening meetings because provision often takes place at those times, so daytime meetings are now being explored. The next meeting will be held at Liskeard School in mid-June.

A key priority for 2026 is carrying out a SWOT analysis of youth provision in the town in order to support future planning and help shape the right questions for consultation with young people. The Town Council will help create a framework for this work.

The group also discussed the need for a clearer picture of existing provision and how it can be promoted more effectively. Actions include mapping activities available for 11–25 year olds, exploring how virtual spaces and communication channels can better connect young people in Liskeard, delivering presentations in schools and “saying it more and louder” around opportunities already available.

Challenges

Challenges discussed included anti-social behaviour, reliance on short-term funding, and the ebb and flow of provision caused by changing funding cycles. The group also highlighted the importance of avoiding short spikes in activity and instead building sustainable long-term provision.

How Success Will Be Measured

The group agreed that pre and post measurements will be needed in order to understand current provision and measure future impact and engagement.

4. Governance and Next Steps

The Partnership discussed moving towards a more formal operating structure and the proposed Terms of Reference. Chair and Vice Chair nominations will take place before the next meeting, and subgroup reports will continue to feed into wider Partnership meetings.

There was discussion around administrative support, including the possible use of AI tools to help reduce workload around note taking and minutes. Terms of Reference will be circulated ahead of the next meeting on 17 June.

It was agreed that the meetings would continue to circulate around different member organisations who can provide a free venue.

Updates were also provided regarding:

- recruitment of the consultant Les Allan
- the proposed Town Council Events & Communications Officer role (recruitment to commence 15 June – anticipated in post by beginning of September 2026)
- a Town Council Awards for All funding bid with Access Cornwall around accessibility in Liskeard. This will include accessibility advice around empty buildings and also events accessibility training.

The immediate, practical impact this project will deliver includes:

- 5,000 printed Accessible Guides in circulation from day one of distribution, enabling disabled people to plan visits and participate in town life with confidence
- 30 businesses trained and reviewed across mobility, vision, hearing, learning differences and neurodivergence, with practical improvements made immediately after training
- 4 to 6 disabled residents trained as accessibility reviewers, gaining skills, confidence and community roles
- Local decision-makers experiencing real-world barriers first-hand — including wheelchair use, vision simulation and conversations with deaf community members — leading to changed behaviours and better planning decisions
- An event planning guide that will make every future public event in Liskeard more inclusive

5. Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 June 2026, 7pm at the Workshed