



Falmouth Harbourside Plan

Introduction to Falmouth Harbourside CIC

The objects of the Company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to develop plans and source funding for improvements to the Falmouth harbour side area.

The Falmouth Harbourside Plan, which included design proposals for Church Street Car Park, Fish Strand Quay and Prince of Wales Pier was originally developed by Andrew Nicholls and Tony Cowles. A bold plan, originally published in October 2017, it was sponsored by Visit Cornwall. The initiative followed a commission by The Maritime Museum Cornwall to design a Fal Oyster public art sculpture for Discovery Square. Although designs were completed in 2014 and planning consent obtained, necessary funding via The Arts Council was not forthcoming. At that time, being mentored by Sir Tim Smit, the team was advised to broaden the scope of the project in order to provide wider benefit for the town, also to consider relocating the sculpture to The Prince of Wales Pier.

Over a 5-year period, in order to develop proposals for the regeneration of Falmouth Harbourside, directors of the CIC have invested significant resources during consultation with stakeholders and statutory authorities. IP rights are held within FH CIC.

During the early stages of the project, the need to obtain political backing was emphasised by Falmouth Town Council Clerk Mark Williams. In particular, for proposals to be a good fit within the aims of the Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan (FNP). Mark explained that proposals for regeneration of the pier would find support but specifically, the provision of DDA access to commercial boats was considered the highest priority. Linking Fish Strand and PoW with a floating walkway was expected to be a hard sell to Falmouth Harbour Commission. For the time being, delaying the sculpture was accepted, in exchange for contributing the team's skills to the agreed political agenda. Forming a CIC was a prerequisite for attracting financial support from stakeholders. Ben Mark is the third member of the CIC team. A retired fast jet pilot and Past MD of Cornwall Ferries, he is a Falmouth resident and independent consultant.

Encouraged by CC Maritime Manager Andy Brigden (now retired), FH CIC developed designs for DDA access comprising a link bridge (brow) and floating pontoon. During the autumn of 2018 and winter of 2019, phase 1A of the plan was presented to and informally approved by The Falmouth Harbour Master Mark Sansom, Falmouth Town Council and The Harbours Board (HB) of Cornwall Council. Following that, a small amount of funding was obtained from HB and local councillors, sufficient to justify the instruction of specialist marine design engineers Pelagic Design Ltd, based in Falmouth. Their brief was to prove the capability of FH CIC's design and to lead a tender process to establish budget costs. The design brief was directed by Matthew Williams of CC. The process has included considerable dialogue with key stakeholders and is still ongoing.

The introduction of PJA Consultants to develop a master plan for Church Street Car Park, the main shopping streets and PoW Pier, is encouraging. FH CIC is in support of that process. Developing a business plan and designs for new buildings to replace the café and toilet will require further funding but FH CIC look forward to being part of that process.

Whilst the CIC's brief is to be part of the planning process, its long-term vision would be to develop a Falmouth-based team for operating the pier under lease from CC.