

Questions for Portobello Central

1. In your bid to the Council you proposed a transfer to Community Management for a period, looking to a possible Community Asset Transfer in 3-5 years. You're now inviting the Council to reject all bids and call for a report on a community based asset transfer within 6 months. What would the purpose of the report be, and how would it advance our understanding, given that any asset transfer would require to be judged on the merits of particular proposal, and by your own estimate you wouldn't be in a position to make a firm proposal for several years?
2. Your bid included a Phase 1 Income and Expenditure Forecast that assumed grant funding of £312,000 over the first two years. I appreciate there's a lot of uncertainty to such figures, but what potential sources have been identified to meet that scale of funding?
3. Since the Peter Schaufuss proposals have been publicised there have been many comments on the Porty Central Facebook page highly critical of both the proposal and Peter Schaufuss personally, including that he is "rude", has "pals in the clowncil", has "a big ego", and "lives in Luxembourg". Does the hostility on the Facebook page reflect a hostility on the part of Porty Central to both Mr Schaufuss and his proposal?
4. It's noted on the Porty Central Facebook page that Porty Central were offered a tour of both St Stephen's Church and the Rose Theatre but turned down the offer due to Covid. However, representatives of the Community Council were given a virtual tour of both buildings. Is there a reason why this option was not pursued?
5. Comments on the Porty Central Facebook page regarding Peter Schaufuss include the following:

"An interesting read. He does sound brash and full of ego. He seems to throw himself into projects. Some work others don't. For those that wish to know he is 71 so so you have to admire his energy.

He has three children who are all dancers. His son Luke danced with Scottish Ballet. His parents were both dancers.

His wife and ex wife are dancers/ teachers. He comes from a world of classical dance. His ego has been stroked to the point of him perhaps thinking he is God. And he is a 'theatrical gypsy'. He was brought up wherever his parents were dancing. His daughters have Australia accents. His son sound more English/Danish. People like that have no understanding of community. Having never stayed anywhere long enough to get to know neighbours." Do you think that allowing such personalised comments on your Facebook page leaves a poor impression of Porty Central as an organisation? Especially since the comment was made by a member of your working group?
6. It was mentioned somewhere, that they have recommended that the council reject both bids – could we have some clarification around this? I may have missed the explanation somewhere.
7. Do you have any funds or offers of funds?
8. How will you finance the project?
9. How will you manage the building?
10. When will it be open for use?
11. You say it would be run by another body: what is that and why would Portobello Central continue?
12. What changes to the building would you make?
13. Why do you think you know better than the Council about the condition of the building?

14. What right do you have to be in charge of the building?
15. Who are the office bearers in Portobello Central?
16. Are you competing with Bellfield?
17. Why won't you work with Mr Schaufuss?
18. Why so are you making so much effort on the Town Hall and ignoring The George?
19. Who have you consulted? How? How would you consult better if there were more time?
20. What do you bring to the Town Hall that a commercial bidder can't?
21. What is your medium-long term solution to help the Council save money?
22. Why do you think you can succeed when the Council report it was making a loss?
23. How do we know PC will stick around?
24. What else can PC offer the Council other than taking the building off its hands?