

# MEETING REPORT

**Meeting:** Assets Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
**Agenda item:** AS24/023  
**Report subject:** Watermark Young People Activities  
**Report author:** K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk & J Drew, Watermark Supervisor - Events

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## PROPOSAL

To approve use of rooms within The Watermark as a student study space, and to support Officers in improving the event/cinema/activity on offer to young people.

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### Background

Following the Ivybridge Community Economic Plan public consultation, including a dedicated young people's survey, key themes were identified. Focus groups were set up to consider each theme, which includes Young People Services and Activities, and potential projects were identified.

Projects relevant to the Town Council included:

- Gigs, shows and films for young people
- Places to socialise and study after school

### Work to date

Before Ivybridge Community College (ICC) broke up for their summer break a meeting was held with Kim Daniels, ICC Personal Development and Welfare Leader (Sixth Form) and Laura Eames, Project Officer, Place & Enterprise, South Hams District Council (leading on the Community Economic Plan), and Jackie Drew, Watermark Supervisor - Events about different incentives to encourage young residents to use The Watermark positively.

### Study space

Kim advised that there is a shortage of study space at the college for revision and students are struggling to find suitable locations. The space needs to be quiet, but where they can also work collaboratively when required. The library has proved to be a popular space for study, because it is warm and dry, however it is now becoming congested with other groups and the general public using the same space. Students are also using the outside seating to study, but when the coffee shop is busy and seating is required, this can be problematic when students aren't purchasing food/drink items.

It is proposed that the Beeson Suite is made available to students as a study space (to fit around our paying room hirers). Students would join a membership scheme whereby we would email the member with availability for the Beeson Suite and they would sign in and book a space. They could either use the coffee shop for refreshments or we could provide them with cups, flasks etc., or alternatively provide a student food discounted special.

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Additional benefits of a young people membership are that they will be able to learn more about the facility they are using, and can find out about volunteer opportunities at The Watermark. We can use it as an opportunity to promote what's on and to gain their views on the events and films at The Watermark. Kim is very keen on the idea of volunteering opportunities for the young people, and would like to work with Jackie on developing this further.

## Events

Potential events were discussed, using the space we have at The Watermark, including, open mic, fashion shows, debates, film club, band practice, games night, comicon events, vintage clothing sales and even prom and awards events. A poster has been produced to highlight these ideas, and Kim has been provided with a copy for the ICC staff room notice board to encourage discussion amongst colleagues and to aid planning of school activities.

Jackie talked about the cinema offering and suggested bringing the students to screenings which are on the syllabus, or plays and films which may interest the media classes, drama classes, history and politics students. For example, we have a journalist who is cycling around America at the moment talking to people about the American elections and will be doing a talk to promote his new book here with us this October which could be of interest to media students, geography students and history students. We also have event cinema including some National Theatre, Shakespeare, ballets and operas.

The atrium art exhibition was highlighted and it was suggested that students might be interested in exhibiting their art here. This could encourage participation and assistance with next year's Ivybridge calendar, and future uses/displays of their artwork.

## Promotion

We will be working on promoting what we have to offer at The Watermark to students at the college, and this could be via leaflets, the digital display in the 6<sup>th</sup> form common room and in the school Bulletin.

To ensure that we are providing the right offering to encourage young people to use the facility, we will be talking to them direct about what they would like to see at The Watermark. We will do this by meeting with them through a focus group facilitated by the college, surveying through Facebook polls, QR code questionnaires, and speaking with those who already visit to find out what it is they like about the facility and what we have available for them.