

Meeting of the Cabinet, Tuesday, 16 December 2025
Public Statement Under Standing Order A24

Public Statement from Tom Crump on the registration of The Edge as an Asset of Community Value

I am one of three directors responsible for managing our not for profit company. Our board of directors has over 75 years of experience working in Brixham, providing information, support and guidance to people of all ages and abilities.

The Edge CIC was formed in early 2025 with the mission to support the people of Brixham and meet the gaps in provision left by YES Brixhams absence.

We formed our CIC and negotiated a 1–3 year lease with the YES Brixham administrators. This led to discussions with the remaining YES Brixham trustees and the administrator where it was agreed that any remaining assets would be transferred to our CIC upon the conclusion of the YES Brixham administration process.

The Edge CIC has a clear vision for the services we aim to provide. A community hub with everything under one roof. The Edge provides many things for the Brixham community; The Edge has a commercial grade kitchen which lies at the heart of our food bank and community kitchen/café. We have flexible spaces providing rehearsal space and storage for our flagship music program. We have breakout spaces for confidential conversations. We can offer room hire services to other community groups and have a grade 2 listed performance space which serves as a receiving venue for theatre and live music which greatly strengthens Brixhams cultural offer.

When creating our CIC governance, we were informed by the role YES Brixham played in the community and deliver many of YES Brixhams core services which include but are not limited to;

- a free to access food bank and community kitchen, this is unique to Brixham as we are available with no need for referral, and with no barrier to entry throughout our weekly opening hours, in addition we serve daily food on a 'pay what you feel' model which makes hot, nutritious food available to everyone.
- free to access weekly form filling, we have a DBS checked, CA trained volunteer offering information and support by appointment. Two of our directors have also received extensive training in this field.
- A safe space, we are regularly visited by a diverse cross section of our community including those with complex additional needs, those who identify as neurodiverse and people experiencing social and economic deprivation. We provide a warm and gentle environment designed to bring people together, fostering social cohesion and strengthening our community.

We recognise a common narrative among the people who engage with our services. A member of the community will engage with us because they have a simple need. They may need a food parcel or need help untangling a problem with their benefits. The Edge CIC offers an informal, welcoming space which is truly unique to Brixham.

We deliver in a non-judgemental, non-hierarchical atmosphere. A true community centre offering a diverse range of arts, crafts and cultural activities designed to promote wellbeing. Time and again we observe our visitors reengaging with the many different strands of our offer, growing in confidence as they learn new skills, forge new social connections or volunteer their time to support our organisation. Its this holistic approach which we believe is so vital for the Brixham Community.

In the six months that The Edge CIC has been trading we have developed key partnerships with the Torbay Food Alliance, Brixham and Torbay Council, and Turning Heads. We have delivered work in partnership with community partners including The Brixham Theatre, Library and Museum and supported The Torbay Baton of Hope. We have developed many key partnerships which include The Food Alliance, Cuttlefish Collective and Brixham Folk Club. Our directors sit on the boards of The Brixham Community Partnership and the F.A.B. Festival of the Arts. We believe that we are deeply embedded in Brixham and uniquely placed both in our venue and with our workforce to deliver the work we are so passionate about. When preparing our application to register The Edge as an Asset of Community Value, we allowed ourselves just 72 hours to gather a petition to accompany it. We required 30 signatures; we received over 300, with more arriving after submission.

Our recent application to register The Edge as an Asset of Community Value represents a significant step towards securing our premises and ensuring that our services can continue. We recognise that the building has recently been placed on the commercial market. If our application were to be successful, it would greatly enhance our ability to pursue national funding streams that would enable us to purchase the premises ourselves, via bodies such as:

- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Locality – Save Our Spaces
- HACT – Community Spaces

We recently wrote an open letter addressed to our local councillors. In that letter we raised queries and concerns about the letter of recommendation we received from the councils legal department. We understand that the council has concerns about liability for compensation to the administrator if it were to grant us community asset status and ask whether any legal precedent exists for this, and whether there has been any direct communication between the Council and the administrator.

At the time of writing the Edge is still on the commercial market. If sold for redevelopment Brixham will lose one its most vital historic and cultural assets and the resulting gap in local provision would be devastating for the people who rely on our services.

In the last 25 years YES Brixham and The Edge CIC have provided a huge financial value to the Brixham community.

For our organisation to continue to deliver the services we provide it is of paramount importance that we have a premises that meets the above criteria. Space that accommodates the vital partnerships we have developed. Space that can be used flexibly to provide an income for our organisation. Space that serves its community.

If we are unsuccessful in our application for community asset status it raises the wider question of how our local council can support us. Whether its in a position to consider investing into bricks and mortar and working in partnership with us to continue to offer our core services.

We know that YES Brixham still has residential property on the market which was developed as social housing. If it was sold it may alleviate the need for the administrator to liquidate the Edge building.