

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Empowering the Young People of Govan

Glasgow, Scotland 14th June 2016

The Clyde Docks Preservation Initiative, in partnership with local charity Fablevision, is preparing to launch a community consultation exercise in Govan and surrounding districts.

Our aim is to gather direct feedback especially from young and long term unemployed people about what kind of opportunities they would like to see created as part of a proposed maritime park at Govan Graving Docks.

We are currently developing a strategy for the consultation and in the next few months we aim to start to gather their ideas on what kinds of community, volunteering, social enterprise / micro-enterprise, pop-up businesses, etc projects and events they would like to be involved in setting up and running at the graving docks - within a mutually supportive co-working hub.

Too many initiatives to deal with youth unemployment are dictated from the top down and often in a very condescending way. The views and insights of the people most affected (i.e. young unemployed people) are seldom if ever addressed. Very often schemes to tackle youth unemployment tend to be weighted towards the needs of employers and lack balance while at the same time treating young people as a political football. We aim to help pilot new approaches to this that will deliver radical and transformative ways to empower young people that are fit for the 21st century.

Our aim in creation of a co-working environment at the docks in Govan is to build a collective of independent but collaborative micro businesses that will operate many of the functions of a maritime and leisure park under the umbrella of a charity that will aim to take ownership of the site and provide ongoing support and guidance.

This will enable young people from the area, that has suffered a great deal with the decline of shipbuilding, to play a part in shaping what has the potential to become a world-renowned industrial heritage and leisure attraction to rival anything that exists elsewhere. They will have the opportunity to play a key part in making Govan great again.

We are also aiming to develop international links with other maritime and post industrial cities, which will create opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and learning for young people from the area, and we already have collaborative links with groups in Sweden and Gdansk in Poland.

Our ties with the Cutty Sark 2Sail Foundation will potentially create opportunities for young people to experience sailing voyages on working replica ships built to modern maritime safety standards. We hope this will start with the construction of the Cutty Sark 2 replica at Govan Graving Docks and that this will be just the first of several replica ships to be built and launched there. People will always want to build replicas of historic ships and preserve the skills involved. With so many great vessels having been launched in Govan's shipyards where could we find a better place for it?

We are delighted to have the unequivocal support of all of Govan's Councillors for this outreach project that will enable the young people of Govan and other areas of Glasgow to play a key role in shaping their own opportunities for the future.

The Clyde Docks Preservation Initiative