



## Catering Opportunity at Bridport Literary and Scientific Institute

### Invitation for Expressions of Interest

#### The Project

A Project Business Plan has been created by the Bridport Area Development Trust (BADT) as part of a programme of development work to support the BADT's proposals for the restoration of the Grade II\* Listed Literary and Scientific Institute building (LSI) and to bring it back into use and safeguard its future as an important Community Asset.

The building, originally constructed in 1834, has been out of use since 2002 and has been on Historic England's at Risk Register since 2003. The BADT, a community organisation which is registered as a charity and is also constituted as a Buildings Preservation Trust, has undertaken to develop proposals for the future use of the building and has secured capital funding for the project which is due to start on site in March 2016.

Open public access will be provided to key areas of the building where interpretation will offer local residents and visitors the opportunity to learn about the history of the building and the role of Bridport's nationally important rope and net industry in the development of the town.

Parts of the building will be available for rent/hire to small creative enterprises, education, training and community groups. The proposed café/restaurant will operate on the Ground floor servicing occupiers of the building and the public. These uses combined, are intended to secure the future of the building.

In line with the objectives of the founders of the LSI, the project will offer a range of learning and training opportunities related both to the restoration project itself and to an increased awareness of the social, cultural, economic and industrial history of the town and surrounding area.

#### Catering Opportunity

The Trust is exploring the potential to operate the proposed café/Restaurant as a community enterprise scheme, independently or in partnership with a local Commercial operator. The aim will be to establish a facility that will service the needs of people working and visiting the building, to compete for external business in a thriving Market Town from both local community and visiting public and to offer a flexible amenity that may be used to support the town and its annual programme of cultural and literary events.

It is envisaged that the unique space offered by the Ground floor will represent the hub of a reinvigorated LSI Building. This venue, with its incredible light and space, will be the gateway to the rest of the building and its ambience will reflect a welcome to all who work and visit the Institute.

The room will provide around 50 covers for daytime service supported by a brand new kitchen facility in the basement with direct access to the café/Restaurant area which will have a custom-built servery with facilities for providing both hot and cold meals. The venue will cater for the public and support from breakfast to tea-time, six days a week, a working building comprising 50 workspaces across a range of offices, a training facility for 30 students, break out spaces and a meeting facility for 8 to 10 people.

The Trust is keen to offer the proposed venue for special evening events including guest chefs for evening suppers, themed talks and links with the Town's Literary and Food Festivals; a regular Community programme will add to and support the great range of cultural events that contribute so much to the vibrant life of Bridport.

## Expressions of interest

Initial expressions of interest are invited from local commercial operators who would like to engage with the Trust and consider a framework that will attain key deliverables from this opportunity in Partnership with the BADT.

Please address initial enquiries to [mcarter@bridportadt.org.uk](mailto:mcarter@bridportadt.org.uk) by **4<sup>th</sup> March 2016**. Successful applicants will be invited by arrangement, to an open day to be held on site at 51 East Street.

A shortlist of applicants will then be invited to respond to a PQQ from which finalists will be selected for further discussion.

Please note that the BADT reserves the right not to proceed with any or all of the parties submitting initial expressions of interest.

