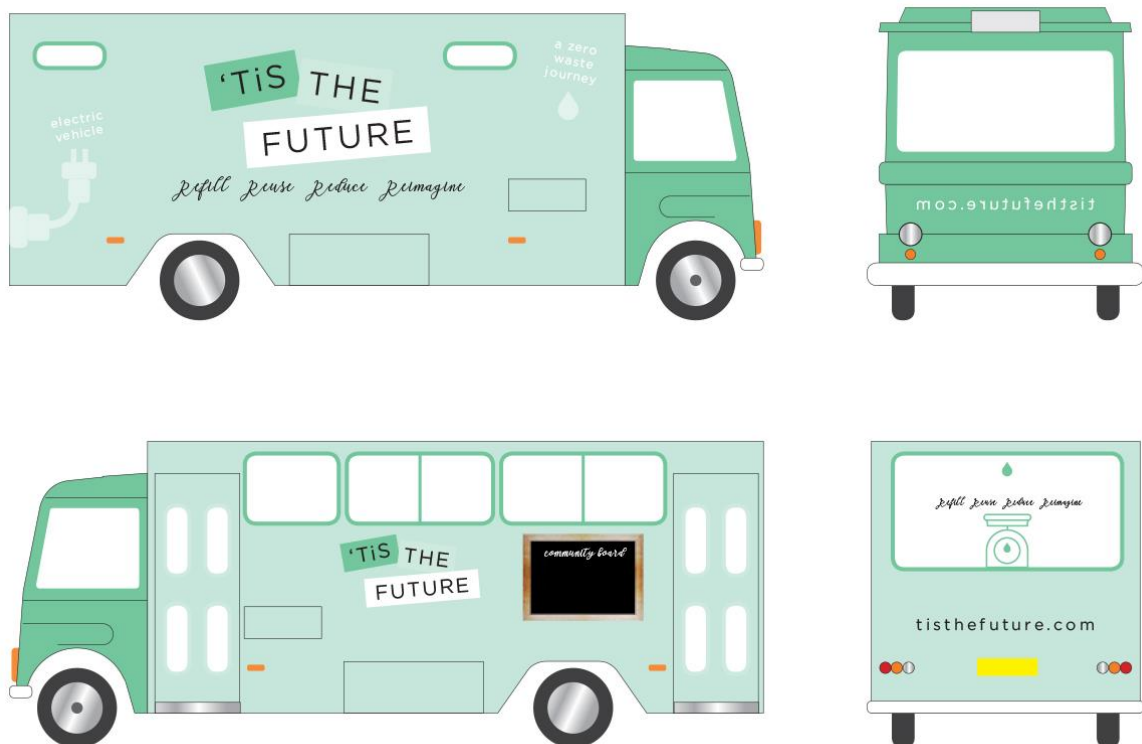


Tisbury Community Benefit Society

15th November 2020

Dear Parish Council,

Introducing Tis the Future: Refill, Reuse, Reduce, Reimagine



We are writing to tell you about Tis the Future, a wonderful initiative from the Tisbury Community Benefit Society.

Tis the Future is a zero-plastic, electric-powered, mobile refill shop, community owned and community run. Based in Tisbury, it will spend much of its time on a timetabled route, taking it round all of the neighbouring villages, where it will stop for an hour or so for the villagers to come on board and shop, knowing their impact on the environment is as minimal as practically possible.

Tisbury Community Benefit Society Limited is incorporated under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2015 and registered with the FCA under no. 7874.

The Project Coordinator is Emily Hobbs and she can be contacted at tisburycbs@gmail.com.
Our website is www.tisthefuture.com.

The essence of a zero-plastic, refill shop is customers bring their own empty containers, so that their transaction generates zero plastic. Tis the Future will start off by selling purely staple, store cupboard ingredients (rice, oats, flour, pulses, pasta, cereals etc) at competitive prices and in an environmentally friendly way. The vehicle will be powered purely by electricity and will be plastic-free.

All information, and most crucially the timetable for its route, will be at www.tisthefuture.com.

So Tis the Future is a shop. But also:

- we are spreading a message: that we must all change the way we shop if we want to reverse the decline of our environment;
- and that a community can provide its own solutions for the environmental crisis;
- and be something that will inspire all generations, from the very young (we hope to open in school car-parks, with their agreement of course) to the very old;
- and we will provide a comforting and inspiring place of community for the most isolated and elderly in the community (Tis the Future has been fitted out with some super-comfy banquette seating);
- Tis the Future is a way of connecting the community and providing a hub where people can come together to chat, find out what's going on and sit and even have a tea or a coffee (we will have a kettle!)

GETTING READY TO OPEN

Tis the Future is nearly ready. It is being re-purposed by a specialist garage in Oxfordshire (it was originally a rubbish collection float in Sussex). We expect to take delivery in a couple of weeks, with a view to being open for business early in the New Year.

A link to a short presentation of the state of preparation can be found on website homepage (www.tisthefuture.com). Do flick through the photos - Tis the Future is going to be a thing of great beauty, as well as a beacon for a plastic-free world.

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We have gained the express support of Tisbury Parish Council, the express support in principle of Tisbury Business Association, and a grant from a local charity.

Also, we are hiring! We have posted our job advertisement for the manager of Tis the Future, see www.tisthefuture.com/we-are-hiring. Do please help us to make sure it is as seen by as many people as possible.

COVID

We are very serious about protecting our customers.

We won a government grant to make Tis the Future COVID-compatible: we have used it to install a hand-basin (with hot water) and a very smart retractable awning outside the vehicle in case people need to queue when the weather is poor.

We are staying alert to all the COVID regime changes that come through. We think that even under the current lockdown, we would be able to start operations: we will have a track and trace QR code. We will have a one in one out policy, with hand sanitiser on the way in and out. We will have hot water for hand washing once in. Contact points will be regularly wiped down. We are liaising with Wiltshire Council to make sure we comply with all their guidelines.

TISBURY COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

TCBS was set up in 2018. All the relevant background information about it is on our website at www.tisthefuture.com/about-tcbs.

VILLAGE SHOPS

It is our intention in every case to protect village shops. And we are contacting all village shops in the communities we hope to have on our route, including by sending them a copy of this letter.

A couple of village shops in the area have already taken the view that Tis the Future will be a welcome addition. They think that any 'lost business' from the

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fairly minimal overlap of product range will be more than offset by the increased footfall Tis the Future is likely to create.

We very much hope those village shops that have not yet formed a view will be of the same mind.

VOLUNTEERS AND FUNDRAISING

If anyone who reads this letter would like to volunteer or to invest, or both, do please reach out by sending us an email at tisburyCBS@gmail.com.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING YOU?

Tis the Future is run BY the community, FOR the community. If any village wants us not to come, we won't come. The Tisbury Community Benefit Society has been established purely FOR the benefit of the community and we want everyone to get involved.

Do please therefore respond to this letter by telling us

- WHETHER you would prefer us not to call at all
- WHERE you would like us to park
- WHEN you want us to call

This letter to Parish Council is an informal introduction to Tis the Future. In any village where we wish to trade on the street, or within 10 metres of it, we will need Street Trading Consent from Wiltshire Council. They will not give that without formally consulting Parish Councils in advance. (And, even if consent was ever given in the face of a Parish Council's objections, we would not use the consent.)

PS We have a put a loudspeaker on top of the driver's cab. Our hope is that each community will have a chance to choose their own music that Tis the Future will play to announce its arrival (like an ice cream van). It could be any particular noise, or music of any genre, or something from the church choir! We will revert in due course to discuss your choice (and recognising you may want no blaring disruption at all).

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CONCLUSION

Tis the Future already has the express support of Tisbury Parish Council and the support in principle of the Tisbury Business Association. And Wiltshire Council have been most helpful, not least with their kind agreement to circulate this letter to you. We very much hope that Tis the Future will have your support as well.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Emily Hobbs
Project Co-ordinator
tisburyCBS@gmail.com

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