

Barnstaple Place Partnership Meeting

Guildhall, Barnstaple 12/12/2025

1. Welcome

2. Apologies – SJMS

Present MP (NDC), NL (NDC), LB(NDC) , JF (BTC), JC (BTC), PH (DMHA), EM (BTC), LY (BTC), AH (Age Concern) LF(NDVS),CB (Green Lanes), MM (Lineal) , JP (Family Hub), BB (Petroc), MB (NDC), JRJ (BBPRS), RW (BTC), AW (D&CP), AM (NDC), HH (NDC)

3. Action Plan

HH explained the use of the tracker and the formalisation of the action plan going forwards. She then explained that everyone would be given read only access. We then went through the planner.

- Graffiti; there is a policy being pulled together and we are looking at funding requirements.
- Busking guidance is being prepared, and this will lead to certain areas that will be allowed to be used.
- Wider PSPO about busking, vehicular access and bikes. Especially around people driving through the road closures.
- Meanwhile space is still being looked at for vacant units.
- Public art is all underway and on target
- Barnstaple Blue work is done
- AW spoke about hot spot funding and the various things that are happening around town.
- Suggestion of a mural at the end of Fort terrace.
- AW gave a breakdown of the crime stats.

MP asked AW to send over a few paragraphs about the current successes.

- Wayfinding strategy has been undertaken and plinths will be in place shortly.
- AM – Bridge Chambers is moving on and we're currently working on the business plan. Alison explained the cohort applications that has been put in place. Gerry is working hard on filling the spaces. It's important that the spaces are used so we need to encourage this.
- MP pointed out that there is a great meeting room there and that it is not too arty for everyone

- Events team are still working well to collate events and create the brochures and events guides.
- HH spoke about vacant units (figs needed) JRJ spoke about how many owners are not interested in developing and refurbishing.
- MB listed Millets and Golden Hind as places that have turned around, and old Poundland have agreed to work with NDC.
- There was a discussion about working and being practical for accommodation above shops.
- The work continues and the beautification and vinyls help whilst we are still working in it. (Possible Public art in vacant units)

Action HH/NL – ask Lucy how to filter by ‘newest’

Action – when anyone has anything to update they can send it to NL

4. Future of Business Group

There is a need to create an inclusive business group and we need some key topics to get people interested. We already have lots of resources and should use those networks and resources to bring businesses together. This does not need to be council led.

JC would like to be involved and go round to chat to business owners to understand what the issues are and what we can offer.

MP thanked BB for his time and work and wished him well on his retirement. He has been a super contact and has helped the town. BB is still going to be on the Chamber of commerce.

MP said if we can reach out and get a face to face connection it will help us.

MM suggests business want to get something out of it or have an effect on the decision. Need to ensure it is something they can help with.

AW spoke about contacting IR to deal with the problem with the buildings at the end of the high street. MP suggested if everyone worked together we could make a real difference.

If we have a policy in place we can mitigate against flood risk.

It was generally felt that a lack of homes for people was a bigger problem than occasional flooding.

Action NL – Special Item on next agenda to look at planning and flood risk etc.

JF pointed out there is the Coastal navigators network. SJMS is working on this, HH will get an update.

5. Data

NL lead a presentation about current trends. (Please see presentation attached)

There followed a discussion of the different uses there would be for the data.

Bill asked if there was a way to look at various vulnerabilities such as if M&S was to change it's model. We pointed out we could get data from any individual business and extrapolate it to give us a wider picture.

MP asked if the data could be pulled together to tell the story with evidence, rather than purely anecdotal.

6. DCC

DCC have approved improvements to the long bridge. Hoping to start in 2026 but this will lead to inconvenience. Improvements at Station also approved.

MP spoke about Homes England and if they could have involvement in progressing with future use of the Oliver buildings. It is his opinion we should take a strong line very soon, especially before LGR. We need to realise what is the best EC Dev solution going forwards.

MP asked whether this group should respond to the Port Marine safety code consultation. Barnstaple is an ancient port and should stay so, and to give up on the port history would be a shame.

There is a time limit on responses of Jan 5th.

There was a question to whether the consultation period could be extended – HH will look into this.

7. Library Consultation

EM explained the consultation is live.

For Barnstaple they are looking at a reduction in hours to 43.5 and also looking at reducing the smaller libraries. This will mean a reduction in opening hours. This will be based on footfall data. Consultation is about the DCC funded aspects. There is lots of anecdotal evidence that lots of people who need the service to make a real difference to their lives.

MP suggested some one creates a couple of Paragraphs about the partnership's feelings on this – HH will draft a response.

8. Age Concern - Amanda

There are lots of people who would like to access the town but are unable to. There is a proposal for the Northern Devon Community Transport partnership which relies on the community transport organisations.

The current payments that are coming in are not coming close to covering the cost of running the programme. Age Concern have been given funding from the National Lottery to help with the financial pressures.

1200 clients at present across the services and a lot of them would like to come in more often but the need cannot be met. This investment from the lottery will help bridge the gap.

Clients feel much safer now coming into town. There is a need for more disabled parking and benches through town.

Please see attached document.

- RW passed on the information that Simon Harvey had sadly passed away.
- NDVS has an event in Green lanes 12th February

A new benefit of the Devon Connect site is that they are looking at how they can use the website for young people to 'find stuff to do'. They would like partners to comment on usefulness and suitability of the site.

9. AOB

NL will send out information about Flourishing Culture awards

LF the High Sherriff will be back in town on Jan 12th if anyone would like to meet her.

Date of next meeting: - 6th February 2026