



Barnstaple Place Partnership board

Friday 9th May 2025 09.30am – 11.00am

Guildhall, Barnstaple

1. Welcome and introductions

Apologies – Helen Bone, Katalin Fulop, Janet Coates, Louise York, Cathryn Hewitt, Bill Blythe, Mike Day.

Attendees: - Jess Foy, Jon Rodney Jones, Alison Mills, Mike Matthews, Sarahjane Mackensie-Shapland, Hannah Harrington, Cllr Malcolm Prowse, Craig Bulley, Matthew Brown, Louise Flagg, Cllr David Clayton

Notes from previous meeting agreed.

2. Pannier market update

HH – gave presentation of what is happening and what Holly is doing to improve and bring the market up to date. Trader numbers are not bad compared to previous years. Numbers of visitors aren't as bad as first thought. MP asked what is happening with the Shambles – JF replied that it will be an information centre for tourists and locals, want it to be a front facing hub. There will be no conflict with NDC hub in green lanes. JRJ asked about the corn store if Studio Kind moved out, they are staying for another year so it will be addressed. CB – Bull court stairs are being done, we could work on the link to the Pannier market and Market Street. SJ asked about age concern being communicated with, HH said HB has been speaking to Amanda. DC said there aren't enough traders or variety, maybe offer and incentive. HH said that HBs task is to get numbers up and promote the market. MM asked if the glass doors have helped visitor figures improve, HH replied that we will look at the numbers. MP said we need to keep trying different things even if they don't work. Public response to social media posts have improved.

Visitor Insights – HH gave presentation on the number of visitors. Shows that the number of visitors to Barnstaple haven't changed dramatically. MM did some work around where people visited and for how long, HH invited him to come and look at it. DC asked what we are going to do with the data. SJ and HH – targeted promotions, when and where to put on events. AM we can report back to funding strands and have proof.

Vacant Units working group update: HH still looking at 8% will be getting touch with the buildings we have prioritised by the end of the month. Milletts in the High Street is a priority. JRJ with the building trust will also be contacted the owners.



UKSPF – 25/26 – the TES scheme ended up being successful. MP suggested we do the admin and get some applications in for the window adverts. Pass any suggestions to Hannah or Naomi.

The strand – JF task and finish group – they have set up a CIC to do the work and put on events. They have had a meeting with DCC Duncan regarding the lights. Alistair has mapped all the lights that are and not working. Tree lighting and up lighting restored. Vehicle access is also being discussed with the possibility of installing an ANPR camera – have to have regard to delivery lorries. MP suggested it goes on the HATOC agenda, HH said it already has but it can be raised with the new DCC councillor. SJ reported that there is a new highway officer just started, he's coming in Mid-June. DC asked for updated list of members who are invited. MP asked what the long term aim of the CIC is – JF replied it will joint working programme to put on events and maintain the strand.

Antisocial behaviour – HH there is a lot of work going on in the background with DC Police and youth justice working especially with the youth at the moment. AW gave a report JF to send to NL to share.

3. Improving the functionality of the town

Public art – commissioned 3 artists – will be done with community workshops. Planning apps will be going in shortly. Will be employing an external consultant for the works in Gorwell and Forches. Trails - AM has spoken to Steve short regarding the 100 stories trail and putting plaques in the pavements, he was very relaxed about it. Heritage interpretation boards will all be replaced on existing plinths. New board in Trinity Street explaining about the elephant. Castle green, the strand and rock park will all have new boards.

Wayfinding update: Fingerposts are being collected on Monday and NL and LB will be going out on Wednesday to do the position marking.

Butchers Row/Cross Street – Still in discussion with DCC

Tuly Street project - HH reported that the report has been written for the PID - what do we want to achieve? MP suggested accessing the car park a different way as the first step. Need to be mindful of M and S deliveries. How do we address castle mound surrounding area? Traffic orders need to be addressed and map the constraints and dependencies. SJ suggested we speak to the new highway officer. Will also need to talk to Libraries unlimited.

AM archaeology bid – has secured funding to sort out the excavated objects done 45 years ago. £50k development phase for a 9 month project.

4. DoNM

- 20th June 2025

