

**St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 9.45am – Stable Block/TEAMS**

Attendees:

Democratic: Councillor Malcolm Brown (Town Council) (MB), Councillor Colin Hamilton (Town Council) (CH), Councillor Paul Ashcroft (Cornwall Councillor) (PA), Councillor Mark Gray (MG), Councillor Jack Yelland (Cornwall Councillor) (TEAMS).

Voluntary/Community: Chris Sampson (CS), Sandra Heyward (SH).

Business: Peter Moody (PM), Neil Woodward (NW).

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (SG), David Pooley (DP), Bill McCardle (BMc), Sarah Scoltock (SS) (TEAMS).

Also Present:

Penny Mergler - Arts Centre Trustee
Adam Knuckey - Design Lead (CORMAC) (TEAMS)
Melanie Bertie, Turner and Townsend Project Management Ltd (TEAMS)
Matt Williams, Lavigne Lonsdale (TEAMS)

Election of Vice Chair (Business Sector)

PM asked if consideration of this item could be postponed until the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Election of the Vice Chair (Business Sector) be postponed until the next meeting.

Election of Vice Chair (Democratic Sector)

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Colin Hamilton as Vice-Chair for the democratic sector for the following 12 months.

Apologies for absence

Annette Miller (AM), David Hendry (DH), Mark Ellis (ME), Miles Lovegrove (ML)

Minutes of the meeting dated 1st July 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting dated 1st July 2025.

Councillor Brown advised that Cornwall Council do not intend making any alterations to the bus timetable at the present time.

Councillor Ashton advised that he is aware of public concern with regard to the buses but unfortunately a further review is not likely in the short term.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk to set up a meeting between the Town Council and Cornwall Council to discuss bus timetable/bus routes at a suitable time.

A question was raised about the hotel being built at Sedgemoor.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk to set up a meeting between the developer and the partnership in due course.

*** Letitia Mayne, Cornwall College arrived during the next item by TEAMS***

Arts Centre

Melanie Bertie advised that Turner and Townsend Project Management Ltd and Lavigne Lonsdale have been commissioned by Cornwall Council to look at the design and viability of re-locating the arts centre from its current location to Unit 3C in the town centre. She advised that stakeholder meetings were planned and a report should be available by the end of the year.

Penny Mergler, a Trustee of the Arts Centre expressed her personal view about re-locating the arts centre and her concerns about the loss of the current site and its history.

The Partnership expressed support for the completion of the feasibility study and the need to look at accessibility, capacity, community uses and the viability of the centre at its current site as keys issues to consider.

The Chair thanked Melanie Bertie and Matt Williams for their presentation.

ACTION: Sarah Scoltock to report back the partnership's comments regarding the need to look at the ongoing feasibility of the Arts Centre as well as the potential to re-locate it to Unit 3C in the town centre.

Penny Mergler left the meeting

Melanie Bertie and Matt Williams left the meeting

Highways Report

Adam Knuckey, Design Lead from Cornwall Council outlined the Highways Projects commissioned by Town Council with regard to traffic flows around the town centre. He outlined the difficulties in particular with regard to a one way system around the church and permitting traffic flows through Fore Street.

During discussion, the group support the changes proposed to Market Street, Duke Street and reversing the traffic flow through Fore Street.

Mr Knuckey disagreed with the proposal with regard to reversing the traffic flow through Fore Street as he felt the junction at Bodmin Road would be less safe.

The Chair thanked Mr Knuckey for his presentation.

ACTION: Town Clerk to write to Cornwall Council to encourage completion of the highways schemes approved by the partnership.

Adam Knuckey left the meeting

Cornwall Council update

In the absence of Mark Ellis, Sarah Scoltock provided an update as follows:

- **General Wolfe.** 1 expression of interest has been received and is currently being considered. A report recommending a way forward will be submitted to Cornwall Council's Cabinet in due course.
- **Chi Austel.** The new offices in White River Place are now open which has a Family Hub located within it as well as the Registrars Service and a number of meeting rooms. The next CAP meeting will take place there on the 22nd October. The MP and Town Councillors had a tour of the building on the 18th September.
- **Carlyon House.** St Austell Healthcare have purchased Carlyon House from Cornwall Council and are planning to create a Health Hub at the site.
- **Treveth.** A planning application for a reduced number of houses has been submitted to Cornwall Council and should be in the public domain shortly.
- **Police Sector Inspector.** Inspector Matt Trevithian has returned from secondment to Sector Inspector for St Austell and the surrounding area.
- **Fire Station.** A project is being worked up with the Fire Station for a programme of activities over a 4-6 week period for young people struggling with their confidence.

Town Centre Revitalisation

Poundland Banners

- Both banners are up and looking very good.

Piazza

- The ground works are complete (utilities, lighting) and laying of the granite etc will start next week.

Town Council update

- **VJ Day, Fun Day.** The parade and fun day went well and saw a lot of people in the town centre enjoying the activities.
- **Priory Car Park.** The Finance and General Purposes Committee have recommended that the Car Park Charges in Priory Car Park are frozen for the 2026/27 financial year.
- **Pump Track, The Meadows.** Following a successful grant application to the Community Levelling Up Programme, the pump track is due to commence on Monday with a completion date scheduled for end of November.

- **Skateboard Park, Poltair Park.** Community pressure is gathering for a new skateboard park at Poltair Park. The Operations Manager is liaising with the community, potential suppliers and potential funding streams.
- **ASB.** ASB in the town has increased over the last few weeks, with 2-3 individuals giving cause for concern, particularly with regard to the Priory Car Park toilets and the Pondhu Childrens Centre which has now closed.

Councillor Brown added that the Town Council unanimously agreed to set up a working group to explore the potential to establish a Youth Council.

Town Regeneration and Investment Programme (TRIP)

Mr McCardle outlined the 5 projects that he is undertaking following the successful TRIP funding bid.

- Improved signage to the town centre from Priory Car Park
- Screening of the old fire station site
- Repair and planters on the Baptist church railings
- Planting on the slope down to the toilets in White River Place
- Phase 2 design for the Holy Trinity Church grounds

Arising from the above, concern was expressed with regard to the poor lighting in the 3 opes in the town centre.

ACTION: Town Clerk to speak to Cornwall Council about improved lighting in the town centre.

Any Other Business

Concern was expressed about the lack of funding for Cornwall following the Government's recent Pride in Place funding announcement.

ACTION: Town Clerk to write to the MP to express the partnership's concern at the lack of funding being made available to Cornwall for town centre improvements.

LM advised that Cornwall College has seen a significant uplift in the number of students enrolled at the college which is extremely pleasing. The new building works are progressing well, and the interior designs and future proofing are an integral part of the new building.

LM reiterated the availability of the Keay Theatre for community group.

Arising from a question LM agreed to obtain an update on the proposals for improved facilities at AFC St Austell.

ACTION: LM to provide the partnership with an update on the proposals for improved facilities at AFC St Austell at the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday 2nd December 2025, 9.45am at the Stable Block.

Tuesday 27th January 2026, 9.45am at the Stable Block.