

St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 9.45am – Stable Block/TEAMS

Attendees:

Democratic: Councillor Malcolm Brown (Town Council) (MB) (TEAMS), Councillor Colin Hamilton (Town Council) (CH), Councillor Mark Gray (MG), Councillor Jack Yelland (Cornwall Councillor) (JY) (TEAMS), Noah Law (MP) (TEAMS).

Voluntary/Community: Chris Sampson (CS), Sandra Heyward (SH), Heather Batho (HB), David Hendry (DH).

Business: Peter Moody (PM), Miles Lovegrove (ML), Dale Lovatt (DL) Laetitia Mayne (LM).

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

Also in attendance: Mark Mitchley, Town Council, Senior Projects Officer.

Apologies for absence

Councillor Paul Ashton (Cornwall Councillor) (PA), Mark Ellis (ME), Neil Woodward (NW).

Minutes of the meeting dated 30th September 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting dated 30th September 2025.

Matters to note

DP advised the

- Comments on bus services had been passed to Cornwall Council but it had not proved possible to have a meeting;
- The hotel operators will be invited to a meeting nearer completion of construction works at Sedgemoor;
- Highways reports have been passed to CC highways for consideration when funding permits;
- He had yet to raise the issue of town centre lighting with Cornwall Council.
- He had written to the MP as instructed but had not yet received a response.
- The Arts Centre will be raised later in the agenda.

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.

St Austell College Update – Laetitia Mayne

LM provided a presentation setting out progress with building works at the Cornwall College St Austell campus. She explained that the Keay Theatre was being retained and it was hoped to move into the new buildings in January 2027.

A commitment has been made to create an 'A' Level centre which should operate from September 2027 in conjunction with the two CELT managed secondary schools in the town. The College will incorporate a solar farm and be the first carbon neutral college. New buildings will be more attractive and provide better social spaces as well as a better learning environment.

Demolition of the old John Keay House will take place 12-18 months from completion of the new buildings.

LM explained the links to learning facilities in Eden and Plymouth and the range of courses which would be available at the College.

The Partnership expressed gratitude for the comprehensive update and the advancements being made.

Town Centre Revitalisation

DP advised that the Piazza is now complete. HB advised that the Church is delighted with the finished space and hoped that phase 2 could be delivered in due course.

ACTION: DP to monitor funding opportunities.

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 of and installation of 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

The poor weather had impacted on progress but Cornwall Council had extended the completion deadline and all projects should be completed within acceptable timescales.

Arising from a question, the Town Clerk advised that Cornwall Council is in discussions with the football club regarding the issues surrounding the grandstand and changing facilities.

LM advised that the College at the present time could no longer find funding to support the Football Club.

SS suggested that the Football Club could look at the criteria for CIL funding.

Community Levelling Up Programme

DP advised that a fantastic state of the art pump track had been completed at the Meadows Park which should attract users from a wide area when the weather improves. A formal opening event is planned for the Spring.

Community Infrastructure Levy

DP advised that expressions of interest are being invited for CIL grants of £20,000-£100,000 for projects that improve accessibility and infrastructure to support or facilitate new developments. He anticipated bids being submitted by YPC for youth facilities and St Austell Town Council for improvements to cycling/walking routes at the Meadows and Poltair Parks.

ACTION: DP to submit a CIL bid.

St Austell Town Council Update

DP provided updates as follows:

- Skateboard Park, Poltair Park – potential works to update the skateboard park are being explored
- Library – negotiations to transfer the freehold of the Library from Cornwall Council to the Town Council are progressing.
- The House – it is hoped to secure a long-lease or freehold of The House and protect the 40 jobs there.
- ASB – shoplifting is still an issue. The future of Hotspot funding is uncertain.
- The roof of Park House flats was severely damaged in the storm and is likely to take many weeks to repair. Power was also lost to the CCTV and the lifts in the building.

Town Centre Vacancy Register

CS outlined a meeting with Victoria Hall from Cornwall Council who has commissioned consultants to undertake an audit of vacant shops in St Austell. It was not yet clear if this would be linked to the High Street Auction initiative or if the detailed findings would be shared with the Partnership due to concerns relating to data protection.

Noah Law MP advised that he was hoping to form a community group to implement a town centre housing scheme and invited interested parties to contact him. He anticipated a public announcement soon.

ACTION: Interested Partnership members to contact Noah Law MP.

Cornwall Council update

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

- **Carlyon House.** St Austell Healthcare have purchased Carlyon House from Cornwall Council and have commenced work to create a health hub.

- **General Wolfe.** Previous proposals are not viable. Historic England are considering a request to list the unlisted part of the General Wolfe and Corserv Facilities Ltd are being encouraged to consider selling the building.
- **St Austell Arts Centre.** Cornwall Council are waiting for the final feasibility report. It is expected to say that it would be possible to create a theatre in the town centre but it would need a strong partnership/operator to make a success of it. A feasibility assessment of the current Arts Centre site had not been completed. It was noted that the trustees of the Arts Centre had mixed views about moving.
- SS advised the dates of the next Community Area Partnership meetings, a health event in Chi Austel and the CAP funding newsletter.

Any Other Business

- DP advised that the Geraint Richards, High Sheriff is keen that the masterplan should be reviewed.
- Noah Law MP highlighted a GWR community grant scheme.
- SH advised that the Old Cornwall Society has erected a plaque at the station depicting the old bridge.
- CS asked if Treveth had made any further progress with regard to the Penwinnick Road Planning Application.

Future Meeting Dates

To be determined.

The meeting closed at 11.32am.