

St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 10.00am – Stable Block/TEAMS

Attendees:

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

Voluntary/Community: Chris Sampson (CS), Heather Batho (HB), Dr James McClure (JM) (TEAMS). (**VACANCY**).

Business: Peter Moody (PM), Miles Lovegrove (ML) (TEAMS), Laetitia Mayne (LM) (TEAMS), Neil Woodward (NW).

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (SG), David Pooley (DP), Annette Miller (AM), Mark Ellis (TEAMS)

Apologies for absence

Sarah Scoltock (Community Link Officer), Sandra Heyward (Market House).

Resignation

The Chair advised that David Hendry had resigned from the group and thanked him for his contributions and support. Members were asked to think about potential replacements.

ACTION: Members to try to identify a potential replacement.

Minutes of the meeting dated 27th January 2026

Ashcroft should read Ashton in the apologies section and the surplus word “better” should be deleted in the second paragraph relating to St Austell College.

Subject to the above amendments, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes for the meeting dated 27th January 2026.

Matters to note

The Clerk advised that:

- The CIL funding application was unsuccessful.
- The five TRIP projects are complete and the planters on the Baptist church railings, old fire station site and outside Studio 4 have been planted up.
- Geraint Richards (former High Sheriff) is still very keen to link up the historic quarter of St Austell (Holy Trinity Church area) with Carlyon Road.

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 Healthcare Hub, Carlyon Road – Dr James McClure (JMc)

The Chair welcomed Dr McClure to the meeting and invited him to provide an update on the proposed healthcare hub at Carlyon Road.

JMc advised that works are progressing and as always with such projects there have been some unforeseen issues. There are plans to incorporate a major ground source heat system which would go to a depth of 2 miles. Interest amongst health organisations to co-locate at Carlyon House is encouraging and a dentist is interested in the Parkhouse surgery building.

St Austell Healthcare is working with Active Cornwall, Young People Cornwall and the Leisure Centre in the hope of securing funding for more active lifestyles. In response to a question JMc confirmed that he is in talks with the health and building sections at St Austell College. He advised that there might be a need for key worker housing for health professionals.

JMc advised that the Polkyth surgery had been the subject of vandalism and enquired about the potential to lift trees and clear some of the vegetation on Cornwall Council land to improve sight lines and make the area safer. In particular, concern was raised about the caravan parked in Polkyth car park.

SG advised that Helen Toms, Community Safety Officer has agreed to contact JMc about the ASB issues identified.

During discussion, the following was raised:

- If the health group would be open to taking on industry placements from Cornwall College
- The potential to provide pop up surgeries in empty shops

The group thanked JMc for his comprehensive update.

St Austell College Update – Laetitia Mayne

The Chair welcomed Laetitia Mayne to the meeting and invited her to provide an update on the college.

LM advised that the new A level centre was launched on the 4th June with a potential range of 18 subjects. The College is also working in partnership with Exeter University and Plymouth Argyle to strengthen the academic and enrichment aspects of provision to ensure a broad and high quality student experience.

The college will be moving into Building One in November, followed by Building Two in January. There will be a "Then and Now" Event in July at John Keay House to celebrate the iconic building.

The *Key to the Keay* community event in May was a huge success, with Mount Charles Band and Pointe Dance Academy delivering two fantastic performances and raising funds for their groups. Applications for the 2027 *Key to the Keay* are now open and will close in September.

The college has entered into a multi-year sponsorship and community partnership with St Austell Football Club which will enhance enrichment opportunities while increasing access to local sporting opportunities for the wider St Austell community.

The CEO is in discussions with Cornwall Council about expanding adult education opportunities within the town centre. Plans are underway to grow the adult provision on campus from September 2026 and recognising that a campus-based offer is not suitable for everyone the college is committed to ensuring that a range of accessible options are available across the community.

Trinity Street – 2 Year Road Closure

The Group noted the one-way system in Trinity Street to allow cladding work to be undertaken to flats. JY advised that he had been co-ordinating discussions between various parties and assisted with directional signage issues on Truro Road.

It is hoped that there will be a dedicated community liaison person based in White River Place shortly to assist with any queries arising from the project.

Town Council update

Skateboard Park. The Town Council is exploring the upgrade of the Skateboard Park at Poltair Park. The tender documentation being put together will hopefully find a contractor who will hopefully be able to obtain funding, design and deliver the project.

Library. The Clerk advised that he is still negotiating with Cornwall Council for the freehold transfer of the library to St Austell Town Council but has concern with regard to a "Buy Back" clause within the Heads of Terms which, as it stands, adversely affects the Town Council.

The House. The Clerk advised that he is negotiating with Cornwall Council for the leasehold transfer of The House to the Town Council but has concern with regard to the contribution rate the Town Council is expected to pay towards the upkeep of the road.

Local Plan. The Town Council has agreed to produce a Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS) (a statement about the Parish) which will feed into the new Local Plan. The results of the pilots being carried out in other towns and further guidance from Cornwall Council is awaited before work can start.

The Clerk advised that the views of the partnership will be sought in due course once the work on the NPS is underway.

MB reiterated that the views of the partnership on the emerging local plan will be very important and expressed a view that the public consultation by Cornwall Council so far has not been adequate.

PA advised that he is on the Local Plan Planning Group and is happy to pass on any concerns.

Events. The Meadows Pump Track opening event was very successful with good support from the Police, Fire Brigade, Young People Cornwall, Library and a professional BMX rider. Cornwall Armed Forces Day is due to take place in the town centre on Saturday 20th June 2026. The RBL is leading on the event with the road closure the responsibility of the Town Council. Additional resource in the form of security guards, staff and trucks has been organised due to the recent government announcement that the UK is on "severe" alert.

Youth Council. The Town Council has set up a Youth Council and the young people are due to attend the Community Committee on 6th July. The views of the young people will be helpful in due course on a number of projects including the NPS and SkatePark.

ASB. There has been a marked increase in ASB in the town centre over recent months including a lot of vandalism in Priory toilets. There has also been a noticeable increase in drug dealing, shop lifting and youth crime.

HB advised the group that the church is experiencing severe anti-social behaviour in and around the church grounds and the police have had to be called out on a number of occasions.

Cornwall Council update

Mark Ellis provided an update as follows:

- **Town centre vacancy register**

Information has been gathered but there were concerns about the legality of releasing this under GDPR. No decision has been made by Cornwall Council on the high street auction process.

ACTION: DP to circulate vacancy register to the Partnership when Cornwall Council is satisfied that there are no GDPR implications in doing so.

- **Mid Cornwall Metro**

Network Rail has completed the capital works at Newquay Station and the Goss Moor passing loop. ME waiting for an update on service frequency and timings.

- **General Wolfe.** Sale now completed. ME did not know the details of the new owner.

- **Town Centre Theatre.** The feasibility work has been completed and the final report is awaited. It is expected to say that it would be possible to create a theatre in the town centre but it would be very expensive. There is no longer any commercial interest in the shop.

AM advised that she is looking for a space for the very popular crazy golf to be set up in and asked ME if the BID could use the New Look Building.

ACTION: AM send the details to ME for consideration.

LM advised that the college would be open to discussions with community groups with regard to theatre provision.

Miles Lovegrove and Laetitia Mayne – left the meeting

Future Funding Streams

The Clerk advised there are very few Government funding streams at the moment and that the few funding streams available appear to be directed towards Mayoral authorities. Funding has however been announced through the Sports Partnership for St Austell and Penzance through Active Cornwall which could see large sums of money being available for the two towns in due course. It is a very long process to tap into the funding and the Town Council will be sending representatives to the meetings set up by Cornwall Council over the next few months.

Any Other Business

- **Streetlights.** Cornwall Council is looking to extend its streetlight dimming/switch off in various towns across Cornwall including St Austell. The town centre in St Austell will remain switched on. Concern has been expressed to Cornwall Council by some towns that switching off/dimming the lights in residential areas conflicts with community safety aspirations particularly with regard to the safety of women.
- **Treveth.** The Clerk advised that there is no news about the Treveth planning application for the Penwinnick Road development. At least 2 tents (homeless) are on the site at the present time.
- **Persimmon Homes.** Persimmon Homes has submitted an outline planning application for 325 homes just outside the Town Council's area at Gewans Farm. The Town Council objected to the application at its Planning and Regeneration meeting on 15th June 2026.
- **Town Council Offices.** The Clerk advised that Treveth has offered the Town Council space on the Penwinnick Road site but it would mean the office and depot being split which is not ideal.
- **Town Team.** The Town Clerk advised that a Town Team has been set up and is chaired by Jake Richards of Jakes Bakes. Other members of the team include Dave Halton, Mark Gray, Steve Nott and Andrew Stickland. To date the Town Team has put out a survey on the Earth Goddess and is hoping to have a town centre car show event.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 (to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 11.40am.