St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 29th September 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).

Voluntary/Community**:** Chris Sampson (CS), Heather Batho (HB), Sandra Heyward (SH), Dr James McClure (JMc) (TEAMS). Alan Lawler (AL) (**VACANCY).**

Business**:** Peter Moody (PM), Laetitia Mayne (LM) (TEAMS).

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

Apologies for absence

Sarah Scoltock (Community Link Officer), Neil Woodward, Dale Lovatt, Miles Lovegrove.

Voluntary/Community Vacancy

Members were asked to think about potential replacements.

ACTION: Members to try to identify a potential replacement.

Minutes of the meeting dated 23rd June 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes for the meeting dated 23rd June 2026.

Matters arising

JMc raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour arising from a caravan in Polkyth Car Park and rough sleeping in the trees/overgrown area adjacent to the old Registrar's Office.

ACTION: SG to talk to Annabelle Lammy about the caravan.

ACTION: ME to explore responsibility within Cornwall Council for the overgrown area subject to rough sleeping.

CS asked ME about the sharing of the vacancy register. ME advised that after discussions with the Town Clerk with regard to Data Protection concerns and future ownership of the data, the register in its current format cannot be circulated.

JY advised that he had been working on a vacancy register utilising information provided by the BID which he might be able to share.

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.

Noah Law MP

Noah Law MP joined the meeting by Teams from his party-political conference.

NL provided an update on the Community Land Trust which has 10 on its steering group, has raised £30,000 to date and is seeking to raise more funds to allow the purchase and conversion of a property in Truro Road. He expressed gratitude for a grant from the Town Council.

NL advised that his "community conversations" had gone well and information had been shared with the police. A briefing note has been produced following the meetings.

ACTION: NL to send DP the briefing note to circulate.

NL advised that the High Street Rental Auctions initiative is being funded by the Government and advised that other towns had successfully revitalised their town centres through this initiative.

DP asked how the derelict shop funding will be distributed.

ACTION: NL undertook to look into the recent town centre funding announced by the Government including high street rental auctions.

LM made reference to Further Education funding and asked NL if he could keep pressing the Government for funding. NL referred to funding for schools, the apprenticeship schemes and the devolution skills fund. He thanked the college for their hard work, their work with the football club and offered them a place on the Community Land Trust.

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 Park Surgery has been converted to include 2 dental rooms to be operated by Smile Dental.

Building work on the Carlyon Road health hub has experienced some slippage. It is anticipated that the first tenants will move in in October 2027 and works will be complete in October 2028. Remedial work internally including reinforcing, levelling of floors, electricity and heating are being completed. The parking areas are due to be tarmacked next week. JMc advised that there are plans to drill down 1.5 miles to fuel a ground source heat system.

JMc advised that he is still looking for funding and loans and enquired whether there was any S106 or CIL funding available. ME offered to investigate CIL funding if St Austell Healthcare submit a bid.

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.

ACTION: LM to explore opportunities for placements and to supply faculty head details.

ACTION: DP to speak to JMc in due course once further information is known about the CCTV cameras proposed for the Polkyth site.

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 College have had a number of events to celebrate the history of John Keay House including a "Then and now" event, a memory book in conjunction with Wheal Martyn, choirs and the recycling of an old granite way marker. Approximately 800 16-19 year olds have been recruited. St Austell has a high number of EHCP students and students lacking the required grades for English and Maths.

The college will be moving into Building One, Kaolin, at half term and A level courses are on target for delivery from September 2027.

LM advised that the college has sponsored St Austell Rugby Club, the football pitch at Polkyth and Rob Bosworth has joined Active Cornwall as a non-executive Director. LM reminded the group that the college is open to discussions with the Arts Centre to see how they might be able to support them.

ACTION: LM agreed to share her powerpoint presentation.

Town Team – Mark Gray (MG)

MG explained that the Town Team is a group of interested individuals who had so far organised a Pride event, a Bake-off and a town centre car show. The group hoped to arrange monthly events including events for Halloween and Christmas.

The Revitalisation Group talked about the need to co-ordinate events and maintain communications so that clashes can be avoided.

Potential Projects

DP advised that Geraint Richards (former High Sheriff) is keen for the Masterplan to be reviewed with a view to concentrating on the historic quarter of the town eg: Holy Trinity Church, High Cross Street area.

HB advised that phase 2 of the church piazza has been designed but at the moment there is no funding to progress the project.

St Austell Town Council update

Town Council Office accommodation

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council has successfully tendered for the Mount Charles Social Club and all being well will be moving its office/depot to the site in spring/summer 2027.

Skateboard Park, Poltair

Work has started on a tender process for a new Skateboard Park in Poltair Park.

Library

The freehold transfer has stalled due to a lack of a warranty for the newly installed boiler. It is likely that the Town Council will take the freehold of the building on condition that Cornwall Council remain responsible for the boiler.

The House

The leasehold transfer has stalled due to a delay in the governance processes at Cornwall Council.

Youth Council

The Town Council has set up a Youth Council made up of students from Poltair and Penrice Schools. The lead Members are Councillors Preece and Whitehouse, assisted by Mark Mitchley, Senior Projects Officer. They have a small budget for projects and will be helpful to both the Town Council and Revitalisation Partnership when seeking the views of young people.

ASB/Street Marshalls

The OPCC funding for the street marshals runs out in September which will leave a significant shortfall. Shop lifting is still prevalent and a number of new faces are around.

Events

- Halloween Silent Disco, Library – Friday 30th October 2026
- Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service – Sunday 8th November 2026
- Schools Church Concert, St John's Methodist Church – Friday 4th December 2026

Arising from the above, a discussion took place with regard to the closure of TG Jones which would leave the town centre without a post office.

ACTION: The Town Clerk agreed to write to TG Jones expressing the Partnership's strong concerns with regard to the closure of the Post Office in the town centre and urging them to find alternative premises.

St Austell Town Council – Planning update

Councillor Brown advised that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been amended and published and high level discussions are taking place with regard to Mayoral authorities, standalone authorities and devolution.

Cornwall Council will be holding a series of consultation events in respect of the Local Plan. The first one is by invitation only and is due to be held in the town centre on the 1st December 2026.

The Town Council has agreed to produce a Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS) which will feed into the new local Plan. The Town Council will undertake comprehensive public consultation to assess what is important to the public.

Cornwall Council update

ME advised that the Chief Executive is on a leave of absence and an interim Deputy CEO has been appointed. Due to severe budgetary pressures, all spending over £1,000 is now overseen by a Spending Control Panel. A new Service Director has been appointed for Economy, Regeneration and Assets.

Trinity Street

The Town Clerk advised that the one-way system appears to be working well following some early teething problems. AM advised that a few people still try to go the wrong way down the one-way system and the visibility exiting the multi-storey car park is restricted due to the hoarding.

Arising from the above, it was agreed that a Working Group should be set up to look at empty shops and that it would be helpful to have a Cornwall Council representative in attendance.

ACTION: ME to ask the Service Director who is suitable to attend.

Any Other Business

- *Future Funding Streams.* At the present time there are no large-scale town centre funding streams for Cornwall.

- *Treveth, Penwinnick Road*. Permission has been granted for 78 homes with no affordable housing or Section 106 agreements.

- *Gewans Farm development.* No further details are known at the present time.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15th December 2026, 10am at The Stable Block.