

**St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 9.45am – Stable Block/TEAMS**

**Attendees:**

Democratic: Councillor Malcolm Brown (Town Council) (MB), Noah Law MP (NL) (TEAMS), Councillor Jack Yelland (Cornwall Councillor) (JY) (TEAMS), Councillor Colin Hamilton (Town Council) (CH), Councillor Paul Ashton (Cornwall Councillor) (PA).

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

Business: Peter Moody (PM), Miles Lovegrove (ML) (TEAMS), Dale Lovatt (DL).

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

**Election of Chair**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Chris Sampson as Chair for the next 12 months.

The Partnership expressed their gratitude to Peter Moody the outgoing Chair for all his hard work over the last 12 months as Chair.

**Election of Vice Chairs**

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the election of the Vice Chairs until the meeting in September.

Following the May elections and a change in membership, it was **AGREED** that the members present should introduce themselves.

It was **FURTHER AGREED** that a note of thanks should be sent to the outgoing members, Tom French, Councillor Crystal Pearce, Councillor Richard Pears and Anne Double for their contributions to the partnership.

**Terms of Reference**

It was **RESOLVED** to re-approve the Terms of Reference dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.

**Apologies for absence**

David Atkinson-Beaumont (DAB), Annette Miller (AM), David Hendry (DH), Letitia Mayne (LM) and Neil Woodward (NW).

The Town Clerk advised that Mr Atkinson-Beaumont had resigned from the partnership due to a change in role at the College. Letitia Mayne will continue to represent the college.

It was **AGREED** that a note of thanks should be sent to David Atkinson-Beaumont for his contributions over the past few years.

### **Minutes of the meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 subject to the word "decision" being inserted after "faculty" in the paragraph relating to the Holy Trinity Church Piazza.

The Clerk advised that since the last meeting the stakeholder group and Town Council have met with Treveth and a planning application for the Penwinnick Road site is due to be submitted shortly.

Cornwall Council is in discussions with the Trustees of the Arts Centre about the commissioning of a feasibility study to understand the potential for the Arts Centre to be re-located to the town centre.

The Clerk advised that another round of hotspot funding has been secured for the town centre security guards.

### **Town Centre Revitalisation**

The Town Clerk provided an update as follows:

#### *Poundland Banner*

The contract to print and instal the banner has been re-let and should be in situ by the end of July. It is envisaged that the work will take place over 2-3 evenings after 6pm. Bill Holland at White River Place is involved in the discussions.

#### *Church Piazza*

Work has commenced on the piazza and all being well should be completed in time for the Fun Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

#### *High Cross Street*

Due to a change in circumstances for the college, low property values and low rental income, the feasibility study has concluded that there is no business case for investment in student/key worker accommodation at the site.

#### *Highways Review*

The Highways Officers have concluded that they would not support buses passing through Fore Street or a reversal of traffic flow through Fore Street (before 10am and after 4pm) to improve visibility at the junction with Bodmin Road. They are however supportive of the creation of a pedestrian priority road scheme (utilising different colours or surfacing) between the Market House and Piazza.

At the present time there is no funding available to progress the scheme.

It was **AGREED** that Cornwall Council's Highways Officers should be invited to a future meeting to discuss the findings within the report.

### **Town Council update**

#### *Penwinnick Road Site*

The Town Clerk advised that since the last Partnership meeting, Treveth has had meetings with the Stakeholder Group and the Town Council and advised the following:

- The latest pre-application discussions indicate 76 dwellings for the site plus 8 units on the Pondhu House/Stable Block site.
- The bottom of the site will have limited development due to potential flooding issues.
- The majority of the Mayoral trees will be protected.
- A space for an office and a depot has been identified in two separate areas on the site for the Town Council to consider in due course.

#### *ASB*

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that there have been a few new faces around the town and a couple of prison releases who have caused issues in the town centre and at the Town Council's offices. She outlined some of the incidents that the security guards have dealt with over the last 2 weeks and highlighted shoplifting as a continuing problem. The Deputy Clerk added that the town has been without an ASB caseworker for over a year which has had a detrimental impact on being able to deal with ASB. Cornwall Council after a lot of chasing has confirmed that a new ASB caseworker is being trained up and will be starting in St Austell at the end of July.

HB outlined a nasty incident at the church which had been reported to the police.

PA advised that he had attended the Summer Fayre organised by the BID and was pleased to see so many people in attendance and expressed a view that events help to disburse and dilute ASB and the perception of ASB.

### **Town Regeneration and Investment Programme (TRIP)**

The Clerk outlined the TRIP funding, timescales and restrictions.

He explained that the funding is for town centre projects to make a difference to the social and economic life of the town. The deadline for applications has been extended until the 20<sup>th</sup> July but the delivery deadline remains at 31<sup>st</sup> December. There is revenue funding (feasibility studies, design work) from £2,500 to £100,000 and capital grant funding (delivery) from £25,000 to £500,000.

The Clerk advised that White River Place is in discussions with Meiloci regarding a potential funding bid and Neil Woodward has asked that the tidying up of the old fire station is considered for a bid.

The Clerk advised that the Regeneration Officer is obtaining prices for a range of small scale projects, and they will be considered by the Town Council at their meeting next week.

A feasibility study for the potential re-location of the arts centre and an improvement project for White River Place were welcomed by the partnership.

### **Cornwall Council update**

Mark Ellis updated the partnership as follows:

#### *Carlyon Road*

Cornwall Council has exchanged contracts with St Austell Healthcare and they will move into Carlyon House once the White River Place offices are ready for occupation.

ME advised that due to a lack of funding, no further projects identified in the Carlyon Road masterplan will be progressed for the time being.

#### *General Wolfe*

ME explained that Cornwall Council's plan to convert the General Wolfe into temporary housing is not viable and that with the support of the MP and the new administration an expression of interest process will be published shortly to provide the community with an opportunity to purchase and refurbish the building.

#### *White River Place*

The offices in White River Place are nearly ready for occupation with staff hopefully moving in from Carlyon House during the early autumn.

**ACTION:** SG to circulate the latest White River Place briefing from Cornwall Council to the partnership.

**ACTION:** SS to find out which services will be moving into White River Place and the total number of staff expected to use the facility.

#### *Metro Project*

ME advised that he is awaiting an update and will circulate this information once it has been received.

**ACTION:** ME to obtain a progress update and circulate it to the Partnership.

## *Arts Centre*

ME reiterated that discussions are taking place between Cornwall Council and the Arts Centre which has resulted in an agreement between the two parties that a feasibility study should be undertaken to ascertain the viability of the Arts Centre re-locating to the town centre.

**ACTION:** SG to invite the Trustees of the Arts Centre to attend the next partnership meeting.

PM asked for an update on signage being installed at Stenalees roundabout to discourage large lorries from travelling down Bodmin Road and the General Wolfe corner.

**ACTION:** SS to obtain an update from the Highways Officers and circulate the information once it has been received.

## **Financial Update**

The Clerk confirmed that the projects are on budget and schedule and the grant claims are up to date.

## **Any Other Business**

MB outlined a letter that the Town Council has sent to Cornwall Council and the bus companies suggesting improvements to the current bus timetable. A reply is awaited.

The Clerk advised that the Priory Car Park "Changing Places" toilet has been refurbished and the car park has been re-lined and hanging baskets installed. He added that work on a new hotel at Sedgemoor has commenced.

## **Future Meeting Dates**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.

NB: This date has since been changed to **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 9.45am at The Stable Block/TEAMS.**