

Barry Partnership Meeting
21st March 2025
Barry Library, Barry

Present

David Stevens (Chair)
Superintendent Marc Atwell
Cllr Lis Burnett
Fay Blakeley
Shirley Hodges
Kanishka Narayan MP
Innes Robinson
Sarah Cutting

Apologies

Cllr Bronwen Brooks

In attendance

(Vale of Glamorgan Council) - Rob Thomas, Mererid Velios, Phil Chappell, Finlay Crawford
(UK Government) – Brett John, Louise Davies, Alex Forster

Head Girl & Boy Whitmore & Pencoedtre

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Apologies for absence were noted.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.
- **DS (Chair)** emphasized the need for enhanced transparency in publishing meeting minutes and agendas, aligning with UK Government guidance.
- **KN** reiterated the importance of evidence-based research to inform sustainable long-term investment strategies.
- **RT** underscored the value of community-led regeneration approaches, cautioning against over-reliance on external investment.
- **Board Agreement:** Members agreed to schedule a presentation from two companies, recommended by **KN**, presentation to explore data-driven strategies for high-street revitalization and business development.

3. Youth Presentation

Students Ambassadors from Barry Sixth Form presented ideas and some investment priorities following discussions within the schools.

- **Green Spaces:**
 - Urgent investment in a park (colloquially referred to as “The Dump”) to improve maintenance and accessibility.
 - They felt that a café to generate revenue and serve as a community hub, alongside opportunities for youth employment (e.g serving food & drink in the cafe, park maintenance roles).
- **Sports and Recreation:**
 - Concerns raised about poor upkeep of game/sports facilities and prohibitive hourly charges (£5 for tennis at Romilly Park).
 - Suggested refurbishing pitches and creating low-cost recreational zones to help alleviate this.
 - Student ambassadors stressed the lack of activities for younger people in Barry, referred to the prevalence of anti-social behaviour due to lacking a safer environment to socialise in.
 - To accommodate this, suggested utilising the space behind Town Hall as an event space for social activities that can accommodate the interests of younger people – highlighted the opportunities for police officers to strengthen community connections.
 - Examples of this approach was noted in other towns and the positive impact that it had upon the community.
- **Safety and Inclusion:**
 - Highlighted that many young people that they had spoken to support the idea of a marina in Barry and that there was scope to do things like repurpose shipping containers for employment and activities.
 - Stressed the need to involve youth in decision-making processes.
- **Partnership Responses:**
 - **MV** confirmed youth priorities are being integrated into ongoing placemaking initiatives and that this would be an ongoing process. Suggested that much of the research that the council has already undertaken can be pulled in to strengthen this process.
 - **DS** discussed some possible quick wins for young people (e.g., free summer tennis program at Romilly Park and possibly elsewhere, repainting court markings on other facilities). Events and activities across Barry.
 - **LB** noted collaboration with local partnerships, while **SH** suggested exploring Town Council taking on King Square.
 - **FB** noted that the “dump” park is not in a bad condition but could do with more benches/tables and suggested that we need more feedback on how the park is used.

4. New Prospectus & Timelines

- The revised prospectus and new themes were reviewed. Partnership previously stated its desire to begin capacity building work with businesses, young people, safety and security etc. £400k budget in place and work can commence on this to be discussed at next meeting.
 - **Actions:**
 - Clarify the fit between draft strategy and new prospectus, including what objectives each sub-group would cover.
 - Explore establishing an events-focused subgroup in line with desire to pull together those leading on cultural activities.
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5. Your Place Presentation - SC

- Key findings on deprivation in Barry:
 - Areas rank within the top 10% nationally for income, employment, health, and education deprivation.
 - Focused workshops around these areas were mentioned as current engagement.
 - Relationship building was highlighted as a key success and strength of the project – alongside earning trust with local members.
 - Emphasis was placed on learning from this approach for successful interventions from the board.
 - **Challenges:**
 - Fly-tipping and cleanliness issues were flagged as costly and detrimental to community well-being.
 - Highlighted as a focus area to address in the future.
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6. Communications Strategy

- Proposals included:
 - Engaging supermarkets as locations to promote Barry Partnership initiatives.
 - Showcasing funded projects to encourage community involvement.
 - Using more creative online engagement to help promote constructive dialogue.
 - Call-out for applications and nominations for people to be involved with the Partnership or a sub-group.
 - **Action: MV** to draw up brief for a PR and Comms company, liaise with **FB** on the tasks and outcomes required.
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7. Resourcing Next Steps

- **Potential Ideas for early funding were discussed:**
 - **Cleanliness:**
 - Pilot project for targeted refuse collection in deprived areas of bulky waste.
 - “Big Barry Spring Clean” campaign – getting community members involved in helping tidy up Barry and helping foster community spirit.
 - **Community Events:**
 - More formalised support for Glastonbarry Fringe
 - Support for Welsh Language Music Day on Bro Radio for independent Welsh language Artists.
 - **Safety:** Develop a women’s safety app/digital map; deploy a mobile safety hub; enhanced CCTV in areas of concern.
 - **Youth Programs:** After-school clubs for girls using school facilities.
 - **Economic Vitality:** Help to address low footfall on Holton Road via a local trader magazine – aim to provide advice and a cooperative environment for traders.
- Low-risk funding opportunities and timelines to be reviewed.
 - Action: **MV** to pull together ideas for discussion at next meeting

8. Any Other Business

No additional items raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.