

Barry Plan for Neighbourhoods Board Meeting
Tuesday 28 April 2026
Castleland Community Centre, Barry

Welcome and Apologies

Present: Chair David Stevens (DS); Innes Robinson (IR); Joe Castle (JC); Cllr Lis Burnett (LB); Cllr Bronwen Brooks (BB); Fay Blakeley (FB); James Scorey (JS); Shirley Hodges (SH); Ch.Supt Mark Attwell (MA).

Apologies: Matt Blumberg, Matt Bowmer, Kanishka Narayan MP

In attendance: Mererid Velios (MV); Emma Bradshaw (EB); Sarah Cutting (SC); Rob Thomas (RT); Phil Chappell (PC); Marcus Goldsworthy (MG); Rhys Jones (RJ) (part).

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.

2. Notes from last meeting

During last meeting Bleed Kits project was reported rejected. MV to resubmit project proposal and offer update under agenda item 4. Also, Real Skillz project was reported pending until further information was available; IR to update under agenda item 4.

3. Internal Audit Report

MV provided an overview of the recent Internal Audit on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control, governance and risk management for the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. Conclusion: all documents, processes and monitoring arrangements were reviewed and received a 'green' rating. Recommendation: to strengthen meeting notes so they more clearly capture the decision-making process and specify actions with the appropriate delegated officer. PC circulated a full copy of the Audit Report via email to all board members.

Decision-making process for project approvals:

- EOI discussed at Action Group and agreed to be taken to the Board. The scoring matrix is then completed by the Plan for Neighbourhoods team using a red/amber/yellow/green scoring code, as a provisional score before the EOI is brought to the Board.
- At the Board meeting, project is discussed and a vote is taken (members to propose and second, and opportunity to object).

4. EOI's updated

DV Event

JC explained the Domestic Violence Awareness event promoted as a Health & Well-being family day due to take place on 28th May, came through SC via Katie Gooderham from Cadog's Corner not the AG. BB questioned was it the right location, citing Court 3 and Gibbonsdown 2 (LSOA's featured in WIMD 2019) would be more appropriate. MA confirmed South Wales Police would support event. RT commented Safer Vale should be involved and to contact Debbie Gibbs.

Brought forward via: Barry Thriving Communities AG

Project Decision Protocol: Propose - JC on the proviso that Barry Thriving Communities AG agree this proof of concept, Second - FB, Objections – None.

Project Outcome: Agreed pending Barry Thriving Communities AG decision on 30 April

Actions: JC to discuss DV event with AG and report back to PfN team after AG meeting on 30 April regarding their agreement/discussion. SC to contact Safer Vale/Debbie Gibbs regarding support of DV Event.

Real Skillz

Both IR and RJ gave a detailed explanation of the project and potential partnership between the Board, Education, Youth Services and Real Skillz. Pilot scheme had already had great success with pupils from Pencoedtre High School and Ysgol Derw Newydd. JC raised some concerns over governance and whether the purchase of the rundown house would be located in Barry. MV – yes and still awaiting confirmation from UK Gov around the guidance for setting up as a CIC/Ltd. Another option was VoG Council owning it in trust 'ring fenced'. MG suggested to involve the Empty Property Team and to utilise the Empty Property List. All members of the Board felt this would be a project that could positively impact the health and well-being of the young people of Barry long term and where PfN would leave a lasting legacy. JS suggested that a formal evaluation be built into the project, the data of which could be used to upscale the project in future and potentially the methodology implemented by CAVC further contributing towards preventing NEET.

Brought forward via: Barry Futures AG

Project Decision Protocol: Propose - MA, Second - LB, Objection - SH

Project Outcome: Agreed pending due diligence

Actions: SH to submit details of objection to the Chair regarding Real Skillz project. MV to contact Eleri Nicholas re Empty Properties.

Bleed Kits

MV gave update; Barry Rotary Club were contacted and confirmed they were focused on primary schools only but wanted to be kept informed. Barry Town Council confirmed they

ran a grant and Barry Rotary could apply if they wished. PfN Board felt it was an important project to pursue and wanted to purchase appropriate bleed kits approved by the Care Quality Commission (UK regulatory body). St John's Ambulance UK bleed kits are to this standard. St John's Ambulance Cymru would provide the training for using the bleed kits. MA confirmed any surplus bleed kits could be held at Barry Police Station. SC to further investigate public access issues as locations targeted would be in the public realm and likely include the 4 train stations, taxis, pubs and secondary schools. Some concerns were raised regarding the 'bleed kit' project giving a negative perception of Barry and whether it was giving the right impression of the PfN programme. MV assured members that it would form part of the wider project from Safer Barry AG - CCTV/Store Net Radios.

Brought forward via: Safer Barry AG

Project Decision Protocol: Propose - BB, Second - DS, Objections – None.

Project Outcome: Agreed

Actions: SC to finalise purchase of kits and address the possible public access issues.

5. Finance Report

DS gave a brief overview/explanation of the 4-page light touch Financial Report for PfN for 24/25 & 25/26 that was circulated. It was requested that a similar report being circulated at every Board meeting.

MV confirmed that by 30 April 2026, PfN are to submit their first monitoring report to UK Gov and will need to do so every 6 months. This information will be available in the public domain. AG Chairs also felt it important that a concise, easy to read report with possible graphs also be available for them to disseminate in their respective action groups. FB preference was for the PfN Action Group Newsletter to be sent to Chairs only and not the Action group members directly. It would be more effective to be presented by Chairs within their action group meetings so that any questions could be answered immediately.

Given the recent agreement for the Real Skillz project to proceed, most of 26/27 funding was now allocated. DS advised Chairs to now focus on more ambitious, longer-term projects or small spend projects within their respective action groups.

Actions: LC to produce Finance Report for each PfN Board meeting. LC/SC/EB to produce easy to read financial report/infographic and email to AG Chairs only.

6. Council led Major Projects

PC gave an overview of current major council-led projects and where he felt a partnership with PfN could be developed. Discussed the Welsh Government Transforming Towns grant and loan funds. There is £1.6 million loan funding available but the grant funding for Placemaking only equates to approximately £100,000 per town.

The 'Town Boost' project trialled in Llantwit Major was something PC suggested might be good to run in Holton Road.

Action: PC to meet all Action groups for Q&A and give updates on Council-led projects.

7. Strategic Vision and Big Projects

DS spoke about coherence of projects already agreed and possible collaboration projects in the pipeline e.g. Barry Rugby Football Club and asked what was missing if anything. JC raised the concerns over a lack of a single ethos of the PfN programme with no strategic elevator pitch. FB somewhat agreed and stated that from looking at the UK Govt website she felt the aim of the programme was to 'fix the foundation of those places left behind'. IR disagreed and stated the 10-year plan and the 4-year investment plan explains the vision and the 5 objectives and action group themes are a direct result of this. JS understood that 'legacy' was a key strategic aim, to fund strategic projects that build up over time and span more than one objective. DS was open to suggestions any/all Board members to come up with a simple strap line / elevator pitch.

All – devise a generic strapline/elevator pitch for PfN that conveys our vision and ethos succinctly.

8. Youth Representation

All members agreed on the importance of hearing young voices and having better youth representation.

Action: IR to consider how best to build in youth representation.

9. Project Plans

Plans for projects already approved were circulated that included timelines and actions. No discussion on above.

10. AOB

JC raised concerns around communications. It was noted that the capacity building events such as Gig Ready by Mack Events were being marketed (on Linked-in) but with no mention of PfN or UK Gov Logo.

MV confirmed that Cadno Communications, who tendered to support PR & Comms, had completed their work and had produced a Forward Communications Plan. The PfN team are currently in process of reviewing all SM and updating the website. The first public Newsletter has been sent out, and we will work to increase the number of subscribers. A newsletter could go out bi-monthly but this needs to be considered alongside project development.

Action: MV to circulate Communications Plan. EB to update PfN website, update PfN Instagram page and set-up a PfN facebook page. EB/SC to create PfN logo using the Barry design toolkit and draft branding guidelines for funding recipients.

11. Date of next meeting

Friday 10th July / 3-5pm / Venue TBC

To minimise paper waste, if any board members would like physical paper copies of any documents circulated, please email EB at least 48 hours before the meeting and copies will be provided; ebradshaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.