



Members Update – March 2023

This document has been produced to provide members with progress updates for each of the projects being undertaken as part of the Principal Towns Programme and where possible, it will also include information from colleagues across the authority about works ongoing or completed in your areas. These updates will be sent every eight weeks.

Due to the nature of the projects and the timelines we are working with, this update will be laid out as follows:

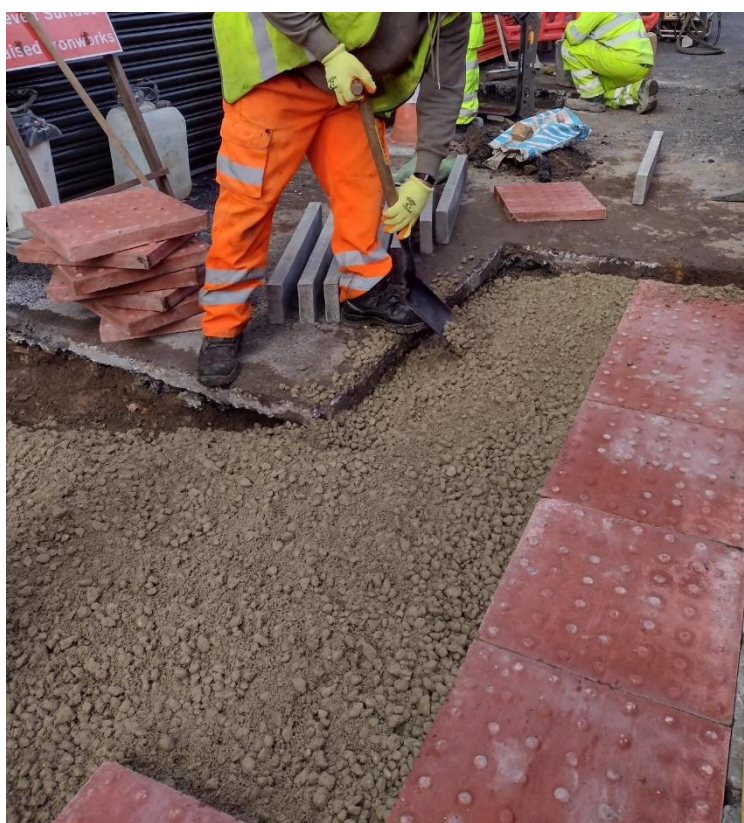
- Featured project which is actively underway
- Brief updates on ongoing projects which have longer timescales
- Other activities of interest

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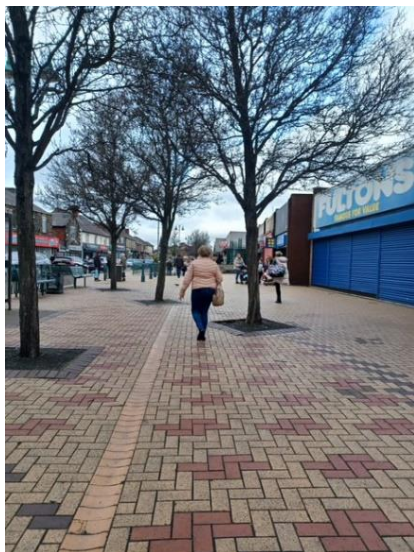
Wombwell High Street Improvements

Our featured project update in this briefing is Wombwell. Public realm works are underway in Wombwell having started on Monday, 20 February. Led by our Highways team, the programme includes pavement improvements to both sides of High Street, resurfacing of the highway and decluttering and infrastructure improvements to the market area of High Street.

Highways are due to complete the first section of pavement improvements by Monday, 27 March, which has included repair works to the drainage system which has been an ongoing issue. They will continue improvements to the pavement all the way to the police station as well as carriageway works, pending the submission and approval of highway permits.



The next phase of work on the precinct will include replacement seating, repainting existing structures, levelling sunken paving, installing anchor points and pop-up power for the market, as well as the removal of three trees due to their condition. The three trees will be replaced with nine new trees which will be planted in local green spaces during the next planting season in September working alongside local community groups.



The works are estimated to be completed by May 2023.

A public post was issued in February to confirm the start of the works programme. Prior to works starting, the team visited businesses and hand delivered letters with details and contact information for any queries and concerns. Regular communication is being had with businesses in the area through both Highways and the Urban Centres team.

Barnsley Council
Published by Stevie White - February 17

As part of our [#PrincipalTowns](#) programme to revitalise our local town centres, we're improving the layout and accessibility of Wombwell high street.

Works are starting on Monday 20 February - you can read more about our Principal Towns Programme at barnsley.gov.uk/PrincipalTowns.

Wombwell high street works

Works are starting on Monday 20, February to improve the layout and accessibility of Wombwell high street.

[#PrincipalTowns](#) barnsley.gov.uk/PrincipalTowns

15 5 comments 11 shares

Hoyland Public Realm Improvements

The Hoyland Public Realm Scheme included:

- a. Duke Street Car Park footway access
 - Dropped kerb
 - Creation of footpath
- b. High Street / Car Park pathway
 - Removal of gates
 - Removal of old paving, and grassed areas
 - Resurface with tarmac
 - New bollards on main highway
- c. Town Square
 - New wall
 - New lighting
 - New seating
 - New tree
 - Elevation of centre art feature
 - Artificial grass installed in the former flowerbed
 - New power sockets for events
 - Anchors for gazebos for events

Works started in January and were due to be completed by the end of February. However, due to onsite delays caused by the contractor and weather impacts, the scheme is expected to be completed by the end of March.

A site visit with members and council officers has identified a need to carry out a further phase of works to re-design the outer section of the town centre that was not in the original scope, to improve remaining elements of Hoyland town square. The council have held other activities and events throughout March, such as free face painting and a youth market which are also scheduled to take place again in June. Live music will be playing throughout March and April.



A family fun day was held on Saturday, 4 March which led to a 20% increase in footfall, and a similar increase was also seen on Saturday, 18 March for the second event activity in the market.

Goldthorpe Business Grants

Two grants have now been processed to enable The Goldthorpe Computer Centre, a tech repair and IT support business, and The Lab, a hair salon to open their doors on Goldthorpe High Street.

The Goldthorpe Computer Centre is based on Doncaster Road and the Lab on Barnsley Road, both in the heart of Goldthorpe Town Centre.

They have been given support to work up a robust business plan, working with Launchpad Barnsley and are now actively trading. We are working on a positive press release to share their experiences and encourage more businesses to take advantage of this opportunity.



Penistone Art Trail

Planning applications have been submitted and any additional information required has been provided. The target planning decision date is Monday, 10 April. Discussions are underway with the artist regarding installation subject to planning permissions being granted.

Penistone Town Hall

Planning permission has been granted and the full costings confirmed. The pre-tender market engagement closes on Monday, 27 March and the tender period is expected to start the week commencing April 3.

Goldthorpe Town Square

Work is ongoing to procure a contractor to deliver the Stronger Town's Fund funded new Town Square in Goldthorpe. The space will create a central point for activity and temporary public uses like market stalls and pop-up events. Works will hopefully be completed throughout the Summer.

**Royston**

In light of the pre-planning application advice which demonstrated that the original proposals for an Enterprise Park were not possible due to existing planning policies.

Several discussions/workshops have taken place with planning and the Ward Alliance to consider what type of development would be acceptable on the Rabbit Ings site. The current position is that officers are to discuss options with planning relating to a complimentary use to the country park

e.g. leisure use, small scale café and ancillary uses (please note that these are examples of acceptable uses, not the confirmed uses that we are progressing, that is to be determined).

Principal Towns Phase 3 Acquisitions

This area of work is a key priority for the team and as such resources have been reallocated to enable progress to be made. In addition, a working group has been established involving colleagues from across the council, including Property and Legal. Work is ongoing to develop business cases and evidence for the Statement of Reason (should it be needed) for the 4 buildings which will identify all options available. In parallel, continued engagement is being held with the owners to discuss acquiring the buildings by private treaty.

Around the borough:

Local Centres

Five local centre projects from the Local Centres Investment Plan, have been prioritised for delivery. This prioritisation was based on:

- Alignment to B2030 outcomes
- Effective management of amenities by existing community / voluntary organisations
- Clear business and use case
- Evidence of use and demand
- Spatially distributed to address need

Feasibility reviews and condition surveys have been scheduled to produce cost plans, agree scope of works and seek approval to progress with the projects. Detailed updates will be shared with local members

- Dearne Renaissance Centre – repairs and future proofing
 - Expected to move to procurement from May 2023. Measured and condition survey and costed plan completed
- New Lodge Community Centre - extension to kitchen, storage and offices
 - Expected to move to procurement from June 2023
- Darfield Footfall Club– training, fitness and catering facilities for the community
 - Expected to move to procurement from August 2023. Condition survey completed. Costed plan can only be finalised once third-party contractor has finalised their works.
- Great Houghton Village Hall – extension and future proofing
 - Measured and condition survey completed – aim to present the costed plan to Capital Oversight Board in June
- Mapplewell Village Hall – repairs, future proofing and potential events space
 - Measured survey completed

Local Leadership and Collaboration – Support for Traders

Engagement activity has been commissioned for three Principal Towns; Penistone, Cudworth and Royston, to work with local high street businesses to set-up / relaunch a local trader group for each town. This work has been funded through UK Shared Prosperity Funding and is being delivered by SaveTheHighStreet.org. This organisation has extensive experience of working in local high streets, identifying local business champions, and supporting them to establish strong trader groups in their town.

Initial meetings were held on Tuesday, 7 March in all three areas with an agreement being made to form a formal trader's group in Penistone. One to one personalised engagement will be had with businesses in Royston and Cudworth who are responding positively to the scheme. Save the High Street will be doing field-based visits on the 28th and 30th March and a second meeting for businesses to attend will be held following this.

Save the High Street will hold a second meeting in Penistone to formalise a traders group.

Young Stall Holder Support Workshops

The Retail Group will be delivering free, practical business workshops for young market stallholders across the borough. The Retail Group has been successfully helping market traders, new traders, and young traders to improve their performance for over 25 years, and over the last few years have successfully helped hundreds of market businesses to increase sales, adapt their models, attract new customers, and improve overall performance.

They will be delivering four workshops on the following topics:

- Attracting more customers – Monday, 27 March
- Increasing customer spend – Wednesday, 29 March
- Excellent customer service to increase sales – Monday, 3 April
- Improving promotions and online sales – Wednesday, 5 April

The workshops will be held online from 5:30pm to 6:30pm to make them accessible to young traders.

This activity is being funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Markmark Productions - Cultural Entertainment in Principal Towns

Markmark have a reputation for developing engaging visual, comic, street-spectacles and shows. They have worked on commissions for special events developing highly original productions alongside such partners as The National Theatre, London 2012, The Robin Hood Festival, Out There Festival and many others. They also tour internationally and over the last 25 years have performed all over the world to thousands of happy audiences.

The Un-Naturalists is their new show which was first developed as part of the Eldon Street HAZ project. It has been adapted for the Principal Towns and has been funded through the South Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund via the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The company have worked with local researcher and archivist Sheauran Tan who has uncovered stories of local characters, businesses, and entertainment venues. The project has been filmed for our archives.

Markmark have already performed in Penistone on Thursday, 16 March, Wombwell on Friday, 17 March and Hoyland on Saturday, 18 March.

Further performances will take place as follows:

- Goldthorpe – 24 March
- Cudworth – 25 March
- Royston – 1 April

They will be in the areas between 10am – 12pm.



Barnsley Libraries Awarded Funding

Barnsley libraries have been awarded £50,000 from Art Council England's Libraries Improvement Fund to help improve digital connectivity across the libraries.

Matched by over £10,000 from the Council, the 'Digital Boost' project will help to make sure the community can enjoy modern, digital solutions in our libraries across the borough.

The 'Digital Boost' will have a positive impact enabling libraries to:

- Increasing self-service options in our community libraries
- Improving digital provision, making it easier to access the tech needed
- Creating more maker-boxes, helping to deliver more makerspace activities for young people across Barnsley

The 'Digital Boost' project will be part of Barnsley Libraries refurbishment programme, which supports our investment work in Principal Towns and Local Centres and is helping local high streets to thrive.



Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Great British Spring Clean

We're supporting the Great British Spring Clean and thanking all our volunteers for their ongoing efforts in helping us to keep Barnsley Clean and Green.

Find out more about the great British spring clean at

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/news/barnsley-gets-a-great-british-spring-clean/>



Environmental Forum

Barnsley's Environmental Forum is made up of volunteers from across the borough working to:

- Look at how we can all contribute to improving our local environments and create a more sustainable Barnsley.
- Create two-way conversations around environmental issues.
- Co-produce new materials to support volunteers and reduce environmental crime.

If you'd like to know more about the environmental forum, email areateams@barnsley.gov.uk.

Email – PrincipalTowns@barnsley.gov.uk