



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby **summoned** to attend the meeting of Barnard Castle Town Council to be held in the **Dawson Room, Woodleigh on Monday 24 March 2025 at 6.00 p.m.** The meeting will consider the items of business listed below.

***Public Participation 6.00 – 6.15pm**

Members of the public are invited to speak on any matters contained within the agenda*. Following this period members of the public can remain but cannot speak further on any agenda item unless invited by the Chair.

TOWN CLERK
19 March 2025

AGENDA

- 69. ACCEPTANCE OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES
- 70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 71. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 72. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 20 JANUARY 2025
- 73. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE
- 74. EN BLOC ITEMS
- 75. UPDATES & REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES
- 76. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES
- 77. PARK RUN BARNARD CASTLE

* Questions must be submitted in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting and must refer to items on the published agenda. The Public Participation policy can be found on the council website: <https://barnardcastletowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BCTC-Public-Participation-Procedure.pdf>

¹ Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, recording of the meeting by any person is permitted. Those filming or otherwise recording the meeting should respect the rights of other members of the public attending and should not disrupt the meeting.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
24 MARCH 2025**

DAWSON ROOM, WOODLEIGH

6:00 P.M.

DETAILED AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD - 6.00pm to 6.15pm

69. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Recommendation – That the submitted apologies be approved.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal, pecuniary, or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

71. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any update will be given at the meeting.

72. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (ENCLOSED)

20 January 2025

Recommendation – That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

73. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

Inspector Michael Summat will attend the meeting to make a report and to respond to questions from members of the council.

74. EN BLOC ITEMS

This is a report arising from the decision at Minute 72/Aug/04 to amalgamate a number of agenda items so that the accompanying recommendations can be moved 'en bloc'. Any Member has a right to speak on any of the listed items, but it is hoped that discussion can be kept to a minimum.

The items included in the report are as follows:

- (1) Partnership Committee – 03 February 2025 – (Draft)**
- (2) Services Committee – 17 February 2025 (Draft)**
- (3) Planning Committee – 24 February 2025 (Draft)**
- (4) Resources Committee - 10 March 2025 (Draft)**
- (4) Town Mayor Activities**

Since the Council meeting on the 20 January 2025, the Town Mayor has not attended any events.

The Deputy Mayor on 1st March attended an Environmental Issues Debating Competition for young people at Barnard Castle School.

Recommendation – That the draft committee meeting minutes, and Mayoral activity is received and noted.

75. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 74 the following updates are noted:

(1) Partnership Committee

No referrals to full council.

(2) Services Committee

No referrals to full council.

(3) Resources Committee

No referral to full council.

76. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

The Councils representative on each relevant body can make a verbal update at the meeting.

- (1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum - (Cllr Turnbull)**
- (2) Larger Local Councils Forum – (Clerk & Cllr Foote-Wood)**
- (3) The Witham Hall Ltd (Cllr Ing as Town Mayor)**
- (4) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllrs Ewart & McLean)**
- (5) St Mary's Barnard Castle Hall Association (Cllr Connelly)**
- (6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Drew)**

Recommendation – That the information be noted and received.

77. PARK RUN BARNARD CASTLE

Submitted – Report from Steven Bage on the proposal for a Barnard Castle Park Run.

Mr Bage will be in attendance to discuss the report.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

20 JANUARY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Ing (Town Mayor), Turnbull, Foote-Wood, Blake, Ewart, Chatterjee, Thompson & Mclean

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk) & Miss C Atkinson (RFO)

Others: Teesdale Mercury.

58. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr's Drew, Bigge & Connelly submitted their apologies

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. No declarations were made.

60. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made reference to his Mayoral activity and his meeting with the Witham Hall Ltd.

61. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 November 2024

Resolved – That the minutes be accepted as being a true and accurate record.

62. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

Inspector Michael Summat was unable to attend this reconvened meeting. This item will be deferred to a later meeting.

63. EN BLOC ITEMS

This is a report arising from the decision at Minute 72/Aug/04 to amalgamate a number of agenda items so that the accompanying recommendations can be moved 'en bloc'. Any Member has a right to speak on any of the listed items, but it is hoped that discussion can be kept to a minimum.

The items included in the report were as follows:

- (1) Services Committee – 02 December 2024 (draft)**
- (2) Partnership Committee – 16 December 2024 (draft)**
- (3) Resources Committee – 06 January 2025 (draft)**
- (4) Town Mayor Activities**

Since the Council meeting on the 18 November 2024, the Town Mayor accompanied by Consorts, Master William Atkinson (WA) & Mrs Sue Ing (SI) has attended the following:

29th November – Christmas Lights switch on (WA)

30TH November – Clique presentation

11th December – Barnard Castle School – Drinks & Mince Pies (SI)

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Foote-Wood, attended Barnard Castle Cub Scouts Award Presentations on 8th & 9th December 2024.

Resolved – That the draft committee meeting minutes, and Mayoral activity be received and noted.

64. UPDATES, AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 63 the following updates are noted:

(1) Services Committee meeting

No referrals.

Budgetary bids for 2025/26 were referred to Resources Committee meeting held on 6 January 2025.

(2) Partnership Committee

No referrals

Budgetary bids for 2025/26 were referred to Resources Committee meeting held on 6 January 2025.

(3) Resources Committee

Further to the meeting of the Resources Committee meeting, it was resolved that: The budget for 2025/26, and precept request be referred to full council.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

65. REPRESENTATIONS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

(1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum - (Cllr Turnbull)

No meetings.

(2) Larger Local Councils Forum – (Clerk & Cllr Foote-Wood)

No meetings.

(3) The Witham Hall Ltd (Cllr Ing as Town Mayor)

Received – report from Cllr Ing (Appendix B).

(4) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllrs Ewart & McLean)

Cllr Ewart informed the meeting that the Trust were revising its policies (H&S, Safeguarding), and were actively seeking new trustees'

(5) St Mary's Barnard Castle Hall Association (Cllr Connelly)

In the absence of Cllr Connelly, no report was available.

(6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Drew)

In the absence of Cllr Drew no report was available.

66. PARK RUN - DEMESNES

A request has been received to allow an official Park Run on the Demesnes.

Resolved – That approval in principle be given for the Demesnes being used for an official Park Run.

67. BARNARD CASTLE MEET

A request has been received for the Meet to use the Lower Demesnes between Friday 23rd to 27th May 2025 as the Meet showground

Resolved – That permission be approved for Barnard Castle Meet to use the Lower Demesnes between the 23rd and 27th May 2025 as their showground.

68. APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2025/26

Further to the meeting of Resources Committee on 06 January 2025 (minute 29/January/25 refers), the 2025/26 budget is recommended to the council. (Appendix A).

Resolved – (a) That the 2025/26 budget be set as detailed in Appendix A, with gross expenditure of £245,943; and
(b) That the 2025/26 precept be therefore set as detailed in Appendix A, at £209,086 – a **decrease** of 2.5% on 2024/25.

Appendix A

Cost Centre	Budget 2024/25 £	Budget 2025/26 £
101 Council Administration	14,259	12,396
102 Central Support Svcs	127,369	131,153
104 Elections	1,000	1,000
105 Chains of Office	50	50
106 Woodleigh	25,782	27,476
110 Defibrillator	150	225
201 Allotments	4,399	4027
211 Mini Golf	10,000	11,000
221 Christmas Lights	8,475	8,475
231 Play Areas	2,850	2,995
291 Wednesday Market	7,500	8,000
311 Ground Maintenance	24,158	22,660
321 Castle & Market Floodlighting	777	636
331 War Memorials	NIL	NIL
342 Bede Road Bus Shelter	50	50
354 Community Events	5,910	9,100
404 Wayfinding Units	NIL	NIL
501 Market Place Public Toilets	5,906	6,200
321 Dog Fouling	500	500
	239,405	245,943
Income		
1.Fees and charges (recreation)	14,499	15,127
2. Fees and charges (other)	8,550	8,850
3. Woodleigh Rental	NIL	9,880
4. Bank interest	2,000	3,000

5. Precept	214,356	209,086¹
6. LCTRS	<i>NIL</i>	<i>NIL</i>
	239,405	245,943

Appendix B

Witham headlines

General:

The committed to being more present, open, accessible and welcoming to everybody in Barnard Castle (and beyond). We want to be a partner within the town, and a stakeholder in the wider region. All our efforts whether in 'reach', accessibility, offer or engagement will be about our commitment to being part of the community and being active in the community. This will be demonstrated by externally funded works to the front door of the building, extending inside with improved welcoming facilities.

Our Centre Director (Amy Hughes) is committed to attending external meetings so that we understand what is going on with partners and can contribute – and we are committed to providing a representative if and when Amy is unable to attend.

Social media presence massively increased, boosting our engagement with wider and new audiences.

Audiences coming from further afield for music and comedy gigs, growing our reputation as a destination of choice in the county and beyond.

Cost of living challenges, and bad weather had a negative impact on our income during October and November, but the Barney Christmas lights, the panto and our Winter Wonderland all brought people in to enjoy a great time at the Witham and in the town during December.

Successes:

We have recruited some fabulous new volunteers including people who will support the Youth Theatre (previously Turrets).

Funding received from CDCF to continue to fund social media post (Louise) for another 6 months.

Capital funding to repairs and maintenance to the building (monies are ring fenced for capital but very welcome to keep the building safe and well) and a grant towards LED lighting to both reduce costs and to have a greener footprint.

Sponsorship funds secured from local business (£450 per month) which does go towards general running costs and is very gratefully received.

¹ This figure has been adjusted to correct an arithmetical error to ensure that the gross income equals the gross expenditure – and both are £245,943

We have some funding to run a warm spaces programme from January to March which will strengthen our community offer.

Challenges:

The Witham is heavily dependent on the brilliant support of people from the area in a variety of ways – volunteering, giving us their custom and making donations but the budget which has been set and approved by the Board contains a target of £47,000 through fundraising this year in order to avoid dipping into our depleting reserves.

We are also dependent on the support of our local partners such as the Town Council when it comes to submitting bids for the grants by which we can improve our financial position and maintain our beautiful but costly building (especially if we apply for national funding).

Arrangement with Leisure Centre have come to an end – income therefore reduced but relationship is good with great feedback having been received from users of our spaces.

Catering Manager has left, now recruiting a replacement.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

03 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Foote-Wood, Turnbull, Thompson, Ewart, & Connelly, & Vicky Sturrs (Bowes), Amy Hughes (Witham), Sarah Gent (TCR Hub), Colin Clasper (Meet)

Officers: Mr M. Clark (Town Clerk).

35. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Cllr's Bigge, Chatterjee, & Jonathan Wallis (BCCL).
Cllr Ing (ex officio)

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

37. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 16 DECEMBER 2024 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as an accurate record.

38. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

General

This quarter, the work from the previous two years in 'Getting the basics right and building strong foundations' demonstrates its value with consistently high performance in our visitor numbers and income, along with improved galleries, displays, and staff spaces.

Our learning and volunteer programmes are growing in scale, reach, and impact, and new projects are emerging with funding secured. Our financial position is more stable, and our forward plans are developing.

Autumn/winter continued this year's trend, with budget-beating numbers across our visitor numbers and income significantly higher than the previous two years. Much can be attributed to the Kith and Kinship Exhibition. Still, the overall improvements in our offer, programmes, and communications are resulting in more visitors, new members, repeat visits, increased dwell time, and increased secondary spending. Exceptional 'Average Transaction Values' in our shop and café evidence that people enjoy our offer.

Our ACE National Portfolio activities are going well, and (like all NPOs, we are awaiting a decision for the 2026-27 extension year.

We've published and shared our latest Annual Review and Impact Report with stakeholders. Detailing the 2023-24 year, it also begins to outline our impact data sharing elements, such as the economic return of our children and young people and volunteer programmes. We'll build this data through 2024-25.

Projects and Programmes

Since opening on 19 July 2024, Kith & Kinship: Norman Cornish and L.S Lowry has been particularly popular, contributing to uplifts in footfall and garnering positive comments and press coverage. This quarter, visitors have said:

" An excellent exhibition - the very best I've seen in decades. So much you've got right - excellent artwork descriptions with examples which add untold value to understanding and reflection."

"Absolutely wonderful exhibition - feeling very nostalgic - living in Spennymoor now to seeing what it was like. Lowry - brought back childhood memories which I am now sharing with my children. My uncle would sing matchstick men + matchstick cats and dogs when I was very young."

In post-visit surveys, 80% of visitors described Kith & Kinship as a highlight. **The show closed on 19 January.**

A co-production project funded by the John Horseman Trust and working with Artist Jonah York and learners from HMP Deerbolt developed an accompanying zine and soundscape for the Kith and Kinship exhibition and launched in October half term. Titled 'Unheard Voices', it focused on ideas of community and kinship within the work of Cornish and Lowry.

A celebration event at HMP Deerbolt for learners was a particular source of pride for participants. 32 learners took part, with a core 16 attending all 10 sessions. Every participant shared how much they enjoyed the programme and their first introduction to arts and culture. 100% said that because of this programme, they feel more motivated to try new things in the future.

Durham Creative Community Fellows (DCCF) launched on 1 October. DCCF is a unique initiative for artists, community organisers, administrators, and entrepreneurs to drive positive change in County Durham through arts and culture projects. Starting in February 2025, this free-to-participate-in nine-month programme will support learning life-changing skills in an online and in-person curriculum while forming a community of practice to connect, collaborate and hold each other accountable.

Durham Creative Community Fellows is part of Into the Light, a transformative three-year initiative to drive long-lasting growth in County Durham through cultivating talent, widening access to creative education, enhancing skills, and breaking down barriers in the creative industries.

As part of County Durham's Into the Light programme supported by ACE, TBM is the lead partner for DCCF and will deliver the programme in partnership with US-based NAS and Derby Museums.

Thirty people from County Durham applied for a place on the programme, eighteen have been selected.

Be You at the Bowes continued to run. The museum's first LGBTQIA+ working group, this collective of individuals comes together to discuss identity, gender, and representations of the body. BYatB recovers untold stories related to individual lived experiences to reveal the diversity of sexuality and gender present in the Bowes Museum's collection.

Across six sessions, 22 people met to discuss, shape and share, working towards a trail exploring interpretations of museum objects to be released with LGBT History Month in February. The group have also worked with a team of staff and community members from Northern Heartlands as well as wider town partnerships. Additionally, queer artist Lady Kitt led an LGBTQIA+ workshop for 12 participants from the community and cultural sector.

The TBM team continues working with wider community stakeholders including Curious Arts to develop a regionally-linked LGBTQIA+ offer and on 22 February will host Curious Histories 11:00 – 14:00. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/curious-histories-the-bowes-museum-tickets-1151903557549>

Upcoming Exhibitions

This year will launch '*From Joséphine: Trendsetters and Trailblazers*'. A landmark exhibition honouring the pioneering spirit and 200th anniversary of museum co-founder, Joséphine Bowes. This visually stunning exhibition showcases three centuries of eclectic art and creativity including a curated selection of works from The Bowes Museum's collection and major loans from across the UK and Europe. Expect to see an extraordinary mix of paintings, sculptures, textiles and ceramics from world-renowned artists including Pablo Picasso and Sir Grayson Perry CBE, rising contemporaries such as Joy Labinjo and Lucy Waters, and a special commission by Phoebe Cummings. The exhibition offers a glimpse into how Joséphine's remarkable understanding of artistic trends and cross-genre approach to collecting might have shaped the collection today.

This will be followed closely by '*Joséphine: A Woman of Taste and Fashion*' in our Fashion and Textile Gallery and '*Pippa Hale: Pet Project*', a brand-new play-led commission for families.

We're delighted to be hosting Nathan Coley's '*You Create What You Will*' 7-metre-tall installation in the parkland and joining in the celebrations for the Stockton and Darlington bicentenary with '*Dressed for Departure: Fashion in the Age of Rail*'.

Dates for your Diary

- *Pitman* by Eliot Smith Dance 6 February
<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/pitman-by-eliot-smith-dance/>
- *From Josephine* Opens 8 February
<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/from-josephine-bowes/>
<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/media-centre/>
- Family Day 15 February (FREE ENTRY)
<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/family-open-day-2025/>
- Nerina Pallot: Live at The Bowes 21 & 22 March
<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/nerina-pallot-live-at-the-bowes-museum/>
- National Lottery Open Week Fri 21 & Sat 22 March
- Pippa Hale: Pet Project Preview 25 July
<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/pippa-hale-pet-project/>
- Heritage Open Day 13 September (FREE ENTRY)
- Winter Market 12th-14th December

39. THE WITHAM UPDATE

The Witham has seen a steady incline in footfall moving through January seeing approximately 1500 cafe visitors throughout. We have had 5 shows during the course of Jan due to low ticket sales after Christmas being the norm. February sees a bustling programme once more with 17 shows ranging from comedy, screenings, live theatre, tributes and kids shows. We have our daily classes such as Thai Chi, best foot forward, Witham youth Theatre, Barney Wellbeings, Yoga and Art classes. We have Welcome Spaces running each Monday for the next 9 weeks that offers free tea, coffee, soup and a roll to anyone that needs a warm space to socialise.

We have a new spiritual course arriving in March, Alpha course with the Influence Church and many new art classes.

Room Hire and Venue Activity

Christmas saw for a very busy couple of weeks, the panto was a huge success with a large increase in groups and schools, some of which have already secured their places for next year. This seen an approx. £2500 more in income from the panto alone from last year in which we had a £7500 increase from 2022.

We already have over 100 shows secured for next year, in our next programming meeting we are discussing the balance of genres and the reality of being able to run a higher amount of shows, due to staffing costs and staff strain – volunteer numbers and building works in the building we have to consider the impact on the team and reputation, therefore going to assess how we will move forward. Feedback has been that people would like to see more theatre – we actually have a large number of theatre that people don't attend so we have targeted those people to advise them it is happening they just need to follow us on socials and sign up to the newsletter – this was positively received.

We've seen the public programme run £45k approximately ahead of budget (final year end figs to be confirmed) which was a great success- but with cost increases with product and wages the bottom line is not as a healthy- still however we see progression in reducing the deficit.

Staffing Updates

I am delighted to advise we now have a café supervisor who has accepted the role on a 24 hours contract with the view of increasing hours when the new bar opens.

Volunteer Engagement

We are beginning a volunteer recruitment drive, as shows and room hire increase we are struggling with getting events covered- along with The Rotary we have meetings set up with local schools to discuss 6th formers volunteering to socialise, increase skills to help with curriculum and to see a show for free.

Maintenance and Operations

Works on the roof have been started by Glaspar Tunstall which will stop water ingress.

Velux will refurbish all roof windows in Feb to stop further leaks.

We now have planning permission to start our ACE capital works and will begin applying for building regs for the new front door, rear storage and solar panels. We can proceed immediately with LED lighting upgrades, digital advertising boards, garden pergola and new tech equipment.

We have also received funds in to start the new servery- currently our what was once a shop is being refurbished into the new gallery and VIP/box office. This will allow is to run as usual while the servery is being complete- we expect this to begin in March after design is finalised. We hope the new servery will be up and running by June.

We have introduced an optional building Levy which has been very successful so far, feedback has been very positive and we are already seeing people choose to pay this with tickets.

Networking and projects in process

I chaired the Future Art's networking meeting in which we discussed the issue of transport and combined authorities having an impact on us as centres. I have arranged a couple of visits to learn more on how they run. Future Arts are writing to the North East Mayor to discuss how as a group we can try to tackle the issue with transport to our venues. We aim to apply for a joint bid to tackle issue in the area temporarily.

Gallery and Community Engagement

We have an exhibition in the garden and café at present which is call Seek not Hide – it is an interactive installation and art trail by Disabled sculptor and Drag King Lady Kitt, working with YMCA, Teesdale's Cockfield Youth Club. The trail has been commissioned by Northern Heartlands as part of Pride in Teesdale, to help people explore how they can feel welcome, included and proud of who they are and where they live. What do you wish people understood about you without you having to explain? How can we be proud of things about us which are invisible, hidden or hard to see? This is part of Pride in Teesdale.

Finance and bids

We have begun reaching out to potential sponsors and donors and put a piece in The Mercury requesting support for particular items. Specifically The Witham Youth Theatre bursary places.

We have applied to Arts Council for a grant to help support The Youth Theatre and an additional smaller bid to Awards for all.

We have a bid currently in with The Paul Hamlyn Foundation to cover core costs – however this is a very unlikely acceptance.

Currently working on NHLF bid to increase heritage and skills.

Resolved – That the update be received, and the information noted.

40. THE TCR HUB UPDATE

Overall

TCR Hub continues to be very busy on a weekly basis with over 800 people visiting the building for a variety of activities (see attached timetable for this term) and a wealth of both community support and commercial projects running for all ages from young people, families, older people, those vulnerable and veterans.

Youth Update

We continue to deliver in-school sessions for year 7s that are struggling with the transition from primary to secondary school, these are going well.

The Social Action group is working towards an art exhibition at the Hub. They have visited Grassholme Observatory recently which they enjoyed. This was a trip provided through the Pride in Teesdale initiative.

We have started **Trashion Show** preparation, the show will be on **7th March** - hope to see you all there. We are working with Butterwick Hospice to create recycled garments. We have a new Podcast Club where the young people create a podcast for the TCR website once a half term, covering topics that they have chosen and feel passionate about.

Youth Open Mic will be on 14th Feb, lots of YP excited about this. Just Cook are the official food vendors for the Trashion Show - they are learning about catering a big event, how to cost their food and how to serve a large number of people.

Duke of Edinburgh - TCR are a licenced provider of the DofE Award Scheme. We have been delivering all levels of the award since 2010. We have a small team of dedicated volunteers and self-employed instructors who support the project.

The Award Scheme is open to young people aged 14 to 25 years. We tend to enrol from midway through Year 9. We support young people from all local Schools and Colleges and those who are homeschooled too. We aim to enable as many young people as possible to access the Award but at times may have a waiting list due to delivery constraints. Now is the time for young people to sign up so contact info@tcrhub.co.uk for more information.

Family Activities

Thanks to funding from TAAP and North Star Housing, TCR are delivering three family social clubs every week, two at the Hub and one on a Wednesday at the Randolph Centre in Evenwood. Tuesday and Wednesdays offer open weekly sessions for anyone to book in with children aged between 3 - 10 years. Thursday offers children with additional needs and their families a place to go to access advice and support. Both Wednesday and Thursday groups have split into fortnightly sessions now to increase capacity due to demand.

February half term - **Book Fest 22 - 28th February**, funded by Durham County Council, offer families the chance to enjoy a range of creative, outdoor and indoor sessions from embossed bookmarks and a treasure hunt to recording your own stories to share across generations and sensory play.

Food Provision

Between 23rd December and 4th January we sent out care packages of food and essential toiletries to **83 households**.

These included Christmas care packages which went to 50 households, out which had food to make Christmas dinner, festive treats, toiletry gift sets and in some hot water bottles.

Our weekly pantry sessions are now seeing up to 40 households a week.-People accessing food have been referred to further support, in the past few months this has included: Durham Carers, Citizens Advice, Council housing support, NHS, Social Prescribing Team, UTASS. We have also referred people into groups at TCR Hub including: Family Social Club, Community Lunch, Tea & Tots, TCR Coffee & Craft Group

Community Lunch which is designed for elderly & isolated participants to come and share a weekly meal has grown. At present we at least 20 people a week joining us.

We are looking to run a soup making session in half term for families to access, learning how to turn our waste veg into tasty meals and sharing lunch together.

Volunteering

Working with a team of over one hundred volunteers, TCR are currently introducing Better Impact to manage communications and operations with our amazing volunteer team. It's a positive step forwards to enable our volunteers from accessing opportunities and training as well as supporting staff in gaining the help they need.

Following helpful sessions with the County Durham Volunteer Coordinators Forum, TCR have introduced ESV days (Employer Support Volunteer Days) on a monthly basis for employers to book in teams of people to do 'big jobs' but also offer companies the chance to transparent community support opportunities.

Events

New Writing North bought **The Voyage Home to TCR** on Friday 31st January, as part of an Arts Council funded project.

TCR are delighted to be participating in the Meet Celebrations again and looking forward to offering people the chance to take part in an inclusive and enthusiastic way!

Looking forward to welcoming The Castle Player's next Production, **Shakespeare in Love** to the Hub as part of their tour on **Friday 4th July**.

Resolved – That the update be received, and the information noted.

41. BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHT (BCCL)

2024 Display

- General feedback was that the display was extremely well received with excellent feedback given.
- Most of the display has now been dismantled and will be tested by Christmas Plus.

Fundraising by BCCL

- February/March – Fundraising event at a restaurant in the town – date TBC.
- Plans are in the process for other fundraising events including a race night, wine and cheese evening and of course Bonfire Night in November.

2025 Display

- Planning well underway with a committed budget the Committee have agreed to spend this calendar year on improvements for both the 2025 and future displays.
- Ideas and suggestions for improvements/additions are always welcome.

Barnard Castle Town Council (BCTC) and Barnard Castle Christmas Lights Committee (BCCL)

- BCCL closely with BCTC to continue improving and investing in the annual display for the benefit of the town.
- It goes without saying that we are grateful to everyone that supports us, and the Christmas lights would not exist without this help and the generous financial donations given.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

42. BARNARD CASTLE MEET

Colin Clasper on behalf of the Meet informed the meeting that preparations for 2025 are ongoing.

Last week the Meet made donations to the three schools and the Castle Players as a thank you for taking part every year.

Barnard Castle School have made an approach to take part this year. This would be the first time they have become involved.

Articles will be going in the Teesdale Mercury over the next few weeks highlighting plans and seeking donations.

The Infinity Choir have been approached to perform over the weekend, as well a youth bands.

The choir will be requesting, through the Meet, to also perform in the Market Cross (Butter Market). This will be dependant on a power supply being available.

Cllr Turnbull thanked the Meet Committee for offering to support the anti-dog fouling project.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

43. 200th ANNIVERSARY STOCKTON & DARLINGTON RAILWAY

Cllr Foote-Wood informed the meeting that the group had obtained nearly £3,000 in funding toward local events for the anniversary; this includes a £500 donation from the Glaxo staff charity fund and support from two of our County Councillors Neighbourhood Funding.

It is hoped to find a space to host a permanent exhibition of the artefacts donated/collected to mark the anniversary.

Next meeting of the group is on the 15th February.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

44. GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER FINANCIAL DONATIONS POLICY

Received – Applications have been received from the Teesdale Archery Club and Park Run Barnard Castle under the Financial Donation Policy 2024-25.

Both grant applications were discussed, and examined at length by members.

Cllr Turnbull declared an interest in the Park Run application and took no part in the decision making.

Teesdale Archery Club

Resolved – That £300 be awarded on the proviso that membership details (numbers) are supplied along with details of other funding applied for, and how the group are intending to fund itself going forward.

Park Run Barnard Castle

Resolved – (a) That £800 be awarded in principle towards the establishment of Park Run Barnard Castle; (b) that the grant would not be paid until further information has been received confirming additional funding has been obtained that meet the requirements for an official Park Run; and (c) that should the process of establishing the Park Run go beyond the end of this financial year, the grant award would be accrued into 2025/26.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

17 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Turnbull, Ewart, Blake, Foote-Wood & Connolly

Also in attendance: Teesdale Mercury

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk).

39. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Chatterjee & Cllr Ing (Ex Officio) submitted their apologies. No apologies were received from Cllr Bigge.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

41. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 02 DECEMBER 2024

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a true record.

42. ALLOTMENTS

(i) General Update

Since the Services Committee meeting in December 2024 one resident has been added to the Parishioner waiting list. The waiting list stands at 21 Parishioners and the non-parishioner list stands at 9.

The Clerk referred to 19 of the 21 people on the waiting list having a preference for the Demesnes site. Any vacancy elsewhere that arises is still offered to the next on the waiting list.

The water will be turned on again at the beginning of March depending on the weather.

(ii) Harmire Road Allotment site

No issues

(iii) Raby Avenue

The boundary hedges have been cut back.

One plot has become vacant with it offered to the next person on the waiting list. Answer pending.

(iv) Demesnes

A small amount of vandalism occurred at the beginning of January with the tenants reporting the matter to the Police.

(v) Crook Lane & Town Head

No issues.

The Teesdale Mercury will look at doing an article on all the allotment sites in the near future.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

43. PLAY AREAS

Minor repairs to the Huck Unit at Dawson Road have been carried out, and the cantilever swing in the same play area is now back in use following the spare parts required. No other issues have been reported.

Resolved – That the update be received and noted.

44. MINI GOLF

Preparations are due to get underway for the opening 2025 Season which this year will open on Saturday 12th April 2025.

Minor repairs have been identified and are currently being worked through by our maintenance supervisor. These will be completed prior to the Easter opening.

Quotations have been obtained to replace the fascia on the kiosk which would also benefit from being painted, both works completed prior to the opening. One was for £3,500.00, and the other for £1737.00.

As a self-financing service the repairs will come from the income generated.

Confirmation has been received that one attendant who has worked at the course the previous two seasons will be returning in 2025. Therefore, recruitment will begin in the coming weeks for more attendants.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That J B Property Solutions be contracted to carry out the repair/replacement works on the kiosk.

45. WEDNESDAY MARKET

In the weeks from 27 November 2024 to 5 February 2025 inclusive, total rental receipts have been £1224.00, an average of £153.00 per week. 1 charity pitch has been utilised, and trading opportunities are being offered to those on the waiting list to cover regular trader absences. The waiting list currently stands at 4.

The last market before Christmas was on 18th December, and the first in 2025 the 8th of January.

Mark, the market supervisor has actively been looking at bringing in new, and different traders. This week (19th), we will have authentic Italian cakes and pastries (Casa Mia) taking a pitch.

It was agreed to update the Wednesday market social media presence.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

46. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

The winter bedding is in place.

The Chickweed problem in the Niche Living bed is being tackled by the most efficient way (on advice) which is removing by hand before the spring.

A further 3 planters will be replaced this year.

The lease of flowerbeds at Pearson Terrace has now been concluded. The council's maintenance supervisor will be looking at what needs to be planted in these in next few weeks.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

47. GALGATE – CONDITION OF ROADSIDE TREE

The council has received a notification of a Sycamore on the green above the memorial garden that requires a decaying branch that requires removing.

Resolved – That the council engage an arborist to quote and carry out the required work.

48. DOG FOUL PROJECT

Cllr Turnbull gave members a verbal update:

- Bin placement walkaround planned for Tuesday 18th February. This will look at current bins, whether new ones are required, or current bins need to be reconfigured.
- Cllr Turnbull is talking to the 'Meet' about having some dog fouling awareness at the pet show.
- 17th March is the next working group meeting – looking at a TEAM's option for that meeting.
- Neighbourhood Warden drop-in session will be on the 26th February 10.30-11.30 in the library.
- Generally, it's about raising awareness.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

49. TENS FIELD – BARNARD CASTLE FC

Tens Field has charitable status as a Field in Trust with the Town Council as managing Trustees.

Barnard Castle FC (Previously Bowes FC) are looking to apply for a Grass Maintenance Grant through the Football Foundation to improve the playing surface at the Tens Field over a six-year period. Improving the playing surface for both the football club, and anyone using the space.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That as Proper Officer, the Town Clerk countersigns the Landlord and Tenant form, and the Pitch Maintenance Agreement on behalf of the Town Council.

BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors, Mclean, Ing, Ewart, & Drew
Officers: Mr M Clark, Town Clerk.

14. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Chatterjee submitted her apologies

Resolved– That the submitted apologies be accepted.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/18 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

16. PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 OCTOBER 2024 – MINUTES (ENCLOSED)

Resolved – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

17. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

(i) DM/25/00212/LB – Bowes Museum – Installation of cabling and 8 no external light fittings to rear elevation.

Resolved - That the town council supports the application.

(ii) DM/25/00170/HPN – 21 Wilson Street, Barnard Castle – Prior notification application for the erection of a single storey rear extension with a projection of 3.7 metres, an eaves height of 2.9 metres and a total height of 3.8 metres

Resolved - That the town council expresses reservation on the poor designs and access to the side of the proposed extension.

(iii) DM/25/00220/FPA – 40 Marwood Drive, Barnard Castle – Rear single storey extension.

Resolved – That the town council supports the application.

(iv) DM/24/03471/FPA & DM/24/03471/LB – 52A Galgate – Change of use from Jewellers with flat above to one dwelling.

Resolved - That the town council supports the application.

DM/25/00227/FPA – Butterwick Shop Unit B – Replace timber shop windows.

Resolved - That the town council supports the application.

LICENSING VARIATION –

Application Type - Application for a Minor Variation due to a change in the internal layout.

Applicant: Co-operative Group Food Ltd

Premises: Co-op, 17 Horsemarket, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY.

Resolved – That the variation be noted.

DRAFT

Park Run proposal for Barnard Castle Town Council

Summary

- Parkrun is interested in a new weekly event, which would take place on the Demesnes, drawing up to 400 participants each week.
- The route (designed by Parkrun) will be 3 laps of the Upper Demesnes.
- A regular Parkrun event would help to improve and promote fitness and health for residents of Barnard Castle and surrounding areas, supporting the local economy through greater visitor numbers.
- Local runners would be advised to travel to Parkruns on foot. Those travelling from further afield will be instructed to avoid parking on the Lower Demesnes or adjoining streets, using public car parks if vehicle use is absolutely necessary.
- Funding is being sought from numerous public funding pots which support sport, health and community events, to cover the £4800 set up costs. The Parkrun set up costs will cover all Public Indemnity Insurance, materials and equipment, as well as course design and health & safety. All Parkrun events have defibrillators and organisers will have first aid training.
- Expected timescales for the first Parkrun will be Summer 2025 dependent on how soon funding can be secured.

Background

1. Parkrun is interested in hosting a new regular event in Barnard Castle. Parkrun Global Ltd is a UK registered charity (charity number 1175062) which delivers over 2,500 weekly 5k and 2k events in 21 countries across the world.
2. Parkrun is the biggest provider of free, regular physical activity in the world and one of the largest enablers of accessible volunteer opportunities on the planet.

Benefits of hosting a Parkrun in Barnard Castle

3. A Parkrun in Barnard Castle would create numerous benefits, some of which have been shown below.

Improving the fitness, physical and mental health of residents and visitors, manage weight and long-term health conditions.

Building social connections in the community, combatting loneliness and isolation.

Creating a safe space to encourage exercise and getting back to fitness.

Skills development from volunteering.

Supporting the local economy - local cafes, shops and restaurants would benefit from Parkrun events in Barnard Castle, which would be expected to draw between 50-400 participants and parkrun tourists every Saturday (and possibly Sunday if Junior parkrun was viewed as a popular event).

Increased visitors / Parkrun tourism.

Local interest in Parkrun

4. Barnard Castle already has a number of several active running communities (Teesdale A.C, Sole Sisters and others), and over 200 people expressed their interest in taking part on a recent post on the Barnard Castle Facebook page. It is expected that there will be considerable interest in a Parkrun in Barnard Castle, with many local residents having to travel to the Hamsterley, Darlington or Shildon Parkruns around 16 miles away.
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Access and use of the Demesnes

5. Barnard Castle Town Council has provided provisional approval for use of the Demesnes on the basis that further information is provided around the proposed event. The Demesnes is the only suitable site for a Parkrun within the centre of Barnard Castle given it is public amenity land and traffic free, the latter being one of Parkrun's requirements for event courses.
6. A site survey was conducted on 7th February 2025 with representatives of Parkrun where it was confirmed that the Demesnes would be a preferred site for a Parkrun event, with some further work required to determine the exact 5K route. Presently the route suggested would be to start and finish on the Upper Demesnes, with 3 laps of the Hay meadow and adjoining field on the Upper Demesnes (see Appendix 1).

Parking

7. Parkrunners attending events held on the Demesnes would be instructed:
 - To walk or run to the event if they live in Barnard Castle or Startforth,
 - Use the Queen St / other public car parks in town.
 - Avoid parking the Lower Demesnes, Gray Lane, Newgate, Parson's Lonnen or other adjoining streets.
8. Barnard Castle School has offered use of their car park on Sunday mornings, but Saturday mornings would not be possible due to their sports programmes. Bowes Museum has been approached with a view to allowing Parkrunners to use their parking facilities.

Other users of the Demesnes

9. Parkrun events are likely to take place from around 9-10.30am on a Saturday morning, and possibly Sunday morning if there is interest in a Junior Parkrun.
10. Other users' enjoyment of the Demesnes will be considered at all times, and the organising group will ensure that access is not impeded to walkers, dog walkers, allotment holders, and residents and visitors.
11. Parkrun events will not take place at the same time as Rugby matches, which occur in the afternoon and therefore there should not be any impact on access to the Rugby pitches.
12. The Barnard Castle Meet Committee has proposed hosting a joint Meet Fun Run / Parkrun event on the Saturday morning of the Barnard Castle Meet weekend going forward, which would be a sensible approach. It is unclear at this stage whether an event can be established in time for the 2025 Meet weekend.

Event set up / operation

13. The Parkrun set up costs will cover all Public Indemnity Insurance, materials and equipment, as well as course design and health & safety. All Parkrun events have defibrillators and organisers will have first aid training.
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Funding

14. Barnard Castle Town Council has advised that its award of an £800 grant towards the £4800 set up costs required for a parkrun event, is conditional on the basis that the remaining funding is secured from other funding sources. Appendix 2 shows the list of organisations currently being approached for funding contributions. The Town Council will be updated once all of the £4800 has been obtained. All monies are payable to Parkrun directly.

Volunteers

15. Over 40 people have signed up to be regular volunteers who would undertake the “on the day” roles such as Timekeeper, Barcode Scanner, marshalling, Funnel Manager, Tail Walker. More volunteers are expected from Duke of Edinburgh volunteers / Venture Scouts etc.
16. A “Core Group” of 6-10 volunteers has been established to set up the Parkrun event and to manage the event and develop a regular rota. The Core Group is being supported by the North East Ambassador for Parkrun and the Race Director of the Darlington Park Run who have provided invaluable advice and designed the course route.

Timescales.

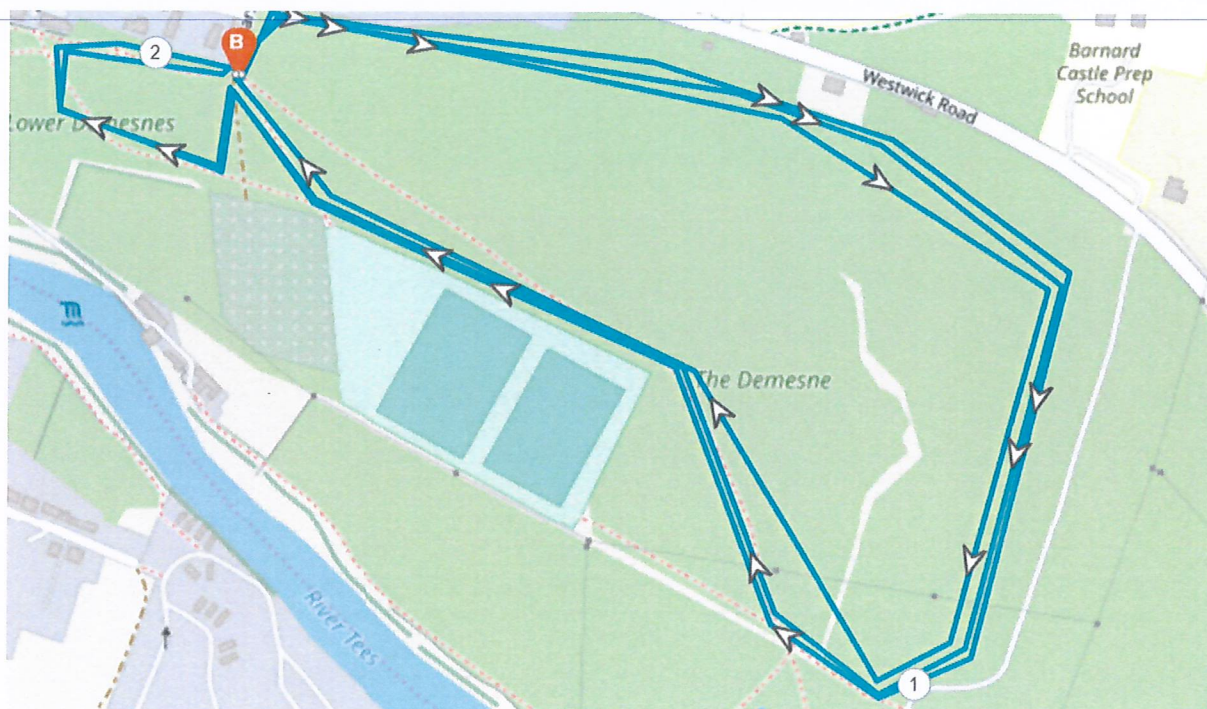
17. It is expected that funding will be secured over the next 3-4 months with the first Parkrun event taking place in June or July 2025.
-

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Appendix 1 – Proposed route (two laps - approximately 5km)



Appendix 2 – List of organisations being approached for funding:

- Durham County Council (Teesdale Action Partnership, Awards for All and Councillor's Ward Budgets)
- The Clique
- Morrisons Foundation
- Barnard Castle GP Surgery
- Barnard Castle Rotary
- Teesdale & District Lions Club
- GSK
- Lidl
- Newcastle Building Society
- Darlington Building Society
- Barnard Castle Town Council