

Become part of the plan

Our town is going through some really amazing changes.

New buildings like the Dodworth Valley pub and restaurant (right) are transforming the way Barnsley looks.

A new bus station, the re-development of the Civic Hall, a Digital Media Centre to house business start-ups, and the renovation of the Queens Hotel into offices are all fantastic additions.

In the pipeline are even larger developments, with a new hotel, apartments and offices already underway at Town End, and the Barnsley Markets Project and a new college campus still to come.

"New investment brings challenges as well as opportunities," says Judith Bird, vice-chair of

Barnsley Civic Trust. "Are we conserving our older buildings? Are too many apartments being built around the town? Are all of the new buildings good enough for Barnsley?"

The Civic Trust movement aims to improve the quality of a town's environment and encourage a greater sense of civic pride in our surroundings.

That is why Barnsley Civic Trust is setting up a special planning group. The group will review major development proposals and prepare comments to inform developers and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's decisions.

We need your help to make this work. Your time and your views can really make a difference. And it would be a real



New restaurants are good, but planning and design needs care

shame to pass up this opportunity to help shape the future of Barnsley.

So if you are interested in becoming part of our planning group and getting your views heard, please email or call Garreth Bruff at the contact details above.

Letters are being sent to all Barnsley Civic Trust members to ask for help and support.

In our first year we are delivering five major projects. Can you help? Contact us to take part (see above).

Barnsley Shop Awards 08 - celebrating the best in Barnsley retail and leisure. Phyllis Barnes and Cath Wilkinson.

Photography Competition -inspiring photographs of Barnsley for a competition and an exhibition at the Cooper Gallery in September. Gillian Nixon and Jayne Dowle - see story below.

Pride In Barnsley - what makes people proud of Barnsley and what do they want to change? - see story overleaf. Ben Johnson and Nigel Mitchell

Big Debate - a series of events unpacking the big issues in Barnsley. Garreth Bruff and Nigel Mitchell

Planning Group - see story, left.

Time to celebrate

You are invited to celebrate the first birthday of Barnsley Civic Trust at one of Barnsley's most exciting new venues.

The party will be at **Chill**, the glamorous champagne bar above **Chilli's** restaurant in Market Street, from 6.30pm, Thursday, April 3.

"It's for us all to celebrate what we have achieved in our first year," says

organiser **Laraine Day**. "And for our members to enjoy themselves."

The event will also see the launch of the inaugural Barnsley Civic Trust photography competition. This is for photographs of Barnsley, and the winner will be exhibited at the Cooper Gallery in September.

Free admission. Look out for your invitation.



Grown-up fun at Chill

Get involved

Barnsley Civic Trust has grown to almost 100 members since its launch in March 2007. For more information on how to get involved see our website or ring 07963 053795.

Articles for the newsletter can be sent to Jayne Dowle and material for the website to Ben Johnson at barnsleycivictrust@yahoo.co.uk

- Garreth Bruff, Chair
- Judith Bird, Vice Chair
- Allen Parks, Secretary
- Phyllis Barnes, Treasurer

The Barnsley Civic Trust champions pride in our town, is open to all, and seeks to involve anyone who cares about the town and its future.

Blue plaques for Barnsley famous



This is the site of the studio of
 Barnsley photographer
 Warner Gothard
 1865 - 1940
 Pioneer of the montage postcard
 He donated Seekar Wood
 for the benefit of the people of
 Barnsley and Wakefield

Who would you like to see honoured with a Civic Trust Blue Plaque?

Your favourite famous Barnsley person could be a footballer, a missionary, a shopkeeper or an inventor. Everybody can think of somebody who has helped to put the town on the map, and who deserves to be honoured with a permanent monument.

Barnsley Civic Trust is looking for suggestions for its new Blue Plaque scheme, which will be part of the national Blue Plaque operation run by English Heritage.

"The purpose of introducing Blue Plaques to Barnsley is to commemorate lesser-known individuals of the town who have put something back for the benefit of the inhabitants," says Ken Keen, who is working on the project with fellow BCT Executive Committee member Phil Norman.

"A typical example would be Sir Michael Ernest Sadler, the educationalist who bequeathed his Sadler collection of paintings to the Cooper Gallery."

Other suggestions include the doctor Matthew Carrington Sykes, who became house surgeon at Beckett Hospital and lived on Regent Street, and the photographer Warner Gothard, whose premises were on Eldon Street where Whitegates' estate agent now has its offices.

If you have an idea who you would like to be recognised with a Blue Plaque, please send details to Ken Keen and Phil Norman to the Barnsley Civic Trust email address, *see overleaf*.

Nice Town Hall, but what about parking?

"People pick out the Town Hall, the Alhambra Centre, the Civic Hall, Arcade and Market Hill as outstanding"

Ben Johnson, Pride in Barnsley project organiser

The second Barnsley Civic Trust Pride in Barnsley survey took place in December, when shoppers told us what they thought of Barnsley town centre.

Volunteers went out to discover what works - and what doesn't.

The results of the first survey, held in July 2007, have already been distributed to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to help officers

and elected members plan development and prioritise what local people want the town to offer and improve upon.

"People pick out the Town Hall, the Alhambra Centre, the Civic Hall, Arcade and Market Hill as outstanding contributions to the town," says Ben Johnson, Pride in Barnsley organiser.

"But what they are looking forward to are a

new market that retains historic character and charm, big retailers and a proper department store and better car-parking and access to the town centre."

The survey will canvass 100 people twice a year with the next one planned for July.

If you would like to help, contact Ben for information at barnsleycivictrust@yahoo.co.uk

Have your say about the new town centre



Barnsley deserves the best

Don't miss your chance to get in on the action. Regeneration expert David Potts wants to know what local people would like to see in their town centre.

He is running a community consultation project with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and environmental design

specialists Gillespies to come up with ideas for our 'public space' — paving, lighting, benches, signage etc - which will enhance new development and create a pleasant place to shop and enjoy ourselves.

"It's a civic pride thing," says Mr Potts. "What I want to know is, what makes Barnsley Barnsley,

and how do you know that this is where you are when you come into the town as a visitor?"

Ideas will be exhibited at a central location in May.

Interested individuals who are willing to share their views should contact Mr Potts on info@davidpottsassociates.co.uk.