

**UPCOMING
 EVENTS**

**SEE
 CALENDAR
 AT AGM**

- Library Drop In
- Market Book Preview
- Public Realm and Markets development tour
- Regional Civic Trust visit
- Summer Carnival stall

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Courthouse Campus Master Plan

A draft Courthouse Campus Master Plan has been prepared for Barnsley Council as part of a programme to help bring about urban renaissance in the town centre.

The Courthouse campus area is the largest remaining development site in the town centre. It includes land behind the Courthouse Pub and the open car parking stretching to Old Mill Lane either side of County Way. It is identified for mixed use development in the long term, which could provide many jobs as well as a 'belvedere park' (a park with a view).

The site already has the Digital Media Centre and the recently completed Core building, the quality of which will set high standards for future buildings.

Architectural design, massing, heights of buildings and the quality of public spaces are all covered in the master plan. It also shows how the site will be serviced and how

traffic will use the site. The proposals suggest replacing the current car parking with a large, multi storey car park.

The draft plan was the subject of public consultation last year, when many Civic Trust Members visited an exhibition of proposals to give their views.

Members supported plans for developing the site, but were keen to stress the need to maintain the number of car parking spaces for town centre shoppers.

Civic Trust members also questioned the type of development that would take place at the Old Mill Lane end of the site. This area is close to housing and members said that new buildings would have to be carefully designed to avoid any adverse affects on the quality of this area for local residents.

Barnsley Civic Trust's Planning Group campaigns and comments on important developments in the town centre. See inside story for more information about our group and its work.



'Vision of the Future - stretching from Eldon street to Church Street'

Civic Voice, a new national group

Barnsley Civic Trust has joined Civic Voice, the new national network for local civic societies which will be launched later this month.

Civic Voice is an independent charity that campaigns to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. It will work at the national level on behalf of local groups like Barnsley Civic Trust, lobbying government and providing advice on planning issues, projects and funding sources.

As a member of Civic Voice, Barnsley Civic Trust will also receive practical support with tailored insurance policies, legal information and free banking services through the Co-op Bank.

In a fast changing world, a powerful voice promoting civic pride is needed now more than ever and the decision for Barnsley to join Civic Voice was taken at a meeting of our Executive in March.

The national launch of Civic Voice will be in mid April in London, and more information will soon be available for the

public through the website www.civicvoice.org.uk

Individual Barnsley Civic Trust members will also get more information at our AGM in May—see inside stories for more information on this.

"Nowhere should be without its civic society and no-one should be without the voice you can provide"

HRH Prince of Wales, Oct 2009

Blue Plaque No4. Samuel Joshua Cooper

Due to the bad weather in January, the fourth Blue Plaque in Barnsley Civic Trust's programme was unveiled slightly later than expected, in February this year. The plaque, dedicated to Samuel Joshua Cooper and installed on the side of the Cooper Gallery in



town, received its unveiling ceremony on a snow free Thursday in February. The event was attended by Cooper Gallery employees, Trustees of the Gallery and several Civic Trust members.

John Bostwick (BCT executive member and Cooper Gallery Trustee) made an excellent contribution by organising the installation on the Church Street façade of the Gallery. Ken Keen (BCT Executive member and local historian) also researched the contribution of Sam-



uel to the people of Barnsley and arranged the casting of the Plaque.

If you were wondering where we get the plaques cast, we can put your mind at ease. A specialist casting company in Buxton is used. Each plaque costs around £300 and takes a month to produce. This plaque was paid for by the Trustees of Cooper Gallery. BCT is looking at future blue plaques and the funding to support them. Watch this space for news.

AGM and Barnsley Markets book preview

All Civic Trust members are invited to take part in Barnsley Civic Trust's Annual General Meeting, which is being held **Tuesday 11th May at 6.00pm** at the Metrodome Leisure Centre.

This is BCT's third AGM, and over the last three years the organisation has come a long way. However, there is much more we could achieve and many new ideas have already been suggested for future projects by our members.

The AGM meeting in May is an opportunity for all our members to find out exactly what we have achieved, decide what we should focus on next year and get involved in a project they are interested in or want to initiate.

Importantly for members, the AGM is also an opportunity to elect an Executive Committee (of up to 20 members) as well as a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A copy of the nomination form and minutes of the AGM 2009 are now being sent to all members.

Any paid up Member may stand for election to the Executive Committee so long as they are nominated



and seconded by Members. Many of the current Executive Committee Members are willing to stand for re-election but interest from those wishing to stand for the Executive Committee for the first time is very much welcomed.

This year, everyone attending will also be able to enjoy a talk by

Jayne Dowle on her **new book about Barnsley Markets**, which tells the story of the market's past, present and future. Jayne's talk will take place immediately after the AGM and will be accompanied by light refreshments.

[See the back page for details about Jayne's book and the AGM](#)

Big Debate on Conservation Areas a success

Civic Trust members held a Big Debate event on the subject of conservation areas in November last year. Attended by around 50 people, the event was held in the striking setting of the Miners Hall on Victoria Road, a fitting venue for such a subject and an event of this nature.

The debate was widely promoted with leaflets, local radio articles and word of mouth in the town centre and old town areas. It was opened by the key note speaker Tony Burton Director of the Civic Societies movement and a veteran of many planning and conservation campaigns. He was joined by Tony Whiles, Barnsley Council's conservation officer and Archie Sinclair, former conservation officer, local historian and all round expert on the built heritage of Barnsley.

The 50 or so people attending the event were generally local residents with a deep commitment or personal interest in conservation, meaning that the ensuing discussions were both informative and useful.

Subjects that exercised people's concerns included the current situation with the Westfields House

property at the top of Victoria Road; the impact of private land lords and rented properties; quality of street furniture and trees in conservation areas and buildings of note or special character in our town centre areas.

The overall role and purpose of conservation areas status in Barnsley was raised by many people, asking how they can become more active to conserve their area, particularly through the use of new legal measures such as an Article Four directive, which gives more power to Council's to control the way people treat their homes in terms of window style and

demolishing garden walls.

So far, feedback from the debate has been positive and following on from the event Barnsley Civic Trust members will be exploring Article Four in more detail. Organisers Cath Wilkinson and Phyllis Barnes would like to thank everyone who attend, the key speakers who were able to share their knowledge and advice and Rebecca Keep for chairing the evening event.

Look out for more news on this important subject in future newsletters.



Race Night Fun for Civic Trust

The Civic Trust held its very first Race Night on Friday 26th March, to raise money for the annual Shop Awards.

A well attended and popular night out, around 80 Civic Trust members went along to enjoy themselves and raise money for this good cause. A full night of entertainment included six races, pie and pea supper and a raffle.

Cheap bar prices and a night at the races, what more could you ask for? Phyllis, Barnes, organiser was very pleased with outcome. She said: "We would like to thank everyone who came along to our first race night. The turnout was great and everyone was

very generous. We raised over £500 for the Shop Awards and the feedback we've had so far suggests that everyone really enjoyed themselves."



The Race Night is just one of a number of events run by the Shop Awards team to raise funds for the biggest retail awards in Barnsley... EVER!

Each year a main sponsor has supported the project by funding the awards trophies or the awards night. In the past they have included Barnsley Chamber of Commerce, Barnsley Eye Magazine and the Civic. This year we are again looking for funding. If you are a business and would like to sponsor the event please contact Phyllis on the number above. Suggestions of potential sponsors are also welcome. [Thank you from the Shop Awards Team.](#)

How to contact BCT:

☎ 01226 785454

- Garreth Bruff, Chair
- Rebecca Keep, Vice Chair
- Allen Parks, Secretary
- Phyllis Barnes, Treasurer & Shop Awards
- Laraine Day, Social Secretary
- Ben Johnson, Media

Project leads:

- Pauline Gould, Planning
- Cath Wilkinson, Debates
- Ken Keen & John Bostwick, Blue Plaques

If you have any news or want to feedback please contact Ben Johnson on the new email address >

bctnews@googlemail.com
www.barnsleycivictrust.org.uk

AGM and preview of new book on Barnsley Markets

6.00pm Tuesday 11 May at the Metrodome Leisure Centre, Queen Street

Free day pass to National Trust site of your choice collect at AGM as a signed up member, worth £14

Jayne Dowle will present insights into her new book on the past, present and future story of Barnsley Markets. This is a preview of the book that will be published soon. Jayne has been carrying out research and writing up her work over the last year and it promises to be a fresh, new look at the markets, one of the town's oldest institutions.

The AGM itself will start at 6.00pm sharp, with the annual report, discussions on key issues and the election of officers for 2010/11.

All BCT members will be receiving information in the post, including a full agenda and ballot forms. Any nominations for the Executive Committee or officer posts need to be with our secretary Allen Parks by the 9th May. See our website for more information or call 01226 785454

A full social events and meetings calendar will be available for 2010/11 at the AGM

PLANNING REGENERATION CONSERVATION

Planning:

The Voices and Issues Group

The Voices and Issues group have recently been in consultation with members of the Council's Planning Department with a view to fostering a supportive working relationship and further increase the group's involvement and understanding of the Planning Department's procedures.

Pauline Gould, group coordinator, regularly monitors all planning applications being made and observes the Council's Planning Regulatory Board meetings. She is looking for new members to join the planning group and help the Civic Trust to influence the shape of development in Barnsley.

Contact BCT on the above number if you are interested.

Regeneration:

Barnsley College taking shape

The steel structure of the New College is being erected through out March and April 2010. The tower crane was erected early due to the good weather over the past few weeks.



Conservation:

Improvement of Pinfold Steps, Shambles Street

Funding has been agreed for Town Centre open space as part of the recognition of Barnsley as a Growth Point in the Leeds City Region.

The area of publicly owned land between Shambles Street and Westgate, through which the historic Pinfold Steps run, is to be improved as public space with seating and lighting.

It is also part of the 'green sprint' linking the town to the Dearne Valley which is part of the community agreed renaissance vision for the town prepared by Will Alsop in 2003. The space will be of particular benefit to the future occupants of the 188 apartments in the nearly completed Gateway Plaza complex and will also provide a setting for the Lamproom theatre.

A scheme is being prepared which will make the area attractive and safer whilst maintaining its heritage connections. The works have to be completed by March 2011 to be able to use the £350,000 available.

The Barnsley Civic Trust will be consulted on the draft proposals. We will circulate for comments when available.