

LOOKING AHEAD

Welcome to LOOKING AHEAD, keeping you up-to-date with all the latest on many exciting new projects around town.

Bringing High-Speed Broadband to Teesdale

We are pleased to report that work has recently begun to bring Next Generation Broadband Access to Teesdale by the end of 2011.

The Digital Dale project, backed by Durham County Council in conjunction with One North East, is being led by Barnard Castle Vision in co-ordination with a number of local partners including Teesdale Enterprise Agency, Teesdale Action Partnership, local businesses and residents.

The project will connect a number of micro-enterprises and a wide variety of residential, community and business users

across Teesdale, including providing access to a variety of remote rural communities not currently connected.

Once fully expanded, it will also offer public internet access to over 100,000 visitors per annum through WiFi zones in Barnard Castle and Middleton-in-Teesdale.

"The solution which we have chosen will offer maximum geographical coverage, speed and capacity, building on existing infrastructure in the area," says Deborah Jenkins, Chair of Barnard Castle Vision. "The solution is also scalable, so that the network can be further extended over time."



Shop Front Grants

The Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme, offered through the Barney Guild, gives retailers in Barnard Castle the chance to gain financial aid to restore and improve the look of their premises, both inside and out. It offers a small repairs grant of up to £2000, covering up to 50% of the cost of minor works such as joinery repairs and painting of premises.

A second grant, subject to the approval of a sustainable business plan, can assist with re-modelling empty shops which have a new tenant ready to occupy them. It can cover up to 75% of total costs, up to a maximum of £15,000.

"The grants made my recent shop move so much more affordable – I'm so glad I was encouraged to apply!"
Francesca Waring of Star Flowers.

For further information about the grants, please contact Annalisa Ward on 01833 696263.



£87,000 for Barnard Castle's Landscape

The Vision has recently been awarded £87,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to restore and enhance the local landscape around Barnard Castle over next five years. We aim to regenerate the area through job creation, training in rural skills and additional landscape improvements, and hope to appoint a warden to look after the area long-term.

The funding will also enable the Vision to work towards securing a full HLF grant of £1.9m to improve the landscape of Barnard Castle and the surrounding area. To obtain this full amount, the Vision needs to secure match funding, and will be working to achieve this over the next 12 months.

Meanwhile, many thanks to all those who have helped the Vision, the Town Council and Groundworks North East this spring to cut back and manage overgrown trees and shrubs, clear litter, replace topsoil and replant where needed along the riverbank paths.

This has enabled us to open up new views of the Castle from across the river and make the area more attractive and accessible for all.



LOTTERY FUNDED

To contact the Vision about any issue or to let us know your ideas,
Text VISION and your message to 07781474422, email us at info@barnardcastlevision.co.uk or
drop us a line at Barnard Castle Vision, Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle,
Co. Durham, DL12 9EL.



Bringing New Light to Barnard Castle



On a starry evening at the end of March, members of the public gathered on Scar Top for the official Switch-On of the new Castle Lights, carried out by none other than Barnard Castle's historical founding figure, Bernard de Balliol.

Following the removal of the aged ground-based lighting system around the base of the castle, new lights, commissioned and supplied by Urbis and installed by Durham County Council, have been mounted on new street lighting columns along the pathway from Scar Top to the County Bridge.

Each floodlight is highly energy-efficient and very low maintenance, made up of 36 one watt LEDs. Being LED-based, the lights are also controllable in both direction and colour. On special occasions, the lights can also be used to provide special effect colour washes, turning the castle anything from spooky green to warm red as required.

The castle will be bathed in subtle light during the early hours of darkness in the winter and throughout the evening. In order to save electricity, the lights will be switched off during the small hours each night. The maintenance costs will be met by the Town Council.

The new floodlighting scheme has brought about by Barnard Castle Vision and Barnard Castle Town Council in partnership with English Heritage, Durham County Council, the County Durham Economic Partnership and One North East. Durham County Council's Street Lighting team put the lights in place, whilst Urbis supplied the lighting equipment.

Tony Cooke, Mayor of Barnard Castle, said: "The castle is the centre piece of Barnard Castle, creating a stunning focal point. Views which have been enjoyed in daylight can now be just as appealing to residents and visitors throughout the evening."



Stuck for Parking?

As part of our commitment to improving parking in Barney, we have made it easier than ever to access a previously under-used car park behind the high street.

Previously only accessible from Birch Road, The Hole In the Wall car park is now easily accessible from Newgate, thanks to a brand new entrance.

By encouraging visitors and tourists to use the car park, the aim is to help relieve parking congestion in the town for residents.

We are also keen to look at other options to help alleviate traffic in the traffic long-term. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas.

Shaw Bank Masterplan

Teesdale Community Resources are responsible for the current creation of the new Youth Hub facilities at Shaw Bank.

Barnard Castle Vision holds ambitious plans for the wider site long-term. Over time, we hope to encourage the whole of the Shaw Bank site to become a dynamic new 'green' centre for leisure, commerce, science and innovation.

With this in mind, Shaw Bank is profiled as a prominent part of our new investment guide for prospective new businesses, as well as several other sites around Barnard Castle including Harmire Business Park.



Transforming the Witham

Barnard Castle Vision and The Witham Trustees, together with appointed architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios are progressing with plans for the regeneration of Barnard Castle's Witham Hall. Work is expected to commence early in 2011, with completion expected in spring 2012.

Of the 360 people who viewed the January exhibition of designs, more than 95% gave the project their backing.

Comments left about the project include:

'The town is the perfect setting for such a tremendous new venture, very exciting.'

'Very exciting project which will breathe life back into a very important market town.'

'Barnard Castle desperately needs something like this as a cultural focal point.'

New facilities will include a 160-seater cinema, two new cafés, a gallery, open exhibition spaces, a specialist food hall and new work and meeting spaces which will be available to hire, and a second flexible performance space which can be used

as a theatre seating up to 163, or for alternate uses such as conferences or exhibitions, commercial meetings, or private functions.

In addition to complete restoration of the original building on Horsemarket, development of the site to the rear is also planned which will enable the Witham to provide a far wider range of facilities than currently present.

The redeveloped building is intended to become a centre which will encourage healthy living, promote healthy eating and provide a range of suitable activities and events for all.

"The plans for the development offer excellent community and commercial prospects for the Witham and the town – the commercial element of the new Witham is essential for the venue to be sustainable." David Vasey, The Sweet Shop

"We feel this will be good for the town by complementing what is already on offer, and then bringing more. The cinema will be a fabulous addition to bring people in."

Fiona Brookes, Brookes Outfitters and Tailors.

NeST on Newgate: Supporting The Creative Community

Barnard Castle is rightly proud of its creative talent, with one of the highest percentages of artists and musicians per population of anywhere in the UK.

Looking to the future we are keen to protect, foster and encourage this heritage to the best of our ability, supporting our artists, actors and musicians with a range of new and ongoing initiatives.

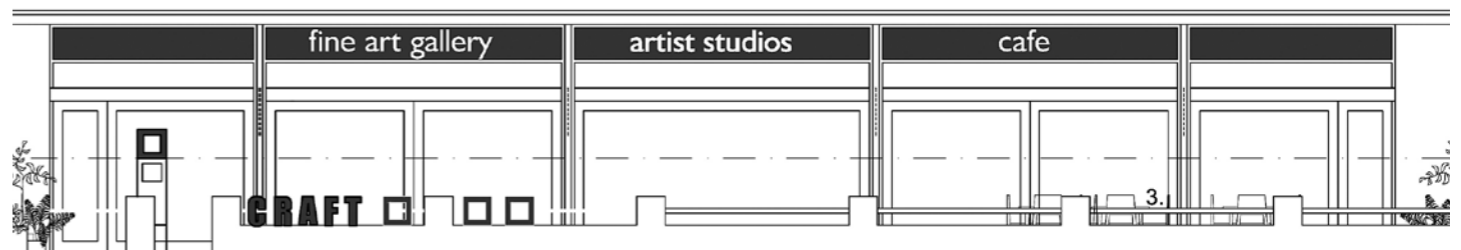
On Newgate, we have recently obtained change-of-use planning permission to convert the former Dorants Garage into an open-studio workspace especially for local artists, artisans and digital and creative businesses. Newgate Studios (to be known as NeST), will be a mix of traditional gallery space and digital and creative studios for the existing creative community concentrated around The Bank and Newgate.

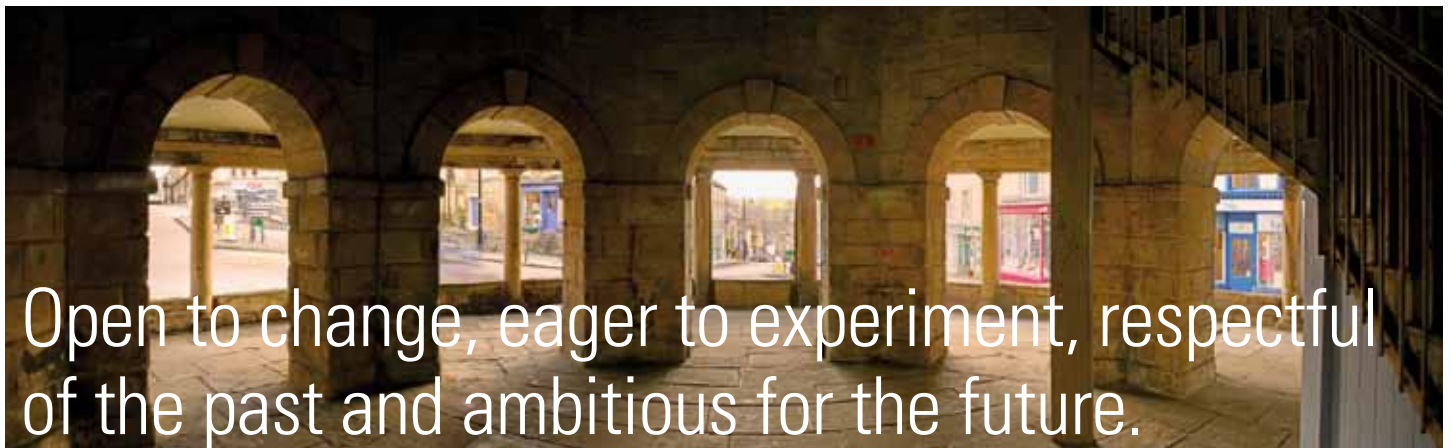
The open artists' studios will mean that the general public can watch the artists at work. There will also be a large exhibition area / café, and an open plan hot-desk facility for up to 12 extra artists.

NeST will also be linked to Middlesbrough's DigitalCity project, a flagship development positioning the North East at the cutting edge of digital technology.

"As the first rural satellite to DigitalCity, Barnard Castle's NeST can provide fantastic and unparalleled support to the digital and creative economy in Teesdale." - Deborah Jenkins, Chair of Barnard Castle Vision.

If you are interested in renting a studio within this new development, please get in touch with us.





Open to change, eager to experiment, respectful of the past and ambitious for the future.

Overall, Barnard Castle Vision is keen to preserve and enhance the unique and valuable spirit of Barnard Castle, whilst delivering a better quality of life for local residents long-term.

Looking to the future, our chief aims are as follows:

- To restore and enhance the town centre including shop fronts, Butter Market, car parking, toilets, signage etc;
- To support local businesses through the Barney Guild and broadband infrastructure;
- To improve the general landscape around town;
- To redevelop The Witham;
- To increase tourism, food town and cultural attractions;

- To improve broadband and WiFi facilities for all residents;
- To support our creative community through NeST;
- To improve local access to Higher and Further Education;
- To attract new visitors, new business and inward investment;
- To utilise our links across Europe to obtain extra resources and ideas for the town;
- To create new resources to support the farming community;
- To explore the potential for executive and affordable housing, disabled facilities and better healthcare;
- To show the world that Barnard Castle is a market town for the future.

Change in Action

Since 2006, Barnard Castle Vision has been steadily working towards obtaining funds for the economic regeneration of the town.

To date, the Vision has bid for and obtained over £2.3 million of funding on Barnard Castle's behalf to be spent between 2008 and 2011 aiding economic regeneration projects within Barnard Castle and the local area.

In 2010-2011, we are allocating another £1.23m of funding to a wide range of projects around Barnard Castle and Teesdale. We also currently have many extra funding bids in progress, totalling in excess £7.5 million to support the future of Barnard Castle and the wider dale, including landscaping works and the redevelopment of The Witham Hall. Our administrative costs total only 12% of the overall budget, with all the rest of the funds being directly dedicated to projects on the ground.

Put forward your ideas:
Join 1000 Voices

1000 Voices



Young or old, if you live in Barnard Castle or Teesdale, you are warmly invited to join 1000 Voices to put forward your ideas and tell us how you feel about ours.

As a member of 1000 Voices, there are many ways your voice can be heard. Why not visit our website, www.barnardcastlevision.co.uk, where you can find details on joining and lots of information on all our projects and ideas, or call Jill Cole on 01833 631838.

Swaledale Festival Comes to Barney: June 13th 2010

Barnard Castle Vision is proud to sponsor the Swaledale Festival, which is being extended into Barnard Castle for the first year ever. Being involved with this internationally acclaimed festival is a tremendous opportunity for the town, and a chance to celebrate local talent. Highlights include a concert by Natalie Clein at St Mary's Church, a Northern Light exhibition by local artists at

the Bowes Museum from 22nd May until 20th June, a concert by Barnard Castle Band outside St Mary's Church, an appearance by saxophonist Snake Davis at Teesdale School, and free storytelling with Adam Bushnell in the Bowes Museum's outdoor story garden.

For details of times and costs, please call 01738 880019 or visit the event website, www.swaledale-festival.org.uk.

Barnard Castle Vision is an independent dynamic vehicle, formed to deliver a 20 year programme of investment in the town. We receive funding support from One North East through the County Durham Economic Partnership and Durham County Council, also securing match-funding and support in kind from a variety of public, private and charitable sources to further projects. We are steered by a regeneration partnership comprising the major stakeholders and local stakeholders One North East, Durham County Council, Teesdale Marketing, The Enterprise Agency for Wear Valley and Teesdale, Teesdale School and NHS County Durham.