

COOPERATIVE PLACE MAKING



Biddulph Town Council

Public Realm Enhancements

Public realm enhancements are often perceived to be the responsibility of Regeneration teams within larger local authorities. In February 2025, Biddulph Town Council set about achieving an innovative vision, which was new territory for our partners and us.

Biddulph Town Council and stakeholders worked together to create a Neighbourhood Plan and a Neighbourhood Development Order, both adopted in January 2024. As part of this work, the Town Council commissioned a Town Centre Masterplan, which said, *'Provision of a public square fronting Biddulph Town Hall would provide a place for interaction and community involvement. A pedestrian-friendly environment would further enhance the Town Centre experience.'* Biddulph is a linear town experiencing difficulties other towns face, including declining footfall and struggling independent traders. We felt there was a need to re-imagine the town centre, before the remaining sense of community pride was lost.

Following a planning and procurement process, work began to transform the space in front of Biddulph Town Hall into a more accessible, welcoming, and versatile community area. Partly funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the project created a hard-landscaped plaza designed to host events and gatherings, celebrating both the town's future and its proud industrial past.

This space is a celebration of the town's mining heritage with restored balance wheel, engraved bricks, interpretation and tourism boards, low voltage lighting and sustainable planting- including the introduction of trees.

When the frontage was opened, the Town Mayor said: *'This new frontage is not just a facelift – it's a statement. It says: "We remember where we've come from – and we're proud of where we're going". The frontage will now allow us to come together for events and activities that keep our town centre alive, a challenge at this time.*



Town Hall frontage Spring 2026

This project enabled the Town Council to both create and deliver a vision; it was a new area of work for Town Councillors, encouraging the development of a long-term vision for the town. We consulted with the community and implemented their recommendations. We worked with local providers to deliver the project- keeping money in the town, and enhancing the sense of pride in the initiative.

This project has created a town square; it's a space for markets, gatherings, and connections. It enhances the Town Hall itself, making sure residents see this as the heart of their town. A new sense of ownership has emerged, and those involved in the mining industry feel recognised and celebrated.

For further information contact:

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