



Kidsgrove Town Deal Newsletter – December 2025



Reaching the end of 2025 is a perfect time to reflect on the progress made with the Kidsgrove Town Deal and to look ahead to the opportunities and challenges that 2026 will bring.

This year has seen some major successes:

- Kidsgrove Sports Centre celebrated its third birthday, with membership continuing to grow. Alongside excellent facilities – including a fully accessible 25m pool, sports hall, gym, and Spinning® studio – the Centre is now home to a Barclays Local banking hub.
- Chatterley Valley works were completed, opening up new opportunities for development.
- Canal towpath improvements are virtually complete, with remaining funding earmarked for signage and safety enhancements.
- Public realm and highways projects across Meadows Road, Station Road, Market Street, and Kings Street are progressing through planning and consultation, set to enhance connectivity and the town's appearance.
- The board approved plans for new enterprise units at Meadows Road and a community hub at King's Academy, strengthening local skills and business opportunities.
- Consultation events at the former Brown's garage site and King's Academy drew over 130 visitors, providing valuable feedback on public realm, highways, community hub, and enterprise unit proposals.

At the same time, we acknowledge the challenges faced:

The resignation of Dan Gray, our long-standing chair, marked the end of an era. Dan was warmly thanked for his skill and commitment in guiding the board through difficult decisions. While no nominations have yet come forward to replace him, we remain hopeful for 2026.

Railway Station and Car Park - Plans have required significant value engineering. A solution is now agreed in principle and designs are progressing.



Looking Ahead to 2026

- Finalise contracts for enterprise units and the community learning centre.
- Continue canal and public realm improvements.
- Address challenges around the railway station project.
- Ensure Town Deal investments deliver lasting benefits for Kidsgrove residents and businesses.

The KTD board remains strong, and its commitment is much valued.



PROJECTS UPDATE



Kidsgrove Sports Centre (£2.45m)

Selected in 2023 for Towns Fund evaluation, the centre has been used as a case study in the interim report published July 2025. Evaluation continues into 2026, focusing on funding processes and impact outcomes. The full case study write-up in the technical annexes is available on [Towns Fund evaluation: interim findings 2 - technical annexes](#) for any board members who would like to read it.

Chatterley Valley (£3.68m)

Town Deal funded work is complete. Harworth is actively marketing the site with plots available. [05875-28-Harworth-Chatterley-Park-Bro.pdf](#)

BRAND NEW GRADE A INDUSTRIAL & LOGISTICS PARK

25,000 TO 518,000 SQ FT

FOR SALE / TO LET

- UP TO 40M BUILDING HEIGHT AVAILABLE ON PLOTS A & B
- DIRECT ACCESS TO A500 / M6 J16
- FIRST UNIT AVAILABLE FROM Q3 2026

CHATTERLEY PARK

A500 / M6 J16
Peacock Hay Road, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST7 1UN

// SCULPTURE.DIVISIONS.ENHANCEMENT

Harworth

Canal Enhancement (£420k)

The towpath, including solar lighting, and both sets of steps leading to the station, are complete. Around £60k remains for proposals to improve wayfinding, interpretation, and tunnel safety, to be finalised in 2026.



Kidsgrove Station (£3.45m)

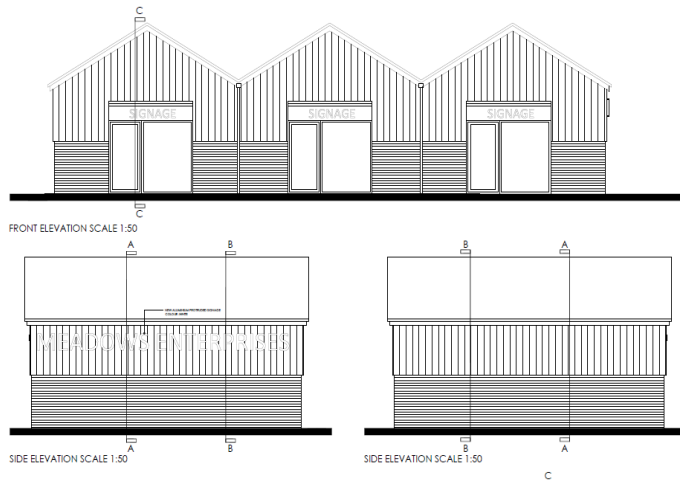
2025 brought many challenges, as board members are aware, but construction is expected to begin in 2026.

- Ground investigation funding issues delayed progress and Board eventually decided to pursue options where this would not be required.
- EMR submitted revised designs focusing on customer facilities (toilets, access, signage, cycle storage, car park with 53 spaces, disabled bays, EV charging).
- Board approved the outline design at a cost of c. £2.7m in July 2025.
- September meetings with Network Rail (NR) confirmed that need for remediation was unlikely. Detailed designs are now being prepared by DYSE on behalf of EMR to submit to NR for final sign off.
- Completion expected autumn 2027.



Shared Service Hub & Public Realm

As Board members will recall, the original hub plans were re-designed after partner withdrawals. Funding reallocated to substitute schemes:



Enterprise Units (£1.5m)

- Planning permission granted September 2025.
- Traffic Regulation Order amendment prepared for car parking.
- Tender documents issued November 2025; strong local interest.
- Contract award due January 2026; completion July 2026.

- Marketing to begin during construction phase.

Highways (£1m)

- Consultation held in April/May 2025, and designs amended accordingly. This included not going ahead with the proposed no right turn into Heathcote Street.
- Design changes include new loading bays, reduced restrictions, and junction adjustments. Formal consultation process is ongoing.
- Work scheduled to start spring 2026, completion late 2026.

Community Hub (£1.5m)

- Grant funding agreement with King's pending.
- Alliance Leisure identified as preferred contractor.
- Additional canal connectivity funding approved.
- Feedback from both consultations was positive.



Footpaths (£200k)

- Improvements agreed January 2025.
- Path from tunnel keeper's lodge to The Avenue completed April 2025. Funded as part of canal enhancement project allocation.
- Canal to Third Avenue path completed December 2025 by Amey (instructed by Staffordshire County Council as it is a public right of way). This came in well under budget at £8,150.
- Board agreed that remaining funds would support Community Hub connectivity.

Public Realm (£1.8m)

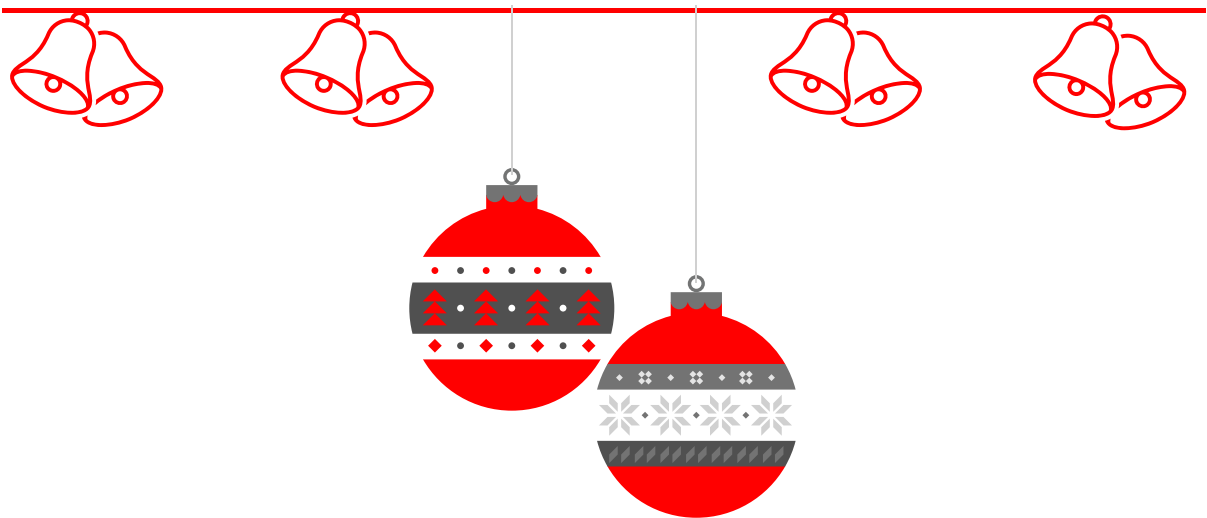
- Vegetation clearance complete for footpath from Aldi to Tesco.
- Lighting column work completed but some snagging still required.
- Designs well received at consultations.
- Brown's garage site approved for demolition and temporary parking.
- Planning application for precinct and car park changes approved November 2025.
- Heathcote Street toilets refurbished and reopened.



Summary

2025 delivered significant progress: Sports Centre evaluation, Chatterley Valley completion, canal enhancements, and approvals for enterprise units and public realm works. Challenges remain, particularly around the railway station, but solutions are advancing.

2026 will be a pivotal year, with construction starting on enterprise units, highways, and the station, alongside continued canal and community hub improvements.



The project team at NuLBC would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all Board members and colleagues for their ongoing support in ensuring delivery is in line with the original Town Deal objectives and is of benefit to the Kidsgrove community.