

Kidsgrove Town Deal Newsletter – March 2026

Spring is definitely starting to make its presence felt across the Borough which makes it a good time to take stock of progress on the Kidsgrove Town Deal projects.

A lot of behind-the-scenes work has been undertaken via the various project Steering Groups since our last Newsletter in December 2025. As you will see from the project updates below, planning applications have been granted for schemes, detailed planning has been undertaken to establish delivery timescales and the Council continues to scrutinise activities through its Cabinet reports & scrutiny Committees . The next Board meeting will be held following the local elections in May

PROJECT UPDATES

KIDSGROVE SPORTS CENTRE

(£2.45m – fully spent)



The centre has launched a brand-new 2026 fitness class timetable, introducing four new classes—HIITstep, PiYo, Aqua Tone, and Boxercise—in response to user requests for more variety. Opening hours have also been extended to offer more flexibility for visitors using the gym, swimming pool, and sports hall, with early morning starts and later evening closing times.

The centre is continuing its commitment to youth fitness, offering "Extra Active Teens" slots during school holidays and looking at ways of making membership even more affordable including a "Swim-Only" membership, offering unlimited access for around 90p a day, aimed at making, healthy, active lifestyles accessible.

Barclays Bank Local Hub continues to operate on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

Board members will remember that the sports centre was used as a case study for the Towns Fund. 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 – fully spent)

Town Deal funded work is complete. Harworth is actively marketing the site with plots available. The site is designed for large-scale, "build-to-suit" opportunities ranging from 25,000 to 518,000 sq ft, with a focus on companies seeking BREEAM Excellent/EPC A-rated, net-zero carbon facilities. [05875-28-Harworth-Chatterley-Park-Bro.pdf](#)

In December 2025, Harworth Group secured planning permission for two large "high-bay" warehouses (Units A & B), covering 777,700 sq ft, specifically aimed at advanced logistics and manufacturing occupiers. These units can be up to 40m high. Harworth's are confident of securing occupiers for units shortly.



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 - £354,900 spent/committed)

The main work on the towpath and steps is complete. Around £60k to deliver proposals to improve wayfinding, interpretation, and tunnel safety, will be finalised in 2026.

- Wayfinding:
 - Replace fingerpost at bottom of drive by tunnel keepers' lodge.
 - New fingerposts at station access and near locks (exact locations subject to underground services).
 - Cost c.£3,000; to be installed by volunteers; completion in March 2026.
- An Interpretation Board

- Will be located adjacent to tunnel keepers' hut and will include information about the history of the tunnels (including images).
- Cost c.£3,000; completion in summer 2026.
- Brindley Tunnel Refresh
 - Limewashing of the entrance portal (c.£7,500) and wildlife enhancements to pool (c.£4,500).
 - Heritage Consent has been granted.
 - Works scheduled for Spring 2026 (warm weather needed for lime wash to dry).
- Tunnel portal crossing
 - A new structure replacing the current “car park” barrier with a structure that allows the tunnel keeper to cross the canal and check progress of boats coming through the tunnel.
 - £10,000 for design (funded by KTD); £60 - £80k fabrication & Installation which will be underwritten by C&RT.



Brindley Tunnel
c.1900

(Courtesy of Staffs Past Track)

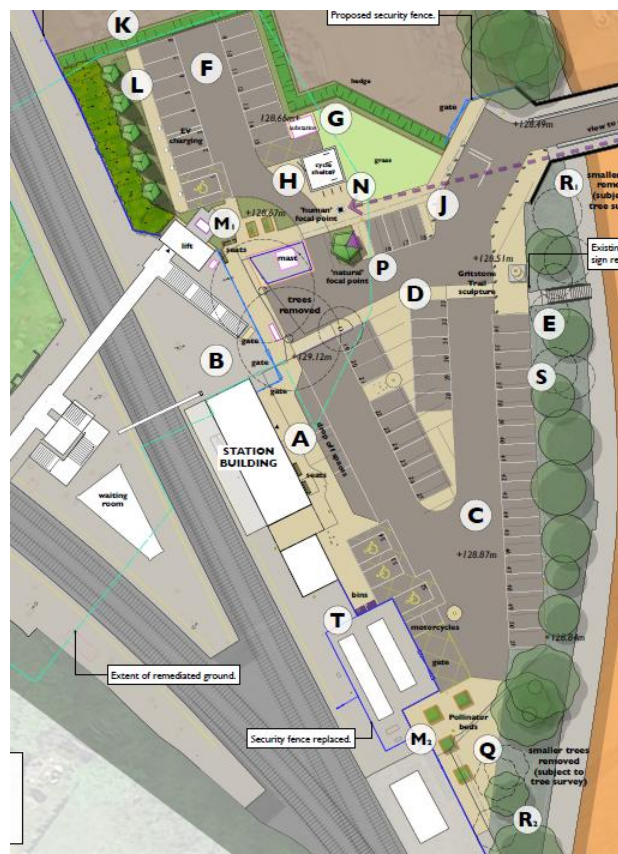
KIDSGROVE TRAIN STATION

(£3.45m - £365,239 spent/committed)

The station project continues to move forward and is currently in its final design phase.

- Outline Design commenced in Nov 2025 and is now nearing completion, with submission to Network Rail anticipated this month.
- Design consultation with a wide range of stakeholders has been really positive and will remain ongoing whilst Network Rail work through their design review and approval process.

- Detailed design will commence once the Outline Design is approved by Network Rail, with the final detailed design submission anticipated in June 2026.
- Once the detailed design has been approved, the project will move forward to the tender stage. This will run for 4 months, targeting a contract award by mid-December 2026.
- Assuming a standstill period of 30 days post contract award and a 30-day lead-in time for the contractor to mobilise their operations, construction works at the station are expected to start in February 2027.
- Completion is still on target for Autumn 2027.



ENTERPRISE UNITS

(£1.5m - £141,210 spent/committed)

- Monthly sub-group meetings continuing – next meeting mid April
- Planning permission granted for scheme
- Contractor selected and to be appointed formally asap
- Marketing to begin during construction phase.

HIGHWAYS

(£1m - £112,580 spent/committed)

- The funding agreement for all works between NuLBC and SCC is currently underway.

- Monthly sub-group meetings continuing – next meeting mid April
- Site investigation quotes have been obtained for Ground Penetration Radar and CCTV surveys of affected gulleys, alongside plans for two trial holes near the library for proposed bollards.
- Programme discussions have aligned KTD projects and SCC highway works to avoid clashes. Phased works planned across Station Road/Meadows Road, Kings Street, Market Street and additional S278 (highways works by developers) requirements, including the need to coordinate with upcoming Gloucester Road maintenance.
- Detailed design is underway, due for completion and pricing by the end of March.
- The Traffic Regulation Order has entered formal consultation. The advert was posted in mid-February and responses are to be reviewed by the sub group.
- A meeting with Amey Highways took place on 6 March 2026 to agree traffic management, road space planning and programme durations.

COMMUNITY HUB

(£1.5m - £117 spent/committed)

- Monthly sub group meetings continuing
- NuLBC has established that the grant to King's is not considered as a subsidy under Towns Fund guidelines.
- Final sign off of the grant funding agreement by the Academy is required once the cash flow is appended. Expected shortly.
- The Academy, SCC, Aspire, NuLBC and Staffordshire Connects continue to meet to discuss operation of the Hub. The Academy is exploring the setting up of an arm's length body (e.g. trading company, CIC) to ensure that the facility operates independently.
- The Academy have provided the timeline below:
 - Designs complete – March 2026
 - Surveys completed – June 2026
 - Groundworks commence – June 2026
 - Construction on site begins – August 2026
 - External cladding – Sept 2026
 - Practical completion – Nov 2026



FOOTPATHS

(£200k - £8,150 spent/committed)



Two footpaths have been completed

- Connection from tunnel keeper's lodge to The Avenue was delivered as part of the canal enhancement project.
- Canal to Third Avenue path completed December 2025 by Amey/Staffordshire County Council, under budget at £8,150.

Path A – canal to Third Avenue

- Board agreed that remaining funds would support Community Hub connectivity.

PUBLIC REALM

(£1.8M - £351,444 spent/committed)

- Monthly sub group meetings continuing
- Planning permission granted
- Precinct ownership - Legal paperwork is with Aspire for transfer to NuLBC ownership.
- Current timeline:
 - Brown's garage gas supply cut off - mid March 26 and demolition underway – see photo below



- Tender for public realm work sent out – mid March 26
- Return of tenders and analysis – Mid May 26
- Phase 1 work completion – early July 26
- Phase 2 completion – early August 26
- Timeline subject to following issues:
 - Establishment of the ground conditions for the bank separating the two lower car parks. Cost implication for removal if anything adverse (e.g. asbestos) found in the soil. Report expected shortly.
 - Awaiting approval from SCC/Amey for the 278 works (this is to do with the design and construction of any pathways that connect to roads).

SUMMARY

Overall, the programme is progressing well across all projects, with major milestones being reached and momentum building in 2026.

- Kidsgrove Sports Centre is expanding its offer with new classes, extended hours and affordable memberships.
- Chatterley Valley has completed Town Deal works and secured planning for additional requirements for potential occupiers.
- Canal enhancements are largely finished, with further wayfinding and heritage improvements scheduled this year.
- Kidsgrove Station is advancing through final design, on track for construction in 2027.
- Enterprise Units are moving toward contract award, highways design and coordination are well underway.
- Community Hub is progressing toward a summer construction start.
- Footpath links are already delivering benefits, and public realm works are preparing to enter the tender and build phase.