

**“A Moment in time for Bodmin” as town  
plans its future**

**Brand-new initiative planning the future of Cornish town unveiled at launch event**

A collective of local businesses, community groups and elected representatives have unveiled the ‘Bodmin Vision – Bodmin 2030 and Beyond’ at its launch event at St Petroc’s Church on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The statement, which aims to outline and agree the ambitions for the future of the town, communicates an ‘Agenda for Bodmin’ to help deliver the full potential of the town over the next ten to twenty years.

*“It was incredibly exciting to share the Vision and unveil our aims and ambitions for Bodmin. The statement is the result of intensive collaboration and consultation, outlining exactly what we would like to achieve in the town over the next decade and beyond,”* commented Jeremy Cooper, Councillor and Town Mayor. *“We have developed a very positive, confident image of the future of Bodmin and how we will get there, which was fantastically received at the launch event on Friday. There was a palpable buzz amongst our guests who are all united in celebrating the ambitious, credible and realistic plans for Bodmin.”*

The purpose of the launch event was to celebrate the partnerships of local Bodmin-based interests, to promote the vision to new audiences and generate further momentum for the delivery of improvements in the town.

*“The Vision for Bodmin is a combined effort with contributions from a variety of local businesses, community groups, town organisations/ interests, and the Town Council. That is why this statement is so powerful - it unites every aspect of the community to agree and plan for Bodmin’s future”* commented Fin Irwin, Director of IntoBodmin. *“It was fantastic to join together at the launch event to celebrate the Vision, and we’re all very eager to collaborate on our Action Plans moving forward to strive ahead and play our part in shaping Bodmin’s future.”*

The event included a variety of Guest Speakers including Kate Kennally (Chief Executive of Cornwall Council), Robert Rush (Cornwall Chamber of Commerce), Andrew Abbott (Director of Primary Care, Kernow CCG), Phil Ugalde (Local Business Leader), Fin Irwin (Director of IntoBodmin), Pat Rogerson (Cornwall Councillor for Bodmin) and Jeremy Cooper (Mayor).

*“Our Speakers represented the different perspectives and pillars of Bodmin, discussing topics related to their area, industry or expertise. This allowed a fascinating insight into how all corners of the community have contributed to the Bodmin Vision and how each can benefit”* commented Phil Cooper, Deputy Mayor of Bodmin. *“This is reflected in the Statement which outlines the Top Priorities for Action with three main themes - these are intended to summarise the main direction of travel for the town across social, cultural and economic planning.”*

Priority Areas for action over the next five years include: Theme 1 – Building a Stronger Community, Theme 2 – Destination Bodmin and Theme 3 – Accelerating Economic Growth.

Local Councillor, Pat Rogerson, discussed how powerful the Bodmin Vision will be in “enhancing the pride of the town” whilst developing creativity and the potential for collaboration across the community.

Phil Ugalde, Owner of Proper Cornish, also talked about the huge potential of the town. *“Bodmin is a geographically well-placed ‘hub’ for the servicing industries. It’s a multi-faceted destination, not just a sign-post on the A30.”*

Fin Irwin, IntoBodmin, discussed the Bodmin Vision from a cultural perspective. *“We’re seeing a shift, there’s a real buzz about Bodmin. Joining together as part of the Vision is all part of community activism – together, we’re stronger.”*

Kate Kennally looked ahead at the developments and events occurring in Bodmin over the next two years. *“Further developments of Beacon Technology Park, the new platform at Bodmin and Wenford Railway Station, the Jail, the private sector investment into the Cinema - and Bodmin being the finish line for the Tour of Britain leg that’s going to be starting with the grand depart here in Cornwall. It’s the largest free-to-view event in the country and it’s going to be ending here. What a fantastic moment to come together to showcase Bodmin and all the work you’ve been doing.”*

Robert Rush commented, *“Bodmin was one of the first to collaborate well to set the bar incredibly high in galvanising the education providers, transport leaders, business and community leaders to make change happen in the town. The Chamber plans to use the information gathered from the conference to inform a series of initiatives to help other towns achieve something as powerful as Bodmin 2030. As a Chamber of Commerce, we have a lot of praise for this forward-thinking and collaborative approach to inspiring pride in one’s town.”*

Andrew Abbott, spoke on behalf of the health and care system, discussing the Vision document and how compelling it is. *“It was fantastic to see in the Vision document that it’s not just high-level pie in the sky, in fact there’s very little of that, it’s very specific and tangible recommendations of what we need to do to progress.”*

Reverend Paul Holley closed the event, discussing the changing perceptions of the town. *“The Vision has emerged from those who live in Bodmin; it’s the path we’ve chosen together, a vision for Bodmin, from Bodmin.”*

*“We’re absolutely delighted that our Vision for Bodmin was met with such a positive response. We’re now committed to working as partners to facilitate action and build on the positive momentum we have here in Bodmin”* commented Jeremy. *“An obvious challenge we face is when asking what’s different about Bodmin, couldn’t the statement be the same for any town in Cornwall? The answer is that all the content has come from local discussions and collaboration, and that’s where we’re striving forward in a totally unique way.”*

The Statement asks for support from public sector organisations, also highlighting priorities where Bodmin Vision hope to work with private sector interests and grant funders to achieve town improvements.

*“Bodmin has seen immense positive change over the last five years and with so much more on the horizon, we believe it’s one of Cornwall’s most exciting and dynamic towns”* added Jeremy.

**The Statement is supported by a partnership of Bodmin-based organisations and interests** – Bodmin Town Council, Cornwall Council Divisional Members for Bodmin, Bodmin Chamber of Commerce, Better Bodmin, Bodmin and Wenford Railway, Cornwall’s Regimental Museum, Bodmin Jail, Into Bodmin, Stillmore House Practice, Carnewater Practice, Bodmin College, Callywith College, Bodmin Team Ministry, Bodmin Local Police Inspector and The National Trust at Lanhydrock.

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**The full ‘Bodmin Vision – Bodmin 2030 and Beyond’ Statement can be found at [www.bodmin.gov.uk/bodmin-vision](http://www.bodmin.gov.uk/bodmin-vision) or call 01208 76616.**