2025 Group Newsletter

This Months Grimsby Town Centre News.

Hello ,

Welcome to this month's 2025 Group newsletter.

What a month November has been!

It marked the launch of the 2025 Group film alongside our quarterly event.

So far, the short promotional film has reached over 50,000 views, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Our event welcomed **over 120 attendees,** and the feedback was fantastic. One of the highlights was seeing so many new faces join us for the first time.

The Christmas 🎄 Festival and light switch on was a huge success despite the weather. The feedback has been amazing. A lot of hard work goes into these events by the NELC tourism team to make them happen.

There are lots more great events happening in the town during December. Check out the events page on our website, and Freshney Place website.

Since the film's release, I've had the opportunity to be interviewed by BBC Radio Humberside and **BBC Look North**, which means Grimsby town centre has gained even wider recognition.

This can only be a good thing, as the film—created by talented local filmmakers **Alex Thompson and Micky Parsons from Rise Film**—is a heartwarming piece that inspires pride and hope for the future.

Have you had a chance to watch the film yet?

If not, you can view it on our website at 2025 Group

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and I'd like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with joy, family, and friends.

📸 from our last event in November at the town hall.

Jose Stewart
Town Centre Ambassador

"Be Part of the Positive: The Story Behind the 2025 Group"

A Warm Welcome to Our New Subscribers!

Thanks to the launch of our short film, we've seen a fantastic influx of new subscribers to our newsletter.

For those of you who are just joining us, I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to introduce ourselves and share the story behind the **2025 Group** and our mission.

How It All Began

In 2021, the High Street Taskforce visited Grimsby and conducted extensive consultations with business and community leaders, the police, and other key stakeholders.

Their work culminated in a detailed report that highlighted the main barriers to transforming our town centre and provided actionable recommendations to overcome them.

This process concluded in 2022 with a public presentation and workshop at Grimsby Town Hall, attended by 54 engaged community members. The presentation underscored the importance of community support for the positive changes already underway.

A key takeaway was the idea that while the council could attract funding, having an independent group **lead these efforts** would be far more effective.

Taking this advice, the **2025 Group** was born. The founding team consists of four individuals: one representative from the local authority (to provide governance and funding guidance) and three business owners, all committed to driving a positive narrative about our town centre. Details of the founding team can be found on our website.

Shortly after, I was invited to join the initiative as the **2025 Group Town Centre Ambassador** to engage directly with businesses, organisations, and the wider community to amplify the positive message regarding all the exciting changes coming to the town. .

Our Journey So Far

Since then, we've been actively connecting with the community through face-to-face meetings, our social media platforms **(Facebook and LinkedIn),** our website, events, and most recently, our short film.

The council have been fortunate to secure substantial funding, including **High Street Accelerator (HSA) and Green Spaces funding.** This has enabled significant investment in our high street, which has long struggled with perceptions of anti-social behaviour, street begging, vandalism, empty shops, and a drab appearance.

They have done a **brilliant job** of stretching these funds further by matching grants through initiatives like the HSA, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Activation Fund (a Towns Fund capital programme), and the Police and Crime Commissioner fund.

Together, these have helped initiate a range of improvements to make our town centre safer, brighter, and more welcoming.

Our Mission

At its core, the **2025 Group's mission** is to create a positive narrative for Grimsby's town centre. We want to drown out the negativity about our town centre. **Read our latest blog** that talks about celebrating what we do have, not what we don't.

Our **leadership team** represents the community's voice and advises the council on how best to allocate funding for the benefit of the town's businesses, residents, and visitors.

We hold **quarterly events** where everyone from our community is welcome to share their views, ideas, and feedback.

These consultations have already led to tangible changes, including:

✔More colour and greenery on Victoria Street.
✔Improved evening festoon lighting coming in January.
✔Cleaner streets with graffiti removal.
✔Repairs to the broken windows of the old House of Fraser, now featuring artwork.
✔Enhanced efforts to address crime, safety, and anti-social behaviour, thanks to Paul Caswell, his team, and Humberside Police.
✔Work with the homeless to offer support and understanding.
✔Artwork projects.

The town is not a town without a community and we need you.

Together, we're making real progress, and there's so much more to come.

Thank you for wanting to make a difference, we couldn't do it without you.

The Future of Grimsby's Town Centre

Grimsby's town centre is on the brink of an exciting transformation.

By embracing a community-led approach, we can ensure that this transformation is inclusive, sustainable, and beneficial for all.

The growing momentum behind rejuvenating our town centre underlines the commitment to a brighter, more vibrant future for our town centre, Victoria Street, and beyond.

"Many people have expressed an interest in getting involved. It's simple—be 'part of the positive'! Share the exciting updates about regeneration projects and the good news stories with your friends and family."

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Join the Conversation: Please feel free to send me an email to discuss your ideas.

Just click on the link below and share your thoughts.

Share Your Thoughts

Town Centre Regeneration Projects

Town Centre Regeneration Updates

Exciting regeneration projects are transforming our town centre!

Over the last month, we've received great updates on several key developments.

Here's what's in store for Grimsby:

- **Transport Hub** – A new transport hub is set to improve connectivity in the town centre.
- **Keepmoat Housing Development** – High-quality, energy-efficient homes near the Horizon Youth Zone will provide more town-centre living options.
- **Freshney Place Leisure Scheme** – A mixed-use space featuring Parkway Cinema's new 5-screen theatre, leisure activities, retail spaces, a modern market hall, and new food and drink options.
- **Riverhead Square Green Space** – A welcoming, nearly completed green space at Riverhead Square for everyone to enjoy.
- **NHS Diagnostic Centre** – Bringing advanced health services to our community.
- **Horizon Youth Zone** – A state-of-the-art youth facility for young people in Grimsby.
- **Projekt Renewable** – An innovative learning and leisure space featuring container installations.
- **St James House** – Set to become a business hub, led by the E-Factor Group.
- **CARE Community Hub** – Located in the former Royal Bank of Scotland building, this hub will provide essential community services.
- **Victoria Street Makeover** – A fresh, well-deserved facelift for this important street.
- **Our Big Picture** – A significant renovation is coming to Bethlehem Street's cultural space.

We're committed to keeping you informed on these developments and other good news stories.

For the latest updates, visit our **2025 Group regeneration page**—just click the button below!

Visit Regeneration Projects

Town Centre December Events

What Events Are Happening in the Town Centre:

Our Activities Co-ordinator Steve Rusling has created a dedicated page on our website for all town centre events.

Visit the page here to find out what is **GOING ON!**

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For all other events in North East Lincolnshire subscribe to the Discover North East Lincolnshire monthly newsletter.

Sign up below so you don't miss out on future events in North East Lincolnshire..

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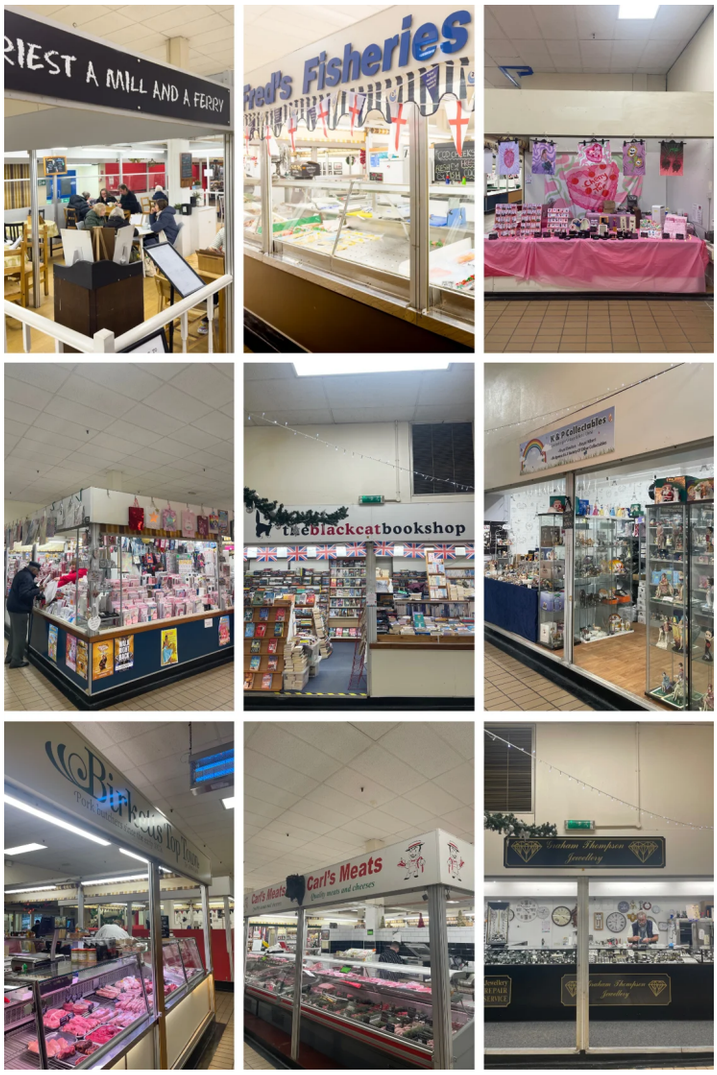
Town Centre Community Heroes



Town Centre Heroes: Supporting Our Top Town Market Traders

This month, we're recognising the hardworking traders of Top Town Market.

They've **faced tough times** over the last few years, from the challenges of Covid-19 to ongoing uncertainty about the market's future location.

Despite talks of relocation – possibly to the **old BHS building** – nothing has been confirmed, leaving them wondering what the future holds.

Many of the businesses around them have closed due to the redevelopment, and the market is now running at half its capacity.

But these traders have stuck it out, **showing resilience and determination** to keep their businesses going.

They're here to serve the community and have done so with **pride,** even when times have been hard.

The market has a fantastic range of stalls, including:

Fresh fish and seafood.
Two butchers.
Fruit and vegetables.
Ladies' clothing.
Jewellery, crafts, cards, ornaments, and gifts.
Two friendly cafes.
Cobblers and Keys
Sensual oils, candles
Vintage and retro china
Book Stall
Eyewear
Retro Denim Wear

These traders are passionate about what they do, and many have been serving their customers for years.

The market is still open and offers a welcoming, reliable service to the people of North East Lincolnshire.

Markets like this are at the **heart of the community,** providing not just goods but also a personal touch you won't find elsewhere.

The local council has assured market traders that answers regarding their future are on the way.

The next step is to present the design and costing through the democratic process.

This means traders should expect more clarity soon as the plans move forward.
If you haven't been in a while, now's the time to visit.

The market hall is open on **Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday** each week.
The market will be open from December the 12th for **12 consecutive days.**

Let's show **our support for the traders** who work so hard to keep this vital part of our town alive.

Your next visit could make all the difference. See you at Top Town Market!

Read Our Blog

Check out our blog which discusses:

"We Don't Have Any Shops" – A Fresh Look at Grimsby's Town Centre

Click on the button below to read.

Read Our Blog

Join The 2025 Group

The 2025 Group is a project set up by Grimsby Retailers in Partnership CIC.

The "2025 Group" is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. (*UKSPF*) and is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda.

The group embodies the ambitious vision laid out by North East Lincolnshire Council for our town's forthcoming regeneration transformation.

With the anticipated completion of most of the regeneration projects during 2026, this group is dedicated to being an active pillar of support and advocacy for the town centre's

Become a GRIP Member

Grimsby Retailers In Partnership (GRIP) is the town centre's Business Crime Reduction Partnership. Working closely with the business community, Humberside Police and North East Lincolnshire Council the organisation deals with issues of crime and disorder within the main shopping area of the town centre.

GRIP's aim is to maintain a safe, economically vibrant town centre, creating a pleasant place to live, work and socialise. They work with businesses helping them to prevent crime, as well as implementing many crime reduction techniques.

As a GRIP member, you'll have access to shared security comms, a two way transformation.

We aim to champion and elevate every phase of the town's development journey.

We are looking for people from the town centre business community to become 2025 Group Town Centre Champions.

If you are interested in joining the 2025 Group and being "part of the positive" initiative just complete this form and I will be in touch to arrange a chat over a coffee.

radio system, networking opportunities, and play a significant role in shaping the town's regeneration.

Furthermore, you'll be joining a committed group of businesses and community groups who share your passion for Grimsby.

If you are interested in joining GRIP CIC please get in touch and we will come meet with you to discuss how you can join. Get in touch here

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Funding and Training Opportunities For Town Centre Businesses and Community Organisations.

Business Boost

Business Boost is a fully funded business support programme designed to help those in Retail, Hospitality and Leisure achieve their business ambitions.

Your Business Boost is open to anyone who owns, or works for, a business in the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sectors in North East Lincolnshire.

You'll need to have less than 5 full-time permanent employees – but you might have a workforce bigger that is made up of casual staff; or you might be a sole trader.

The Business Boost team have recently added some workshops for November. You can find out more here

To find out more please contact guy@cdiallance.co.uk

Activation and Community Engagement Fund

Did you know there is a grant scheme available in the town centre. This grant serves as an exciting opportunity to bring unused properties back to life and "activate" the heart of our community.

Options range from temporary art installations to create buzz and beautify spaces, to capital grants for renovations that can transform dormant buildings into spaces for alternative uses.

There's also support for community-led schemes that resonate with our local values.

If you're interested in applying, there's more information on the InvestNEL website or sent an email for more information.

E-Factor Support

Advice and support available. Through years of experience, E-Factor know that every business is different, but they also know how useful it is to have an objective, confidential and experienced Advisor listen to what your business needs and then actually help you do something about it.

If you are needing any support with your business then visit the E-Factor website

Are You Following Our Social Media Pages?

Click on the icons to follow our social media pages, we post daily content on our social media pages, keeping you updated on all the latest town centre news.

Not on social media? No worries just visit our website for all the latest news.

Please feel free to share our newsletter with your work colleagues.

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