

MY PLAN FOR

Bawtry & Austerfield



- Create a Bustling Town
- Cheaper Parking
- Safer Roads and Footpaths
- Places for our kids to meet & play
- Reduce Crime
- Better Buses and Broadband

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I know that Bawtry and Austerfield are wonderful places. Let's together make them even better.

INTRODUCTION



Bawtry and Austerfield are two of the most affluent parts of Doncaster rating highly in various societal measures. Yet Bawtry and Austerfield have issues that need addressing much like everywhere else in this world.

This plan seeks to ensure that we keep the good and build on that. That we address in a positive way the issues that there are and that we all drive forward to the future in as dynamic a manner as we can.

As a Member of Parliament I am elected to be the voice of my constituents. I have a duty to perform. I want to make our lives better and to improve the quality of life of each and every one of my constituents.

Much of what I try to do in Doncaster should and often is carried out by local Doncaster Council councillors. However, when I was first elected and tried to arrange meetings with all the Labour councillors in Don Valley, our Labour

Mayor told them they were not allowed to meet with me. Not exactly the start of a collaborative relationship.

Nonetheless, I have tried where I can to make a difference and where a good Town Council is in place I have been able to help. In Edlington this has proven to be very fruitful, and I am pleased to say my relationship with the Bawtry Mayor is one of mutual respect and a shared goal for Bawtry.

A goal for Bawtry to look wonderful, feel vibrant, and be a great place to work and live.

This Plan is for the people of Bawtry and Austerfield.

It is not meant to be a sales brochure. It is meant to be a true reflection on what is great about our home and also to identify what can and should be improved.

I believe that this Plan will help get our home town looking great and our people feeling great about where they live. ■

TOWN CENTRE



We have some truly remarkable buildings in Bawtry and Austerfield and some wonderful proprietors too.

Just look at the buildings in the town centre.

With help from the Bawtry Town Council and monies spent by The Crown this part of Bawtry looks truly magnificent. The many businesses that operate along this stretch finish the scene marvellously.

Ziniz and the adjacent smaller units also have made a special effort. People come from miles around to enjoy the finest restaurants whether it be Italian, Indian, Chinese or American/English and the new flower shop is creating flower displays that are so beautiful that they are sent across the country and even as far as Italy I am told.

Swan Street is fast becoming the Mayfair of Bawtry too. From menswear to women's nightwear and beauty products. Gradually the

remaining buildings are being purchased and renovated and I know this street will show the rest of Bawtry what can be achieved.

A comment on what wonderful can look like in Bawtry would not be complete without including Womacks. All year round this store looks superb. The attention to detail. The time invested. The results achieved. And at Christmas time? Selfridges 'eat your heart out'. ■



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



Established in 2011, the Bawtry Retail Association promotes Bawtry town and the businesses within it and encourages new businesses to the area. With over 50 members, the BRA works closely with the other Town organisations to organise events such as the very successful annual Christmas Market.

Membership is only £20 a month and if you need any information contact Chairman Ross Jarvie (Fine & Country, Bawtry & South Yorkshire Surveyors), Vice Chair Sarah White (Bawtry Eye Academy & The Little Deli) or head of marketing Emma.



There are many others who help create what Bawtry is. The Crown, Bawtry Hall, China Rose, The Dower House, Emilio's and Feast. Bawtry's and Tassel & Swag all add to the offer to name but a few and I thank them all for what they do. Too many to list them all!

Austerfield has only a few businesses. However the businesses that are most visible are all of a high standard. The Mayflower has recently reopened and I

know the residents are extremely happy about this. I can say I have enjoyed my most recent visit and will be back again. Home Farm is kept immaculately. Austerfield's best asset, the Study Centre, is again kept well and is done so through their most delightful volunteers. I will come back to volunteers later. But a huge thank you to those who do specifically work at this centre. (I went there as a very young boy, so have fond memories).

CHALLENGES

Sadly there are also neglected buildings in Bawtry. Bawtry is not alone in suffering with empty shops, unloved premises.

I am so disappointed with the amount we have across Doncaster. So disappointed that I am putting a Bill forward in Parliament to deal with this issue.

Landlords and Councils have a responsibility to maintain their properties.

I understand it can be difficult when tenants leave. Or worse, leave and leave with arrears, but nevertheless landlords have a responsibility.

Unused buildings that are vacant and left unkempt are an eyesore for all and should be dealt with.

I have taken time to speak to a number of our landlords and have been met with a positive attitude. However, I must press them to move more quickly.

Bawtry Motor Auction site has been left for too long. Progress is on the horizon. A new wall, new fencing and some greenery are in the pipeline and this will do so much help to the appearance of Bawtry until the site is occupied once again.

I have offered my support to these landlords and to anyone else who is struggling with poor service from Doncaster Council. So there are no excuses. If you have a building it should not be neglected. Even when waiting for a decision.

Keep it safe. Keep it maintained. Keep it looking fresh. It is the owners' duty but it is also to their benefit. A rundown town breeds empty shops. Empty shops breed more empty shops. Empty streets give rise to more crime and more crime leads to all of us feeling poor about where we live and work. This is a cycle we don't want to enter. ■





PARKING

The perennial problem of parking.

I don't think it is right that we should charge for parking. Let me tell you why.

Free parking brings people out of their homes to our towns and villages and helps create that bustling atmosphere we all love. In many thriving villages you will see free parking. Every supermarket, Meadowhall and the Yorkshire Outlet also prove the point.

So what is the answer?

I have discussed this with our Doncaster Council Mayor. Sadly she doesn't agree. Bawtry is a separate issue though and the charging of this space rests with the Bawtry Town Council. The fact is if they don't charge they do not have enough money through the precept to do what they want to do. The car park brings in the money. However, every parking ticket issued because someone has forgotten to pay or is late to return leaves someone thinking ill of Bawtry.



Possibly 'so much so' that they may not return. Fewer visitors, more empty shops.

Another issue is, if we had 'free parking' all the time, it may just be proprietors and staff using the spaces, not our visitors.

A compromise would be free parking for the first hour, maybe two. And free after 7pm for the night time economy. Bawtry Town Council is now in complete control of the carpark and can alter things as it wishes. The balance between funds so the Council can carry out its function well, increased precept for residents, or charging for visitors; this is a conversation to be continued. But I do believe trials over 12 month periods ought to be put in place. The argument 'the car park is always full, therefore it is not an issue' is dwindling as I have noted this is not so over the last few months.

I would love to hear your thoughts. This plan is to help raise some issues not necessarily to solve them all. Only together will we do that. ■

SAFER ROADS & FOOTPATHS

Following parking it makes sense to follow this with the issue of traffic.

On the previous pages I have basically said I want to see more cars, not less.

I want to encourage as many people to come to Bawtry as possible.

I do however understand the problems that this brings.

Crossing the roads in Bawtry is a problem. There is only one pedestrian crossing in place. Although I would encourage everyone to use the crossing next to Womacks I know many don't as it is not convenient. However it is there.

Crossing Tickhill Road adjacent to The Crown however can be difficult. I have raised this with Doncaster Council as I believe a Zebra crossing here would not cause too many issues with the traffic and would make it much safer.

The Bawtry Mayor has looked at Station Road too.

I am afraid a Zebra crossing here appears to be extremely problematic.

I have had meetings with Doncaster Council officers who have talked me through the issues.

Our Bawtry Mayor and I believe the next best solution would be a 'refuge point'; an island similar to the ones on Doncaster Road.

I have written to Doncaster Council with

regards to this.

Funds are limited. Doncaster Council have allocated £300,000 a year to road safety.

Our Doncaster Mayor is using all this to put in place 20MPH zones across our borough. Do we want that in Bawtry?

I don't agree with this approach. We all want safer streets but with a limited budget I am sure this money would be better spent in problem hotspots.

I will continue along with our Bawtry Mayor to press this issue.

In Edlington a private business is helping to fund a Zebra crossing.

If any of our local businesses would like to discuss how they can help please do get in touch.

With regards to our footpaths, the responsibility lies with Doncaster Council.

I have asked them to deal with these.

They patch up but that is all.

It is simply not good enough.

Bawtry Town Council are to make good in front of the Market Place and that will be happening soon. Well done Bawtry Town Council!

But the rest is over to Doncaster Council.

Again email me with your problem pavements and this will help build our case. ■



RECREATIONAL SPACE AND ACTIVITIES



Keeping us all safe on our roads, especially our children is important.

But having somewhere for our children to play and learn is also important.

I was pleased to meet with the Head of Mayflower Primary recently.

It was great to hear her thoughts and discuss the government's plans for a new school. Yes a new school in Bawtry. It will be built on the existing site. Fit for the 21st century and make what is a good school into an even better one.

I thank all the teachers who work at Mayflower and indeed at all our schools. They do a great job.

It is commonly agreed that 'out of school' activities are essential for our children. Why don't we get a Youth Club set up in Bawtry?

I am in conversations with Doncaster Council about youth clubs across our borough and although the discussions are moving far too slowly for my liking, I do believe we are getting there.

We have some great facilities in Bawtry and the Memorial Sports Ground (MSG) would be ideal for an after school club.

Again if you think this is a good idea

please let me know. The more evidence I have that this is wanted then the better case I am able to put forward when I meet with those in a position to help.

With regards to green spaces we are very fortunate and are surrounded by some lovely places to walk.

However play areas for the very young are limited and the ones we have are seemingly not being maintained by those who should.

Bawtry Town Council has had to step in where others have been left wanting.

More maintenance is needed and this has been noted. Let us see what can be done. ■

MSG is a £450,000 facility that was funded by Sport England and Bawtry Town Council plus many others.

Sadly at present it appears it is not being run for the community.

I am trying to liaise with all stakeholders.

I share your frustration.

I will keep you informed.

SPEEDING CARS AND CRIME



I have dealt with traffic above. However, issues of speeding cars, unlicensed motor cyclists and quad riders are becoming too regular.

I have written to the Police Chief for Doncaster as well as the Labour Police and Crime Commissioner on this subject. They pay regard to statistics.

I have pointed out the obvious; namely that although it is not always reported it doesn't mean it is not happening.

I was pleased to see the South Yorkshire Police 'off road' team at Austerfield recently.

We need them here more frequently and I will continue to press this subject.

Often people do not think crime happens in places like Bawtry and Austerfield.

Sadly it does.

I have already spoken of 'off road' motorcyclist and speeding cars but there

is other crime too.

Burglaries, drugs and general anti-social behaviour happen everywhere and Bawtry and Austerfield are no different.

I am pleased to announce that CCTV has been installed across Bawtry town centre which should definitely help.

The money is direct from central government under the 'Safer Streets' initiative. Credit is due to those in Doncaster Council who have helped put the scheme together.

However the best way we combat crime is to report it.

Please report everything. Anonymously if necessary. On the Crimestoppers website or by phone on 101 or even to Doncaster Council.

We also have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in place too.

We should all enrol and play our part. ■

CONNECTIVITY BUSES AND BROADBAND

Internet at home and in our town when we go for coffee?

Not too much of an ask is it?

Connectivity with transport too.

Buses from Austerfield to Doncaster and to Tickhill too.

None of these are an easy fix.

But if we don't ask We don't get.

Buses and Broadband (Ok. Optic fibre).

We need both and we need them now.

With £1.4Billion of Transport funding for South Yorkshire. The addition of the £2 Bus Fare wherever you go. This government is giving our region the money it needs to get us all moving. I will lobby our South Yorkshire Mayor and bus companies to make sure

Bawtry and Austerfield get the services they deserve.

Optic fibre is finding its way all across Doncaster and soon will be in our homes in Bawtry. Government again have put billions of pounds into this industry especially for rural areas. You may not know this but installing optic fibre is one the largest infrastructure projects in the UK. ■

As you drive through Austerfield many are unaware of the interesting and vibrant businesses there. Not only is it home to Bawtry Carbon and the EcoCentre, it is also a place of great historical importance. The home of William Bradford (b 1590) a Pilgrim Father who attended the ancient 11th century church of St Helena.

Don Valley Constituency

Project Digital Overview

- The constituency of Don Valley is included in our Project Digital procurement covering South Yorkshire.
- We expect to award the contract between November 2023 and January 2024.
- This contract is currently estimated to cover over 50,000 premises.
- The estimated value of this contract is up to £44.4 million.

	Current Average	Target
Business broadband	87.0%	98.50%
Residential	75.0%	80.70%
Ultra fast	0.00%	0.54%

Useful links

- Local Project Digital quarterly update: <https://www.southyorkshire.gov.uk/infrastructure/digital/quarterly-updates>
- Digital Broadband Voucher Scheme: <https://www.donvalley.gov.uk/digital>
- Check our progress: <https://www.donvalley.gov.uk/digital>

Digital Broadband Voucher Scheme

- 16,000+ premises in Don Valley have claimed and received assistance for a voucher through the scheme, for a combined value of over £200,000.

Local Broadband

- South Yorkshire has received £17 million to improve broadband services in the area. The current plan of work includes a number of projects to improve broadband services in an estimated 100 premises.



LET'S THRIVE



I believe in Personal Responsibility.

I believe in being the solution not the problem.

I understand budgets centrally, locally and at home are tight.

But if we all do what we can to put our neighbours and our town first we will all benefit.

Bawtry and Austerfield's plan therefore must be down to each and every one of us.

Homeowners, landlords, proprietors and national business to all make their premises look the best.

Let us shop local where we can. Be good pedestrians as well as drivers.

Volunteer where we can and if we cannot, at least praise and appreciate those that do.

Report the crime and engage with those trying to help.

And finally, probably most important of all, speak well of our town. Bawtry.

We are very fortunate to live in a wonderful part of Doncaster.

To have some great people and some great businesses.

Let's all work together and together we shall make Bawtry and Austerfield even better places to work and live and to see our people thrive.

Thank you. ■

A PLAN FOR BAWTRY & AUSTERFIELD



1 CREATE A BUSTLING TOWN

Empty shops breed empty shops. Lets keep them occupied and use them



3 SAFER ROAD AND FOOTPATHS

More crossings and better paths



5 REDUCE CRIME

Stop the quads and the ASB. We need our bobbies back on the beat

FOLLOW NICK!

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Promoted by Nick Allen on behalf of Nick Fletcher MP both of 9a High Street, Penistone, Sheffield S36 6BR. Printed by AKS Print & Design, Unit 1, Eagle Court, Sandall Stones Rd, Doncaster DN3 1DG.



2 CHEAPER PARKING

Create our own Meadowhall, free parking for all 2 hrs a day



4 PLACES FOR OUR KIDS TO MEET AND PLAY

Better community facilities and youth clubs. Any volunteers?



6 BUSES AND BROADBAND

Better connectivity in all senses of the word. Buses and Broadband (fibre)

