

Barnwood Circle Round Up

September 2022



Hello

Thank you for reading the latest edition “Round Up” Newsletter. You can find out more about the long awaited ‘official’ launch of the Barnwood Circle, what we have heard at the spring meetups, as well as letting you know about the next round of meetups happening in your area.

It's official

As many of you are aware, we have been formally signing up members to Barnwood Circle. We would love to know what you think about your Welcome Pack.

If you haven't had your registration conversation yet to welcome you into Barnwood Circle officially, get in touch and we will arrange this.

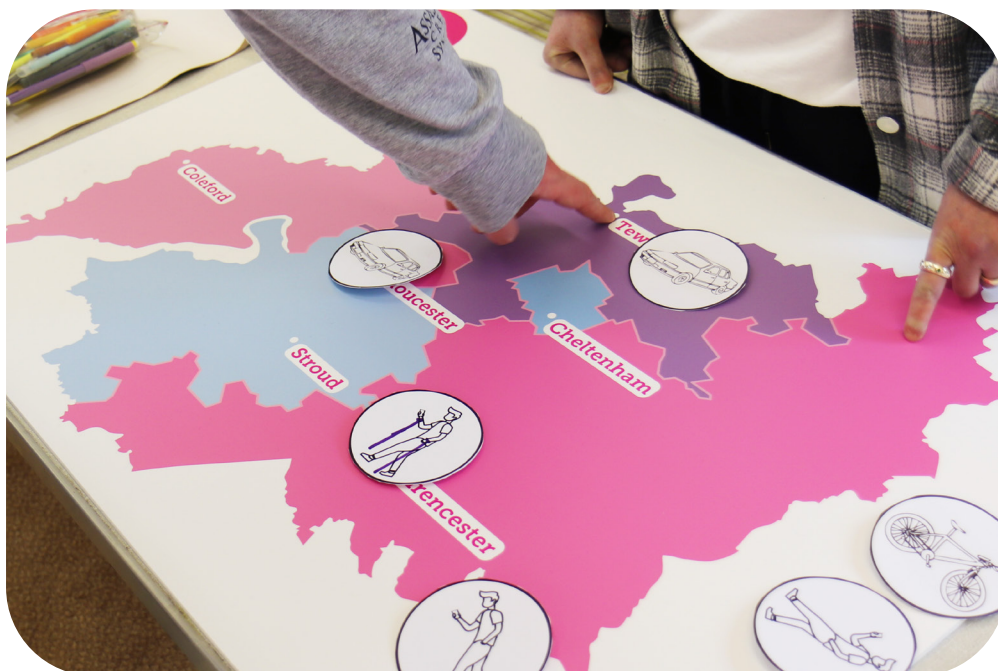


During this ‘soft launch’ phase of Barnwood Circle you will have noticed that we haven't said anything on our website. For a first look at the new pages on our website visit barnwoodtrust.org/barnwood-circle

The full launch of Barnwood Circle on social media will begin in early November.

What we heard about transport

The spring meetups happened in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Stroud, Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds. At these we heard about people's experiences of transport in the county. Here is a summary of what we heard. Please contact us if you would like to read the full report.



What makes travelling in Gloucestershire difficult?

Issues with travelling by bus included:

- not running often enough and only taking one wheelchair at a time
- bus passes cannot be used during rush hour
- bus drivers and members of the public are often rude

Issues with travelling by **taxi** included:

- there aren't enough accessible taxis
- drivers not having enough awareness of disabled people's needs

Issues for **pedestrians** and people using scooters or wheelchairs included:

- It is more dangerous travelling on pavements when there is more traffic on the roads.
- Pavements are uneven and bumpy because they are poorly maintained

Big themes came up about a lack of choice and spontaneity in life because of limited access to public transport. And the lack of accessible transport leads to poor mental health.

What would make a difference to accessible transport?

There were lots of good ideas talked about:

- disabled people could give training to bus drivers and taxi drivers
- spaces for wheelchair users on buses could be made bigger
- community transport or car shares with accessible cars
- smaller cheaper and accessible minibuses around residential and rural areas
- peer support workers or buddies could be used for travel companions

It was felt that decision makers should be people with lived experience of disability and/or mental health challenges.



What we're doing next with what we heard

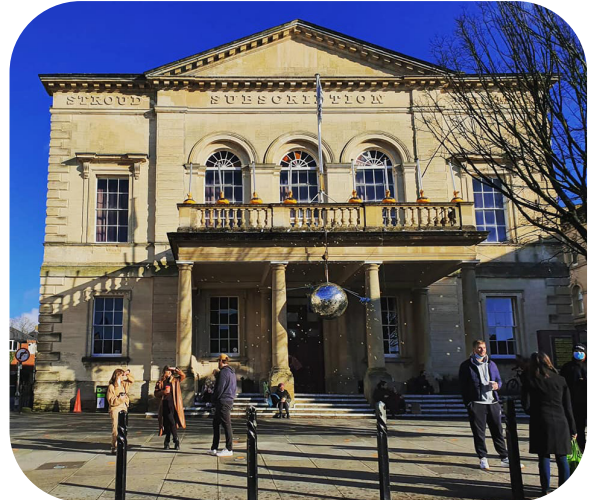
We will share the information we gathered in the spring meetups with the team at Barnwood Trust. We will share the report and hold information sessions for our colleagues. Strategic Development Managers and the Leadership Team will be included in these. We will let you know if any work comes from this.

To read the complete summary report, please email us at talktous@barnwoodtrust.org or call us on **07519 325601**.

Next meetups

We met lots of people at our first round of meetups on 'accessible transport' and we had some great conversations about 'accessing green spaces' in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cheltenham and Gloucester. It's time to continue meetups (a bit later than originally planned, sorry about that).

The next meetup dates are below, we hope to see you in your area:



Forest of Dean

Lydney Community Centre

Monday 10th October, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Zoom

Wednesday 12 October, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Stroud

The Sub Rooms

Wednesday 26th October, 12.00pm-2.00pm

Zoom

Thursday 27th October, 12.00pm-1.30pm

Tewkesbury

To be confirmed.

We will send you email invites with more information about your local meetups soon.

Employment campaign

The working group for Barnwood's employment campaign is made up of **8 Circle members and 3 staff**. We are helping Barnwood launch its latest campaign to raise awareness about barriers to employment faced by disabled people, people with mental health challenges and neurodiverse people.

Empowered Employers.

We know that disabled people are disadvantaged in three ways:

- **The Disability Employment Gap** | Fewer disabled people are in work compared to non-disabled people
- **The Disability Pay Gap** | For every pound earned by a non-disabled person, a disabled person earns 86p
- **The Employment Opportunities Gap** | A survey by Barnwood Trust found that only half of the disabled people in Gloucestershire who said paid work matters to them could do the type of work they'd like to do

Barnwood's campaign will be aimed at employers in the commercial sector, addressing **attitudes** around disability. Jessie Hoskin, Campaigns Lead at Barnwood Trust, has met with the working group on a fortnightly basis. Members have been sharing experiences and ideas to help shape the campaign to change employers' assumptions. To start with we have looked at campaign messaging and the campaign website which will launch very soon.

Digital Inclusion Fund Group

Over the summer, Barnwood has taken applications for a new Digital Inclusion Fund. This is for projects that help to remove barriers for people who want to be a part of the digital world.

A 'Lived and Learned Experience Funding Panel' was created for this fund. 5 Barnwood Circle members have been involved, alongside professionals from across the county.

In July, staff and Circle members explored together the kinds of applications we might receive for the fund, ahead of the panel starting. We developed a framework of indicators for what good applications might look like, especially where projects show good 'accessibility' and 'involvement of disabled people'.

14 applications have been received, asking for more than double the funding budget between them so there are some tough decisions to make.

The whole panel has now assessed all the applications and joined a formal meeting on 28th September to make recommendations to Barnwood about which applications to fund.

Our new Connector

As you may know, after 10 years at Barnwood, Hettie left her job as a Connector within our team last month.

We're excited to be able to let you know that Anna will be moving from her current role as Engagement Coordinator and take up the role of Connector from the start of 2023. This means we hope to be welcoming a new member of the team by the end of this year.



Save the date



'Together with Barnwood'

Sharing our work in 2022 and exchanging ideas for 2023

Join Trustees and staff for Barnwood Trust's annual sharing event. This interactive meeting at Kingsholm Stadium is a chance to hear about our work from the past year. We are also hoping to exchange ideas and hear your views to shape our work for the year ahead, enabling us to go forward together into 2023.

This will be an accessible event for anyone in Gloucestershire with an interest in Barnwood Trust's work to influence change for disabled people and people with mental health challenges.

A couple of Barnwood Circle members have been invited to share their experiences of being involved in projects with Barnwood Trust as part of this event.

Save the date: **Thursday 3rd November at 2.30pm**

We will send out more information soon.

How's it going survey

We want to check-in with Barnwood Circle members and ask some questions about how things are going so far.

Your feedback is really important to us. Keep a look out for our annual survey. You will be able to take part either by filling in an online form or by having a conversation.

Topics covered will include:

- Being a member – are the packs and materials working?
- Sharing your experiences – do you feel heard and respected?
- Taking part in projects – how accessible are the Experts by Experience opportunities?

Jess Waterman (Head of Engagement) will be in touch soon with more information.



Feedback welcome

We want to learn as much as we can about what works, and what doesn't.
If we can make this newsletter better, please let us know.

If you want to get in touch with the Engagement team about anything at all, you can email talktous@barnwoodtrust.org, and call or WhatsApp **07519 325601**.