Clayton and Newton Heath Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday 26th October 10.00 am
Location: The Beacon Centre
Chair: Andrew Wickens
Vice Chair: Jim Battle
Secretariat: Michael Fletcher, Manchester City Council
Board Members:
[Resident names redacted from published document]
Apologies
Sean McHale, Councillor for Clayton and Openshaw

Agenda Items
1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and thanked the Board for their contribution to the excellent engagement session held the previous week, marking the occasion with a selection of cakes and buns.

Apologies were noted, including from **Lucy Powell MP**, who was unable to attend due to unavoidable ministerial duties.

2. To Receive and/or Approve

a) Printed/visual minutes of 30 September 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting were received.

b) Report of Theory of Change Workshop, 14 October 2026

The Secretariat provided an update on the development of the **priority themes** and the recent **Theory of Change workshop**.

It was explained that both pieces of work will complement and strengthen each other and will be brought together to inform the final **Regeneration Plan**, which is due by the end of November.

c) Lucy Powell MP: Comments

Lucy Powell MP had provided apologies due to unavoidable ministerial duties.

3. Items for Any Other Business of an Urgent Nature

The Chair suggested holding a future celebration event to recognise the Board's progress and achievements. This will be discussed further at a later meeting.

4. Board Activity

a) Chair's Actions and Activities
The Chair:

- Thanked everyone involved in the recent engagement event at the Working Men's Club, recognising the significant effort made by Board members and partners and the success of the event.
- Updated the Board on the developing communications strategy, including a potential partnership with **North Manchester Radio**. The organisation could potentially support the wider communications cascade, although some governance considerations would need to be explored.
- Reported on a meeting with **Nicola Hope from Step Up MCR**. Step Up MCR is interested in expanding its work from Clayton into Newton Heath.
- Highlighted potential opportunities through this relationship around **capacity building, citizens' assemblies and wider community activity**, including possible links with Malandra Jacks.

b) Vice Chair's Activities
The Vice Chair provided an update on engagement with schools and young people:

- Three local headteachers attended the recent engagement event.
- There are **seven primary schools** in the area, with meetings being arranged with the remaining schools.
- The aim is to build strong relationships with schools and use their connections with children and families to strengthen community engagement.
- There is an opportunity to explore **Pride in Place through the curriculum**, particularly around local pride, identity and what makes Clayton and Newton Heath good places to live.
- The importance of young people as the future of the neighbourhood was emphasised, ensuring they can grow alongside and influence the programme.
- Concerns were raised about limited local provision for children transitioning beyond primary school, resulting in some young people travelling significant distances outside the area to access opportunities.

The Vice Chair also highlighted work around **sporting facilities and business engagement**, led by Claire Tomlinson, with the potential for this work to provide another bridge into wider community engagement.
An open invitation was extended to Board members who would like to support this activity.

c) Board Members' Activities
Board members were encouraged to continue sharing their activity, community connections and opportunities that could support the Pride in Place programme.

5. Draft Regeneration Plan - Preliminary Draft Discussion and Round Table

The Secretariat outlined how the identified **priority themes** and outputs from the **Theory of Change workshop** will be brought together, with each informing the other as the Regeneration Plan develops.
Potential next steps for each priority were outlined, with Board members encouraged to actively contribute to or lead areas where they have a particular interest, experience or community connection.

The Vice Chair suggested that the priorities should become a **standing element of future Board agendas**, enabling members to monitor progress and maintain momentum.

Members also discussed the perception within some communities that "nothing ever happens". While recognising that this narrative may reflect some people's experience, members felt it was equally important for the Board to **identify, celebrate and communicate local success stories and existing community assets**.

Board Member Interest in Priority Themes
Initial areas of interest included:

- **Green spaces:** Gail and Janet H.
- **Young people:** Shedu, Debbie and Janet H.
- **Engaging older people and intergenerational activity:** Janet H., through her Heathfield work, Debbie, the Chair and Thelma.

The discussion around older people and intergenerational activity identified several opportunities:

- The Chair referenced a previous suggestion from **John Flanagan** around developing an **intergenerational forum**, which could support this priority.
- Thelma suggested creating opportunities for older and younger residents to meet, potentially using the Working Men's Club as a venue.
- The Vice Chair highlighted retired residents as a significant community resource, noting that **Clayton Hall is supported by older volunteers**. Members felt the knowledge, experience and contribution of older residents should be better recognised and developed.
- Ben Williams highlighted **transport and connectivity**, particularly for residents aged over 65, as an ongoing issue. Community-based transport solutions could help improve connections between Clayton and Newton Heath.
- The Chair suggested exploring whether a modern version of a **shuttle bus or Ring & Ride-style service** could help address local connectivity issues.

The discussion also recognised that **Clayton and Newton Heath are made up of a number of distinct neighbourhoods and communities**, each with its own identity. Members felt that understanding and celebrating these different identities should form part of the wider Pride in Place approach.

- **Action:** Board members interested in leading or contributing to individual priority themes to contact the Chair or Secretariat.

- **Action:** Explore intergenerational opportunities and their potential connection to the older people's priority.
- **Action:** Consider transport and connectivity, including community transport options, as the Regeneration Plan develops.

6. Board Engagement and Housekeeping

a) Communication / Exclusion Issues

The need to ensure Board communications remain inclusive and accessible was noted.

b) Fiscal Host Procurement Process

The Secretariat provided an update on the procurement process for a fiscal host and the proposed **Contract for Services**, including arrangements relating to Board member allowances and expenses.

The Secretariat reconfirmed that Board members have the opportunity to become involved and invited anyone interested to make direct contact.

7. Communication Strategy and Implementation

Jim highlighted the importance of establishing a strong **feedback loop**, particularly ensuring residents can see how their views and involvement are influencing the programme.

Ben W. confirmed that Pride in Place communications support is available through Lucy, with further communications activity planned once the Regeneration Plan is completed.

It was recognised that:

- Smaller, highly local community and social networks will be important to the communications approach.
- Communications should celebrate progress and demonstrate where activity has resulted in positive change.
- The success of the recent engagement event reflected the strength, commitment and growing reach of the Board.
- **Action:** Communications planning to consider how a clear resident feedback loop can be established and maintained.

8. 'Quick Wins' Implementation

The importance of identifying visible and achievable **quick wins** alongside development of the longer-term Regeneration Plan was recognised.

Opportunities emerging through the priority themes and engagement activity will help inform potential quick wins.

9. Any Other Business

Members discussed whether there would be appetite for a **seasonal social event** for the Board.

10. Future Meetings

Next Board meeting:
Tuesday 10 November 2026, 10.00 am, Newton Heath Library

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Clayton and Newton Heath