PRIDE IN PLACE
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Clayton and Newton Heath
Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board
Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday 17 September 2026 10am
Location: Beacon Centre, Clayton
Chair: Andrew Wickens
Vice Chair: Jim Battle
Secretariat: Michael Fletcher, Manchester City Council
Board Members:
[Resident names redacted from published document]
Apologies
Lucy Powell, MP for Manchester Central

Agenda Items

1.Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
The Chair welcomed **Zoe Goddard** to the meeting and introduced her role and work supporting the Pride in Place programme.

a) Agreement of Previous Minutes (1 September 2026)
The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

b) Items for Any Other Business of an Urgent Nature
No urgent items were raised.
c) Chair's Actions and Report
The Chair provided feedback from the national summit in London, highlighting the first phase of Chair engagement activities. Positive feedback was received regarding the progress being made by the Newton Heath and Clayton Pride in Place Board.
A recorded message from **Andy Burnham** presented at the summit was shared with Board members and was well received.
The chair led a discussion regarding potential opportunities to explore business networks and partnership funding opportunities through existing contacts and networks.
Board development ideas were discussed, including:

- A potential Board away day to strengthen relationships between members.
- A study visit to another Pride in Place area to observe good practice and learn from other Boards.

The Chair updated members on discussions with North Manchester FM. Progress has currently paused due to financial challenges being experienced by the organisation.
Marlene provided an update regarding the proposed Youth and Community Centre on Briscoe Lane and the chair advised that **Cllr Flanagan** is leading on the project.

2.Board Communication
Members revisited ongoing challenges around communication and document sharing.

The Secretariat advised that ICT solutions are being explored to improve information sharing. In the meantime, printed documentation will continue to be provided where required.

The Chair advised that the current **30 November deadline** for submission of the Pride in Place Plan should be viewed as a soft deadline, with some flexibility likely into the new year if required, although this is not being relied upon for planning purposes.

3.Board Engagement
a) Skills and Skills Gaps: Audit Progress
The Secretariat reminded members about the Board Training Needs Assessment and reissued the survey both electronically and through the Board WhatsApp group.
Members were encouraged to complete the assessment so that training priorities and skills gaps can be identified and addressed.
Action
Board members to complete the Training Needs Assessment survey

b) Public Engagement: Analysis of Data
Facilitated by Zoe Goddard (MCC)
The Secretariat distributed printed copies of the engagement findings to members.
Zoe explained the methodology used to gather and analyse community feedback and outlined how information from multiple engagement activities had been brought together.

A key issue raised was the need for participants to understand what happens next. Residents and groups that contributed to engagement activities were keen to receive feedback and understand the impact of their involvement.

Zoe introduced the concept of a **community celebration and feedback** event as a way of:
- Sharing findings.
- Demonstrating progress.
- Connecting Board members with local residents and community leaders.

The Secretariat confirmed that all engagement activity, both completed and future, will inform development of the Pride in Place Plan due at the end of November.

Discussion took place around incentives used during community engagement. Thelma questioned whether some grant-related incentives could have been misunderstood by participants.

The Chair clarified that funding had been used across a range of engagement activities and incentives, including support provided through local churches.
Members generally agreed that incentives can be appropriate where they help encourage participation, provided there is clear value and accountability.

Key points raised included:
- **Sharing Engagement Findings**
- Engagement findings should be returned to communities in an accessible and meaningful format.
- Information should be shared through multiple channels including online platforms, community groups and WhatsApp networks.
- Data should be simplified and made more user-friendly.
- **Building Community Capacity**
- The Board should engage directly with community leaders and support them to become ambassadors for engagement activity.
- Community leaders should be involved early in future discussions.
- The Board should position itself as part of the community rather than an organisation acting separately from it.

Members emphasised:
"We are of the community, not on top of the community."

- **Board Identity and Visibility**

Discussion took place regarding branding, visibility and communications.
Suggestions included:
- Creating a Board identity and community-facing brand.
- Displaying information publicly in community venues such as Heathfield.
- Developing an online presence through social media and web channels.
- Exploring branding opportunities linked to the SHARP project.
- **Community Celebration Event**

Members discussed possible venues and approaches for a community celebration event.
Suggestions included:
- Working Men's Club.
- Beacon Centre.
- Separate events in Newton Heath and Clayton to reflect the distinct identities of both neighbourhoods.

Discussion highlighted:
- Transport challenges between the two areas.
- The importance of recognising local identities.
- The opportunity to bring communities together through shared themes and priorities.

The Board agreed that any event should celebrate local strengths and achievements while providing feedback on engagement findings.

Actions
Secretariat to confirm whether engagement data can be shared with community leaders.
Secretariat to liaise with MCC Communications regarding production of user-friendly engagement materials.
Board to seek views from community leaders regarding suitable timings and formats for future engagement events.
Zoe Goddard to revisit plans with facilitator and then feedback to the board

c) How this Data may Inform future engagement
Members agreed that engagement findings should directly influence:
- Future Board priorities.
- Community communication approaches.
- The development of the Pride in Place Plan.
- Future engagement activities and events.

There was strong support for maintaining ongoing dialogue with communities and ensuring residents can clearly see how their feedback is shaping decision-making.

4.Priority Themes
Quick Wins Implementation
Members briefly discussed opportunities for delivering visible "quick wins" that demonstrate progress and build confidence within communities.
Examples discussed included:
- Community communication improvements.
- Community engagement events.
- Exploring safe study or homework spaces for young people where local need exists.

Further consideration of priority themes and implementation plans will continue at future meetings.

5.Any Other Business

Community and School Engagement
Jim advised that he has been contacting local schools and significant sporting organisations operating within the area.
The Secretariat offered support in collating information and preparing materials for circulation to Board members.

Squash Development Opportunity
Janet D highlighted a potential opportunity involving the National Squash Team and local community engagement activity.

Eco Youth Project
Marlene raised concerns regarding:
- Eco Youth bank account service charges.
- A Your Neighbourhood Fund application which had been unsuccessful.

Zoe agreed to explore the matter further.

Fiscal Host Arrangements
The Secretariat requested suggestions for potential fiscal host organisations.
Suggested organisations included:
- Beacon Centre.
- 4CT.

Members noted that both organisations have previous experience undertaking this role.

Actions
Secretariat to support Jim in collating information regarding schools and sporting organisations.
Zoe to investigate issues raised regarding Eco Youth funding and banking arrangements.
Secretariat to explore potential fiscal host arrangements with Beacon Centre and 4CT.

6.Dates of next meeting
Wednesday 30th September 10am, Beacon centre, Clayton

Action log

Action	Owner
Complete Training Needs Assessment	Board Members
Confirm whether engagement data can be shared with community leaders	Secretariat
Work with MCC Communications to produce accessible engagement materials	Secretariat
Seek views from community leaders regarding event timing and format	Board / Secretariat
Support collation of information on schools and sporting organisations	Secretariat
Investigate Eco Youth funding and banking concerns	Zoe Goddard
Explore fiscal host options with Beacon Centre and 4CT	Secretariat

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