

Clayton and Newton Heath Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday 19th August 9am

Location: Newton Heath Library

Chair: Andrew Wickens

Vice Chair: Jim Battle, Carmine Grimshaw

Secretariat: Michael Fletcher, Manchester City Council

Board Members:

[Resident names redacted from published document]

Apologies

Lucy Powell, MP for Manchester Central

Carmine Grimshaw. Vice Chair

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

1a. Approval of Previous Minutes (6 August)

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

1b. Urgent Any Other Business

Janet D highlighted an upcoming event and requested Board representation, noting it would be a valuable opportunity to promote the Board's work.

- **Event:** Monday 21 September, 5:30pm
- Janet D to provide a flyer to the Secretariat for circulation to Board members.

2. Board Communications

2a. Internal Board Communications

The Chair raised concerns regarding difficulties some members may be experiencing accessing Board communications and technology platforms. Members were encouraged to contact the Secretariat directly if they require support.

The Board agreed that the WhatsApp group continues to serve its intended purpose and is supporting communication between members effectively.

2b. External Communications and Public Engagement

The Board discussed future communication arrangements and how best to engage residents.

Key discussion points included:

- Whether regular local communications should be distributed to residents.

- Gail's previous suggestion of distributing updates via Royal Mail.
- The need to raise awareness of Board activity and opportunities within the community.
- Recognition that some existing community publications do not cover all neighbourhoods, including Clayton i.e. community magazine.

Jim questioned who would be responsible for producing communications and how Board activity would be promoted. Members agreed that communications provide an important opportunity to raise awareness of local activity and engagement opportunities.

The Chair suggested video updates as an effective engagement tool. Jim proposed that periodic video updates from the Chair and Vice Chair could provide a useful overview of Board activity. The Secretariat confirmed support could be provided from Manchester City Council to facilitate this.

The Board agreed to further explore:

- Mail drops
- Video communications
- Domain name procurement
- Website development and implementation

Members agreed that costs and procurement options should be investigated.

Jim requested examples of good practice from other Pride in Place areas and community boards nationally, particularly regarding the use of technology and digital engagement.

The Secretariat advised that discussions are underway with Manchester City Council's Internal Communications Team to establish the communications support available to the Board as part of the Council's baseline offer. Once this information is available, a communications representative will be invited to attend a future meeting.

The Chair also confirmed that he will continue sharing best practice and learning from other Pride in Place Chairs.

3. Board Engagement

3a. Skills Audit and Skills Gaps

The Secretariat confirmed that the Skills Audit has been circulated and offered members support to complete surveys following the meeting, including the provision of hard copies where required.

The Chair invited feedback on current Board communications, terminology and methods of engagement. No concerns or issues were raised by members.

Janet D suggested attendance at the Summer Fair would have been beneficial, although notice had been limited.

3b. Public Engagement Events and Workshops

Jim identified a lack of awareness of local activities and community groups within neighbourhoods. He suggested mapping local organisations activities and events to identify opportunities for Board engagement.

Janet D suggested that Family Hub Care Navigators could provide a useful starting point for engagement activity in Clayton.

The Chair agreed that an audit of community groups, organisations and networks would be valuable to improve engagement and communication across the area.

Janet D proposed organising a networking event to bring community groups and stakeholders together, helping to establish relationships and identify suitable local venues.

Actions

- **Secretariat** to speak with Zoe Goddard regarding existing community engagement opportunities.
- **Secretariat** to compile a list of existing community networks and circulate to the Board.
- **Board Members** to identify and share community contacts from within their own networks for consolidation into a single stakeholder list.

4. Priority Themes

4a. Developing Priorities and Identifying Quick Wins

The Chair proposed that adult education should be added to the existing Education, Skills and Working Lives priority theme, reflecting concerns around skills gaps and lifelong learning opportunities.

Discussion focused on opportunities to improve access to adult education:

- Utilising school buildings outside school hours.
- Building upon previous work already undertaken in this area.
- Identifying existing community assets that could support learning opportunities.

Janet D noted that some work has already been undertaken and agreed that the issue merits further exploration.

Jim highlighted the importance of engaging with existing groups connected to schools, including:

- Parent groups
- School councils
- Community projects involving young people

He emphasised that the Board should focus on how it can add value to existing activity rather than duplicating provision.

The Chair noted strong engagement opportunities through primary schools but identified a gap in engagement with secondary schools. He also referenced ongoing developments within secondary education that may present future opportunities. There is no secondary provision within the Clayton and Newton Heath area, which aggravates the loss of social cohesion when Yr 6 pupils move on.

Marlene shared concerns regarding children in her local area who are not attending school and highlighted broader challenges relating to literacy and educational attainment.

Jim suggested direct engagement with schools and headteacher networks to understand local priorities and challenges. Members agreed this should form part of the Board's wider engagement strategy.

Business and Partnership Engagement

Jim highlighted opportunities to engage local businesses and explore how they may support the Board's priorities, particularly through communications, promotion and wider community engagement.

The Chair suggested considering existing strategic partnerships as part of this work.

Community Connectivity and Belonging

Members discussed a perceived decline in community connections and local gathering spaces.

The Chair noted a loss of spaces where residents can come together and build relationships.

Marlene observed that many community groups no longer hold public meetings or annual general meetings, resulting in reduced interaction between residents, groups and local organisations.

Jim emphasised that the Board's role should be to encourage, support and advocate for community-led activity rather than directly facilitate it.

Members also discussed the need to remain focused on priority issues and avoid becoming distracted by excessive analysis.

Actions

- **Jim** to explore opportunities for engagement with schools and education networks.
- **Secretariat** to follow up on the analysis of public engagement feedback and circulate findings to the Board.

5. Any Other Business

The Chair sought the Board's views on Ben's involvement in meetings when representing Lucy Powell.



Ben confirmed that he can act on behalf of Lucy Powell and is also willing to support other Board members with representations where appropriate.

Ben advised that Lucy Powell's team could assist in amplifying Board communications, events and engagement activity through existing digital and social media channels. The Board raised no objections to this proposal.

Members were asked to provide communications materials with sufficient advance notice to allow effective scheduling and promotion.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 September, 10:00am

Newton Heath Library



Clayton and Newton Heath