PRIDE IN PLACE
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Benchill Pride In Place Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Date and Time: 25 August 2026 10:00

Location: Benchill Community Centre

Chair: Eamonn O'Neal

Secretariat: Sally Coates

Board Members:

[Resident names redacted from published document]

Karen Wilson, Vice Chair

Sarah Woolley, Vice Chair

Emma Taylor, Councillor for Sharston

Astrid Johnson, Councillor for Woodhouse Park

Sam Lynch, Councillor for Northenden

Mike Kane, MP

Observers and other attendees:

Nicole, Mike Kane MPs office

Sofi Jones, Mike Kane MPs Office

Brian Pemberton, Pride in Place Neighbourhood Project Lead, MCC

Apologies:

Cllr Sam Lynch

Mike Kane, MP

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies received:

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Cllr Sam Lynch

Mike Kane MP

2. Declarations of Interest

Board members had nothing to declare.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Matters Arising

All agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the last meeting.

No matters arising

4. Regeneration Plan

Eamonn presented information to the board to explain that we are developing the overarching strategic plan for the programme and to remind them of the timeline between now and submission of the regeneration plan by 28th November 2026, explaining key milestones/pieces of work needed to achieve this.

He then went on to present in more detail around the plan and content needed, explaining where support would be provided by the local authority and detailing where the board would need to develop information.

Eamonn then invited board members to ask questions. Eddie asked whether it would be good to start creating partnership links with places such as Civic to start thinking about how the board can continue to engage with the public throughout the programme. Other residents contributed ideas to this conversation further, highlighting other spaces that could be used to engage with members of the public.

5. Comms and Engagement

– ICT/Website conversation

Eamonn explained that he has reached out to chairs for all PIP boards across Manchester to seek views on pooling money to establish a website to share Pride in Place information with residents.

Cllr Johnson asked whether it would be a good idea to have a memorandum of understanding with the other boards regarding a website. Eamonn confirmed that feedback seems positive from other members, and a memorandum of understanding could be a good idea.

Janice asked whether video conversations would be useful for continued engagement. Cllr Taylor expressed that she'd be happy to pull together a comms/engagement plan ready for the next meeting so that the different ways that the board can engage with residents can start to be considered.

Lola raised that she'd like a social media presence to support the celebration event on 26th September 2026. Eddie explained that he could potentially support this with his existing social media offer for his martial arts school and said that he would look into this further. He asked whether there is an existing comms package to support the celebration event. Sally confirmed she will check what MCC has available already and let the board know.

Eamonn asked whether the board would be in favour of spending money to develop comms such as banners and leaflets, all agreed that they would, and that further conversation can be had around what items are needed and about designs. Eamonn then asked whether there are any members that would lead finance aspects for the board to keep track of spending, which will be supported by MCC. Joy agreed that she would be happy to do this.

Duncan asked if we could get definitions of what Capital and Revenue spend are so that the board has a better understanding of what this means.

Astrid asked how we carry out due diligence to ensure that anybody we work with is suitable in terms of their values and meeting the board's requirements. Eamonn explained that this will be an ongoing point that we will need to revisit as the programme progresses.

The board then discussed how they can ensure they are meeting financial regulations and follownig procurement processes. Sarah shared information with the board regarding this, and Sally explained that MCC would be there to support processes and to answer questions around financial governance as they arise.

Duncan added to this conversation by asking, if the board were to use Forever Manchester as a fiscal partner, would they manage some of the responsibilities around making sure that financial regulations are met. Eamonn confirmed that they would.

Cllr Johnson asked if there is a platform that all documents can be stored to so that members can refer to important documents as there is a lot of paperwork being shared. The board all agreed that this would be a good idea. Eamonn explained that when a website is produced, they can have an intranet function to store all this information, but that it would be good to establish something that can be used for now. The board discussed various options and agreed that setting up a team's channel would be a good idea.

Action - Sally to check what Pride in Place Comms are available for the celebration event

Action – Cllr Taylor to develop a draft comms plan for the next board meeting

Action – Sally to set up a team's channel to for the board to share documents

Action - Sally to ask colleagues to provide more information regarding Capital and Revenue spend

Decisions

Joy to be finance lead for the board.

6. Small Grants Programme

Eamonn expressed that it would be good for the board to start thinking about what a small grants programme might look like, in terms of amounts, application processes, guidelines and so on.

Duncan suggested that it would be a good idea to have amounts in line with financial regulations so for example £5000 as the maximum award, as this means that groups would need to provide a certain number of quotes and would support with due diligence. Eamonn added to this to say there could be different amounts, so for example, grants of up to £500 and grants of up to £5000 to allow for payments for smaller projects to be released more quickly where all of the paperwork has been completed and regulations have been met.

Duncan asked how much would be committed to the small grants programme. Eamonn explained that this would be up to the board to decide and that it would be a good idea to create a panel to lead on this.

The board then went on to discuss how decisions could be made. It was agreed that the board doesn't want to wait for board meetings to decide on applications, and that setting up a grants committee to make decisions would be the best option. Sarah volunteered to lead this piece of work, and Eddie agreed to support as did Duncan and Pam. The board then voted to determine that they were happy with those members going away and developing a proposal to bring back to the board at a future meeting. All agreed.

Action – Small grants committee to develop proposal to share with board members

Decision

Panel to lead on small grants proposal will be Sarah, Eddie, Duncan and Pam.

7. A.O.B

Eamonn explained that we are still working to find a way to recruit young board members. Karen asked whether there is anybody that wants to work on this piece of work with her, Lola, Eamonn, Duncan and Janice expressed that they would like to support this piece of work. Karen said that she would like to start promoting the opportunity to young people in September and said that she would start to pull together an action plan to move this forward. Karen explained that she would like to start speaking with high school aged children and so Eddie offered support with connecting Karen with the high schools that he works with. Kevin expressed that he would like Piper Hill school to be considered in the engagement to appoint young board members.

Duncan asked that the board consider changing the name of the PIP board so that it resonates with residents more closely. Eamonn agreed that this is something worth considering. Cllr Taylor explained that most of the PIP area sits in Benchill but that there is a very small part of the area where residents don't see themselves as Benchill, instead they view themselves as living in Crossacres neighbourhood and they don't recognise the political boundary. Cllr Johnson expressed that she feels residents identify quite strongly with Wythenshawe. Lola suggested that using Wythenshawe in the title gives people in the wider area the impression that funding will benefit wider parts of the Wythenshawe area. The board voted to change the name to Benchill Pride in Place.

Karen expressed that she'd like to hear from Muse regarding the regeneration plans for Civic. Cllrs confirmed they would pick this up with the Neighbourhood team to invite them to a future board meeting.

Cllr Johnson raised the need to ensure our comms are accessible for all.

Pam asked for the training needs assessment in paper form.

Action - Cllrs to invite Muse to a future board meeting

Action - Sally to send Pam paper copy of training needs assessment

Decision

Pride in Place area will now be known as Benchill Pride in Place for future communication and engagement with residents.

Date of next board meeting:

- **8th September 2026**