Pride in Place (PiPP) Board Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 29 July 2026
Chair: Dave Lane (Vice Chair, acting as Chair in Neil's absence)

Present

- David Lane
- Sam Flint
- Sarah Spencer
- Corrine Hobson
- Shesh Sheshabhatter
- Chet Parmar
- Hazel Dawkins (Chelmsley Wood Town Council)
- Cllr Karen Grinsell
- Cllr Phil Tierney
- Saqib Bhatti, MP
- Nathaniel James

In attendance

- Felix Kupay (Solihull MBC- Partnerships & Programme Manager)
- Austin Rodriguez (Solihull MBC- Head of Service Stronger Communities)

Apologies

- Neil Roberts
- Sara Bonas-Whalen
- Daniel McGuinness

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1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies had been received, including from Sarah and Daniel.

A new board member, Nathaniel James, attended and introduced himself as a local youth worker with extensive experience supporting young people across North Solihull.

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2. Declarations of Interest

No formal declarations of interest were raised.

A potential future conflict relating to community engagement and commissioned engagement activity was noted and will be monitored as the programme develops.

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3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

No additional matters arising were identified outside the agenda items.

Key Decisions

1. Social Media Harassment and Disruptive Behaviour

The Board discussed further inappropriate and abusive social media activity directed at PiPP and individual members.

Agreed:

- Continue gathering evidence of abusive communications.
- Avoid direct engagement with the individual concerned.
- Await advice and any action arising from discussions with Police, Community Safety and legal services.
- Consider formal complaints and behavioural policies as part of governance development.
- The Chair’s public statement regarding unacceptable behaviour was noted and supported.

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2. Governance Documents

Updated governance documents have been revised to reflect previous comments and are being prepared for approval.

Agreed:

- Final versions to be circulated to board members.
- Formal approval to take place at a future board meeting.
- Documents will subsequently proceed through Solihull MBC approval processes prior to submission to Government.

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3. Engagement Programme

The Board discussed the engagement framework at length.

Agreed:

- Household engagement remains a priority.
- A survey should be developed alongside a community information leaflet mailout.
- Further advice will be sought from the Council's Business Intelligence Team regarding survey methodology and analysis.
- The Board wishes to ensure engagement reaches all households and hard-to-reach groups.
- Additional targeted engagement will be required for:
  - Businesses
  - Older people
  - Disabled residents
  - Young people
  - Migrant communities.

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4. Communications Support

The Board unanimously agreed that dedicated communications support is required.

Agreed:

- Develop a scope for a communications resource.

- Consider short-term commissioned support capable of delivering communications and engagement activity quickly.
- Explore opportunities to upskill local young people as part of the communications approach.

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5. Secretariat Arrangements

Current secretariat support arrangements from Solihull MBC were reviewed.

Agreed:

- Existing support arrangements will continue.
- Longer-term arrangements can be reviewed after submission of the PiPP Plan.
- Resource requirements should be assessed as part of wider programme planning.

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6. Budget Monitoring

The Board received an update on programme funding.

Noted:

- Over £400,000 has been received to date.
- Approximately £30,000 has been spent or committed.
- Significant funding remains available, including:
  - Community engagement funding
  - Capacity funding
  - Capital funding allocation.

Agreed:

- Budget information should be presented periodically in a more accessible management-style format for the Board.

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7. Football Foundation Opportunity

A presentation update was provided following discussions with the Football Foundation.

Noted:

- Potential funding available for:
    - 3G pitches
    - Play zones
    - Pavilions/changing facilities
    - Grassroots sports infrastructure.
- Chelmsley Wood East has been identified as a potential priority location.
- Bluebell Park was highlighted as a possible site for future consideration.
- Football Foundation could potentially provide match funding for development costs.

Agreed:

- Further exploration of the opportunity should continue.
- Community views will inform any future proposals.

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8. Board Development and Training

The Board discussed governance and induction support requirements.

Agreed:

- Members will receive induction materials used by other PiPP programmes.
- Governance guidance and board member responsibilities will be circulated.
- Future briefings from subject matter experts will be arranged where helpful.

Action Log

Ref	Action	Lead	Deadline
A1	Continue monitoring and collecting evidence of abusive social media activity.	Felix / Chair	Ongoing
A2	Seek further updates from Police, Community Safety and Legal Services on potential action.	Austin	Ongoing
A3	Circulate revised governance documents to board members.	Felix	Before next meeting

A4	Finalise governance documents for board approval and subsequent Section 151 sign-off.	Felix	Next board cycle
A5	Share approved grant applications and engagement activity information with board members.	Felix	Immediate
A6	Meet with Business Intelligence Team and provide recommendations on survey methodology and data collection.	Felix	Before next meeting
A7	Develop detailed engagement delivery plan, including survey, leaflet distribution and community researcher approach.	Felix, Neil and Dave	Next meeting
A8	Bring proposals for dedicated communications support, including scope, role and procurement approach.	Dave, Neil and Felix	Next meeting
A9	Assess wider staffing and capacity requirements needed to deliver the PiPP programme.	Dave, Neil and Felix	Next meeting
A10	Continue current secretariat arrangements and assess longer-term resource needs.	Felix / Austin	Ongoing
A11	Provide periodic management-style financial reporting to the Board.	Felix	Quarterly
A12	Circulate Football Foundation presentation and supporting documents.	Colin	After meeting
A13	Progress discussions with Football Foundation and evaluate opportunities linked to Bluebell Park and other sites.	Colin / Neil	Ongoing
A14	Map existing and potential community assets, including Bluebell Park opportunities.	Board / Council Officers	Ongoing
A15	Provide induction pack and governance materials to all board members.	Felix	Before next meeting

A16	Arrange learning session with other Pride in Place programme leads for shared learning and good practice.	Felix	Future meeting
A17	Establish an informal board communication channel (e.g. WhatsApp group) and add new members.	Neil	Before next meeting

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Matters for Ongoing Monitoring

- Community engagement strategy and commissioning approach.
- Complaints and disruptive behaviour policy.
- Business engagement programme.
- Development of thematic groups.
- Community ownership and governance models for future assets.
- Long-term operating model beyond initial government support period.
- Employment, skills and transport opportunities emerging from community engagement.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 August 2026. Procurement officers will attend and governance paperwork will be presented for approval.