

Neighbourhood Board Meeting Minutes 9 September 2026

Meeting: Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Date: 9 September 2026

Time: 6:00pm to 9:00pm (approx.)

Location: Renewal Church, Chelmsley Wood

1. Attendance

Present

- Neil Roberts (Chair)
- David Lane
- Sara Bonas-Whalen
- Daniel McGuinness
- Sam Flint
- Corrine Hobson
- Shesh Sheshabhatte
- Chet Parmar
- Nathaniel James
- Sarah Spencer
- Cllr Phil Tierney
- Saqib Bhatti, MP (Joined online)

In attendance

- Felix Kupay (Solihull MBC- Partnerships & Programme Manager)
- Charlotte Slater (Solihull MBC- Youth Offer Development Lead)

Apologies

- Hazel Dawkins

1. Summary of Key Discussion Points

Youth Voice Network Update

The Board received a presentation from the Youth Voice Network and considered the findings from youth engagement activities undertaken as part of the Pride in Place Chelmsley Wood East programme. Eight local young people participated in a week-long work experience programme, during which they designed and delivered two surveys and undertook outreach activities within Chelmsley Wood. Approximately 60 young people aged 11-16 took part in the consultation.

Key Findings

- Young people strongly support investment in Chelmsley Wood East but have limited awareness of the Pride in Place programme. Participants suggested that future communications should make greater use of youth-focused channels such as Instagram, TikTok and schools.
- The consultation identified a significant lack of youth provision as the most consistent concern. Young people highlighted the need for more places to socialise, access activities and receive support.
- A dedicated youth centre or youth safe space emerged as the highest priority investment. Young people expressed strong interest in facilities including sports, gaming, music, study areas, careers advice, mental health support, Wi-Fi and opportunities to develop new skills.
- Crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety were identified as major concerns, with many participants believing that increased youth provision and positive activities would help address these issues.
- Employment, education, skills development and career opportunities were highlighted as important routes to reducing poverty and improving future prospects for local young people.
- There was strong support for enhanced mental health and wellbeing support, including access to trained adults, safe spaces and early intervention services.
- Building stronger communities was identified as the most important Pride in Place objective, with young people recognising the benefits of social connection, volunteering and community cohesion.

Recommendations Presented

The Youth Voice Network recommended that the programme prioritise:

1. Development of a youth safe space/youth centre.
2. Increased activities and opportunities for young people.
3. Early intervention and prevention work to reduce anti-social behaviour.
4. Employment, skills and careers pathways.
5. Mental health and wellbeing support.
6. Greater involvement of young people in decision-making and programme design.

Youth Participation Update

The Board was advised that the Youth Voice Network is now meeting regularly and continues to support the design and delivery of Pride in Place activities from a youth perspective. Plans are underway to strengthen engagement with local schools, undertake assemblies promoting Pride in Place, expand youth membership and support future youth-led events.

Woodlings Festival Proposal

The Board received details of a proposed youth-led event, the **Woodlings Festival**, planned for 29 October at Three Trees. The event aims to gather further feedback from young people on local priorities, promote Pride in Place, showcase local talent and raise awareness of existing youth opportunities. Support was requested from Board members in relation to funding, promotion and participation on the day. The estimated costs of the event were £5,000 which the Board unanimously approved.

Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Board received feedback from a meeting with local police representatives regarding crime prevention and community safety. Key issues discussed included:

- Limited CCTV coverage across the area and the potential use of targeted hotspot cameras.
 - Exploring temporary and permanent CCTV solutions, subject to cost and maintenance considerations.
 - Improving lighting in areas identified as crime and ASB hotspots.
 - Early engagement with the Police "Designing Out Crime" team regarding future park developments.
 - Consideration of community-led locking arrangements for certain parks and play areas.
 - Recognition that prevention activities and youth engagement are critical to reducing ASB in the long term.
 - Discussion around safe spaces, including the library pilot scheme and its potential future role in supporting vulnerable residents.
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Community Engagement and Communications

Board members discussed:

- Better use of school newsletters and digital communication platforms to promote events.

- Developing a coordinated community events calendar.
 - Improved collaboration between local organisations, emergency services, voluntary groups and community events.
 - Opportunities to increase participation through better coordination of major events occurring within the area.
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Arts, Culture and Community Development

Updates included:

- Engagement with local arts groups, artists and community organisations.
 - Attendance planned at local arts, craft and cultural events.
 - Discussions regarding community mural projects and public art opportunities.
 - Exploration of partnerships to support cultural participation and creative community activity.
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Sport, Leisure and Onward Club Development

An update was provided regarding discussions with AFC Chelmsley and stakeholders concerning the future development of the Onward Club.

Potential opportunities discussed included:

- Development of a 3G pitch.
- Paddle and other recreational court facilities.
- Flexible indoor community activity spaces.
- Improved café and community facilities.
- Establishing a sustainable community-led sports and leisure model.

The Board noted the sensitivity of ongoing discussions and agreed these should remain confidential until proposals are more developed.

Business Engagement

An update was provided on business outreach activities:

- A business database of approximately 80 local businesses has been compiled.
- Invitation letters are being prepared for a local business breakfast meeting.

- Further engagement activity is planned throughout October.
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Health and Wellbeing

Feedback was presented following discussions with local healthcare representatives.

Key themes identified included:

- Mental health support as a major priority.
 - Increased support for young parents and peer-led family networks.
 - Barriers experienced by older residents accessing services and activities.
 - Healthy eating, cooking skills and food budgeting.
 - Smoking, alcohol and wider addiction support.
 - Greater awareness of pharmacy services and social prescribing opportunities.
 - The importance of social connection and confidence-building activities.
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Children, Young People and Schools

The Board discussed:

- Strengthening engagement with schools and youth services.
 - Gathering youth voice and feedback.
 - Concerns about reductions in school resources and enrichment activities.
 - Opportunities to support breakfast clubs, after-school activities and youth-focused projects.
 - Exploring links with Family First and Children's Services programmes.
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Environment and Housing

Key themes emerging from engagement included:

Environment

- Fly tipping.
- Dog fouling.
- Graffiti.

- Improving parks and public spaces.
- Community clean-up initiatives.
- Youth involvement in environmental improvement projects and public art schemes.

Housing

- Damp and housing condition concerns.
- Fuel poverty and affordability of heating.
- Biomass heating concerns.
- Potential winter support initiatives including warm packs, thermal products and practical support for vulnerable residents.

Community Grants Programme

The Board discussed concerns regarding delays to the Pride in Place community grants programme.

Key points included:

- A desire to launch funding as quickly as possible.
- Frustration regarding additional governance and business case requirements.
- Emphasis that grants should support visible community activity and "quick wins".
- Agreement that the Board wishes to see funding deployed into the community at the earliest opportunity.

Data Analysis and Evidence Gathering

The Board discussed the need to commission external support to:

- Analyse survey responses.
- Process consultation data.
- Produce statistical and thematic analysis.
- Support development of the final Neighbourhood Plan.

The Board emphasised the need for a rapid turnaround due to the programme timetable.

Communications and Social Media

The Board discussed recent social media activity and agreed the need for:

- A consistent communications approach.
 - Reduced engagement in online debates through personal accounts.
 - Development of a formal communications and social media protocol.
 - Future media training and support for board members.
 - Use of official communication channels wherever possible.
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2. Decisions Agreed

Ref	Decision
D1	Continue engagement with local police and community safety partners regarding CCTV, ASB and crime prevention measures.
D2	Monitor outcomes of the community safe-space library pilot scheme.
D3	Continue development discussions relating to the future of the Onward Club partnership opportunities.
D4	Proceed with local business engagement activity and October business breakfast event.
D5	Request the prompt launch of the Community Grants Programme without further delay where possible.
D6	Progress procurement/commissioning arrangements for data analysis support.
D7	Adopt a more coordinated approach to communications and social media engagement.
D8	Revise the community engagement timetable following issues with the postcard distribution programme.
D9	Hold public feedback and consultation events in October and November prior to final submission of the Neighbourhood Plan.

D10	Approve a budget of £5,000 for the Woodlings Festival to be organised on 29 th October.
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3. Action Log

Ref	Action	Lead	Target Date
A1	Arrange follow-up meeting with local neighbourhood policing team.	Felix Kupay	September 2026
A2	Explore CCTV hotspot mapping and potential camera locations.	Community Safety Working Group	Ongoing
A3	Engage Designing Out Crime team regarding future park and play area designs.	Felix / Relevant Working Group	Ongoing
A4	Investigate opportunities for promotion through school newsletters and digital platforms.	Communications Lead (once appointed)	October 2026
A5	Continue engagement with local arts organisations, artists and community groups.	Arts & Culture Leads	Ongoing
A6	Progress discussions with AFC Chelmsley and partners regarding the Onward Club development proposals.	Sports Working Group	Ongoing
A7	Deliver invitation letters and promote Business Breakfast event.	Neil / Felix	October 2026
A8	Produce and circulate summary notes from GP Practice Manager meeting.	Board Member (Health Working Group)	September 2026
A9	Meet with Public Health representatives regarding identified health priorities.	Felix / Health Working Group	September 2026
A10	Strengthen engagement with local schools and youth services.	Felix	Ongoing

A11	Explore winter support initiatives including thermal products, wellbeing support and practical assistance.	Environment & Homes Working Group	Autumn 2026
A12	Challenge and seek resolution regarding delays to community grants programme.	Felix / Chair	Immediate
A13	Develop specification and commissioning route for consultation data analysis.	Felix	Immediate
A14	Collect and consolidate all consultation data and questionnaires.	Felix / Working Groups	Ongoing
A15	Confirm venues and arrangements for October and November engagement events.	Felix	September 2026
A16	Investigate use of visual facilitation/cartoon artist for public engagement events.	Neil	October 2026
A17	Develop communications, social media and media training arrangements for Board members.	Communications Lead / Council Communications Team	Future meeting

4. Revised Programme Timeline

Date	Activity
21 September to 9 October 2026	Revised community mail-out campaign
6 October 2026	Business Breakfast Event
18 October 2026	Community Feedback/Fun Day
21 October 2026	Business Forum
4 November 2026	Working Group Review Meeting (provisional)
14 November 2026	Community Feedback Event #2
30 November 2026	Submission of final Neighbourhood Plan

Meeting Close

The meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm following discussion regarding communications, governance, grants, programme delivery and next steps.