

Focus on Farnworth Board

Minutes

Friday 7 August 2026 9:30am at The Well, Trafford Street, Farnworth, BL4 7PQ

Present: Rev John Bradbury (Chair), Sgt Emily Fogg (GMP), Cllr Maureen Flitcroft (Ward Member), Peter Flitcroft (Local resident), Chantelle Nice (Local Resident), Martyn Loynd (Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank), Paul Sanders (Local Resident), Emma Robinson (Bolton Council), Carrie Riley (Be One Homes), Vanessa Barlow (Seddons), Liz McNabb (Bolton CVS), Carlene Kirton (Local Resident), Grace Daniel-Sam (Local Resident), Cllr Nadeem Ayub (Ward Member)

Apologies: Yasmin Qureshi (MP), Ben Lawton (BWITC), John Hynes (Copy Print Services), Champak Mistry (Minerva Print)

In attendance: Rev Helen Bradbury (Secretariat), Karen Ingham (Principal Project Officer), Sam Elliott (Head of Libraries, Museums & Heritage BMBC)

1. Welcome and apologies

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members present completed any outstanding declaration of interest forms. **Action:** Members not present to complete their forms and return before next meeting.

3. Agree minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the board meeting held on 3 July were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- a. Lighting for Ellesmere park- this would not be able to be completed within the current budget. It would also involve planning permission which would delay the project. LMc shared that it is known that girls are unlikely to use a MUGA if lighting is not there in the evenings. It was agreed to press ahead with the current plan and to revisit the issue of lighting should funds become available in future.

5. MHCLG Update

- a. JB shared the details of the Community Engagement toolkits provided by MHCLG.
- b. Feedback from Chairs network - JB shared the pamphlet that has been produced to show what has been done elsewhere in Greater Manchester with regard to community engagement and empowerment.

A question was asked in relation to how many Pride in Place areas there are and where there any commonalities across areas. JB answered that there are 95

phase 1 areas and a total of 379. There are some commonalities amongst the projects there are a lot for anti-social behaviour. A lot are asking questions about the Farnworth fund about now being overwhelmed about dealing with small fund applications.

6. Finance Update

ER presented the accounts to the end of June, everyone should have received a spreadsheet in advance. This will be prepared every quarter with the next report coming to the November meeting.

7. Project Updates

a. Rock Hall Update

SE gave a presentation on the plans for Rock Hall now that the National Lottery Heritage Funding has been awarded. Activities will be ongoing and the capital works are expected to start in June 2027. There will be toilets available for activities when Rock Hall is closed. There are new toilets being installed in the park as well. The Industrial Heritage Education will be a great bonus especially to our Secondary Schools. The paper making revolution which started in Farnworth is not widely known about.

VB asked if the work on Rock Hall would be done by local builders? In her experience lots of work is subcontracted and it is important to stipulate how much of the project should be undertaken by local people

Has there been any progress regarding Farnworth Library? SE was unaware of the current situation, she has expressed an interest in using Farnworth Green.

b. Farnworth Fund – Grants Awarded

LMc 15 mins

LMc gave a presentation on the outcomes of the application process and grants awarded.

VB asked if we can be more flexible in regarding where funding is delivered, as long as it benefits Farnworth residents. The subgroup had agreed that in year one delivery must take place within the Farnworth Pride in Place boundary. It was suggested that for next time the place of delivery be shown on a map.

A press release has been written about the Farnworth Fund. A thank you to the grant assessors has been drafted and will be sent out by the Chair.

Actions: Get quotes from successful candidates, how it has helped.

Samaiya to be work with the successful candidates to assist them in gaining funding from other sources for the future.

Sub-group to consider multi-year funding options, although it is noted that funding is limited.

Add to social value expert advice at £35 per hour to the social value calculation

c. Play Parks – Additional Funding for Farnworth

KI explained that additional funding has been made available for play park equipment, to be spent within 2 years. This will be used for Moses Gate Play area, Dixon Green (Ellesmere Park) and All Saints.

Everything that has been designed for Moses Gate is to be completed.

Ellesmere Park will now have some new equipment in addition to the MUGA.

All Saints Park will be refreshed in 2027/28

MF asked about Bradford Road Park which needs a new swing set. Could any funding go to this? KI would check what has been agreed with the funder.

This is an example of more good news stories for Farnworth. The extra funding may not have been awarded if it were not for Pride in Place.

We will need to make sure that the delivery schedule remains focused so that the improvements are completed on time.

d. Community Engagement

PS reported that we now have pull up banner and table cloth, we borrow a table from FBC for attending events. The chocolate and sweets worked well to attract people to the table. Lots of conversations were had.

On Friday 25 September there will be an event for public health on Brackley Street, so we could have a stall at that.

We need to have a tablet we could use for such events. Also perhaps a gazebo (may need to be an industrial strength), high viz vests. **Action cost these up for next meeting.**

8. Any other business

a. Communication Plan and resources

PF raised that we have few social media followers and that our website needs updating. Profiles have not been received yet from a number of Board Members.

Action: KI will establish a communications sub-group consisting of JB, PF, PS & LMc. JB and PS to meet to discuss social media and website.

b. Potential Christmas event

PF suggested a Christmas light switch on event which would generate significant community engagement. Could this be held on Farnworth Green? Would we be able to get corporate sponsors for the event. **Action: PF to lead on engagement with Capital Centric, costings needed and outline of the event**

Next meeting on Friday 4 September 2026. We will have a speaker from the planning department to discuss the Local Plan. JB felt that the board may want input into this as it is currently proposed to build 2,000 homes on the green space near the hospital.

Action: KI to circulate the planning map.