

## **Focus on Farnworth Board**

### **Minutes**

**Friday 3 July 2026 9am at The Well, Trafford Street, Farnworth, BL4 7PQ**

**Present:** Rev. John Bradbury (Chair), Emma Robinson (Bolton Council), Maureen Flitcroft (Councillor), Paul Sanders (Local Resident), Liz McNabb (Bolton CVS), Carlene Kirton (Local Resident), Chantelle Nice (Local Resident), Grace Daniel-Sam (Local Resident), Martyn Loynd (Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank), John Hynes (Copy Print Services), Ben Lawton (Bolton Wanderers in the Community)

**In attendance:** Rev Helen Bradbury (Secretariat), Phil Lamb (Bolton Council)

**Apologies:** Yasmin Qureshi (MP), Nadeem Ayub (Councillor), Vanessa Barlow (Seddon), Emily Fogg (GMP), Carrie Riley (Be One Homes), Karen Ingham (Principal Project Officer), Champak Mistry (Minerva Print), Peter Flitcroft (Local Resident)

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

JB welcomed Cllr Flitcroft to her first meeting.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Some written declarations of interest have been received. JB reminded everyone to ensure these are completed before our next meeting. It will still be the responsibility of each board member to declare any conflicts of interest at a particular meeting and to absent themselves as necessary.

#### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes were agreed, with the addition of the acknowledgement of the World Food Day event that members had attended.

#### **4. Matters arising**

- a. Branding – The website has now been updated with the Pride in Place branding. A pull up banner has been purchased for community engagement events
- b. Vice Chair – One expression of interest has been received from Peter Flitcroft. MF left the meeting whilst discussion took place. Peter's application was read out and discussed. All agreed to appoint Peter as vice-chair.

#### **5. MHCLG Update**

- a. Letter to chairs and council CEOs had been circulated. JB explained that ministers are keen for local Pride in Place boards to have the autonomy to act without Council cabinet approval of decisions. These should be agreed at council officer level to avoid unnecessary delays. We do have a good working relationship with Bolton Council and some cabinet level decisions are to be expected in relation to projects which affect Council assets.

## 6. Project Updates

### a. Farnworth Fund

LMc gave a short presentation on progress. There have been 41 applications, 37 of which are now being assessed. The total value of applications is £312,786 against our budget of £100,000. There is a good spread of activities proposed and 71% meet all four priorities. The funding panel will meet on 22 July. Where organisations are unsuccessful, Bolton CVS will support them to look for alternative funding.

ML asked what arrangements are in place to ensure successful grantees use the money for Farnworth based activity. LMc explained that 50% of the funding is paid at the start of the project and a review will take place after 6 months and the remaining funding would only be released following a successful review. There will then be a final project report.

### b. Play Parks

PL brought a proposal for Ellesmere Park. It is proposed that a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) be installed on the hardstanding area. This was discussed and positively received. The Pride in Place Funding will cover this cost. The remainder of the play park has been improved recently. CN asked if there be lighting? **Action: PL to ask the Green Spaces team if this can be included.** PL indicated that a final project proposal and costing should be available for board approval at our September meeting. The MUGA would have signage to indicate that Pride in Place had funded it.

PL reported that the equipment for Moses Gate play park has been ordered.

### c. Community Engagement

PS and GDS will be attending Highfield Summer fair today to engage with parents. PS & CK are attending the summer event at Willow Hey. A survey has been produced to gather feedback and ideas at these events. The team are looking for opportunities to engage further with the community. MF suggested having a stand in supermarkets. These events will help us to raise awareness of Pride in Place and will give opportunities for social media engagement.

### d. Other projects

There has been no announcement about the Rock Hall funding. This is not expected until after the mayoral election.

## 7. Any other business

### Youth Club and ASB update

JB reported there has been more anti-social behaviour in the town centre. Next Friday the additional youth provision will recommence and will go through the summer. **Action: PS to post an advert for the service on our social media. CN to forward details to PS**

#### Weathervane on Brackley Street

PS reported that this has been damaged by vehicles hitting it. He has started to explore who is responsible for this street art. PS suggested that the board could look to using the flexible fund to repair and resite this. JB asked that we explore further with the Council who is responsible for this and whether other budgets could be used and are available. Action: PS to make further enquiries and if necessary, bring a written proposal to a future board meeting.

#### Farnworth Fund Assessors

LMc asked if the chair could email the fund assessors once they have completed their tasks to thank them for their work. This was agreed. **Action: LMc to draft an email for JB to send.**

**Next meeting 7 August, 9.30 at the Well.** Diary reminders will be sent out for the rest of this year's meetings.