

Focus on Farnworth Board

Minutes Friday 4 September 2026

Held at The Well, Trafford Street, Farnworth, BL4 7PQ

Present: Rev John Bradbury (Chair), Peter Flitcroft (Local Resident), Martyn Loynd (Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank), Maureen Flitcroft (Ward Councillor), John Hynes (Copy Print Services), Chantelle Nice (Local Resident), Carlene Kirton (Local Resident), Ben Lawton (BWITC), Paul Sanders (Local Resident), Sgt Emily Fogg (GMP), Emma Robinson (Bolton MBC), Nadeem Ayub (Ward Councillor), Yasmin Qureshi (MP)

Apologies: Liz McNabb (Bolton CVS), Grace Daniel- Sam (Local Resident), Vanessa Barlow (Seddon), Carrie Riley (BeOne Homes)

In attendance: Rev Helen Bradbury (Secretariat), Karen Ingham (Principal Project Officer), Sara Dilmamode (Bolton MBC), Ian Morgan (Bolton MBC), Olivia Park (MHCLG), James Jacobs (MHCLG), Nigel Patrick (MHCLG),

1. Welcome and apologies

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Outstanding declaration of interest forms were received.

3. Agree minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2026 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- a. Communication, social media and website – a meeting of the subgroup will take place next Wednesday.
- b. Promotional materials – Waiting for more prices for gazebos. **Action: KI to get more quotes**
Carlene attending event on 25 September on Brackley Street. Other board members were encouraged to attend.
- c. Christmas Event - Peter Flitcroft presented a proposal for the event to take place on Farnworth Green and Brackley Street. Capital and Centric are supportive of this. Planned date is either Tuesday 24 November or Thursday 26 November. This will enable us to have mass engagement and publicity for Focus on Farnworth and Pride in Place. We would be expecting around 300 to 500 people over a three-hour period. We would need to check costs for road closure. The budget presented was based on 30% uplift on 2021 Christmas event. Toilet facilities are at Asda and possibly the Coffee House. It was agreed to progress this. **Action: PF to bring an update to our next meeting.**

5. MHCLG Update

JB noted that the following papers had been shared with the board:

- Resources from a Teach-in by Grimsby on community-led delivery (targeted at Phase 2 chairs)
- Webinar slides and Q&A on subsidy control (targeted at local authority leads)
- Notes and resources from the chairs event held in Stretford

JJ shared that the work on evaluation is still ongoing. MHCLG are working with GMCA to develop innovative ways of working with the community. Phase 2 areas are testing models of community led delivery which will provide different operating models.

6. Local Plan

SD presented the local plan and site allocation will happen in October

CK - Where does accessibility come into the plan? Disability is above national average in Farnworth. An equality impact assessment will form part of the plan.

PF – Are other local authorities going through the process at this time? It is an ongoing programme of updates but forthcoming changes to the process mean that a number of authorities are do so before the changes take effect.

YQ are there plans for bungalows for older people. This is correct with consideration taken into affordable housing. CK commented that younger disabled people do not enough options for housing as a result of local authority policy that bungalows are only offered to older people.

PF suggested using the hub for consultation.

ML commented on the numbers of 13750 homes in the plan which includes all permissions since 2022. 8,000 brown field sites, whilst it is preferred to use them rather than green field sites, a lot of these have been on the books a long time and are more costly to develop. There needs to be a balance because people become skeptical when sites are left empty behind hoardings for extended periods of time.

MF commented that it would be good to have the regen team investigate whether national funds are available to develop brown field sites to make them more attractive to developers.

CK commented that there is a lack of public transport available on Plodder Lane which will need to be addressed.

JB commented that infrastructure needs to be in place before any housing is built as the road system around junction 4 of the M61 is already very congested.

EF asked if there any conversations about policing in the area, as this would have significant resource implications. This is under discussion with GMP.

Any consultations about the plan need to be meaningful. Pride in Place is about working for communities who feel that they have not been listened to.

The board is asked to publicise the consultation via our website and social media. CN commented that to reach more people door to door work would be useful. There are insufficient resources for this

but we could use the the social capital contained within the board to reach out beyond online methods.

MF asked about site allocations for travellers and travelling show people as there is an existing site which needs relocating. This is being considered as part of the local plan in discussion with neighbouring local authorities.

Action: SD to forward info for sharing by the board.

7. Project Updates

a. Play Parks – Update

Green Space team has applied for Government funding which is now available. A survey has been completed for the MUGA on Ellesmere play park at a cost of £700, which was approved by JB and PF.

b. Community Engagement – We have had consultation in New Bury and have the health and wellbeing event on Brackley Street on 25 September. Speed of Sight are organising a car show at Farnworth Cricket Club on 27 September which will offer another opportunity to connect with the public. John Hynes will represent the board.

Grace is collating the online survey information.

8. Any other business

Rock Hall update. The event that was planned was cancelled as Museum and Libraries Service await permission to proceed from the funder.

The next board meeting will include an update on Harper Green playing fields, and community hubs (Library and Farnworth Green).

An update on security cameras will be brought to the board as soon as we have news.

JJ asked for an update on the Farnworth Fund. We have distributed £100,000 to 13 groups, a mix of new and existing projects. CVS is working with unsuccessful candidates to see if there is funding elsewhere. It has been requested that CVS work with the 13 projects to see if funding is available for them, so they do not need to come back to the Farnworth Fund. Payment from the council was released very soon after approval.

PS asked for an update on the weather vane piece of art. **Action: KI to follow up**

JB asked for an update about traffic issues at Kearsley roundabout. **Action KI to follow up**

Next Meeting 2 October.