PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Marsh Green & Laithwaite Neighbourhood Board

Minutes of meeting held on: Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 5pm

Venue: St Cuthbert's & Norley Hall Sports & Community Club, Montrose Avenue, Norley Hall, WN5 9XL

Attendance

Neighbourhood Board Members	Observers/Support Staff
Chris Fairhurst - Chair (CF) Claire Burnham (CB) Karen Parker (KP) Beth Hughes (BH) Eileen Horrocks (EH) Anthony Sykes (AS) Akeem Akintola (AA) Cllr Mary Callaghan (MC) Elaine Smith (ES) Joanne Edwards (JE) Stuart Prior (SP)	Sam Flemming (SF) Leanne Taylor - Secretariat (LT) Rosie Heaton (RH) Jonathan Lowe (JL)

Agenda and Discussion Items

Number	Agenda Item
1	**Welcome and Introductions** CF welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2	**Apologies for Absence** CF noted apologies from Rt Hon Lisa Nandy, Emma Rossall, Mark Woodcock, Meagan Glynn and Gary Hayes.
3	**Minutes and Actions from the Previous Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2026 were agreed as an accurate record.

	The Secretariat provided an update on completed and outstanding actions from the previous meeting. MC and JE provided an update on off-road bikes and anti-social behaviour in the Sherwood Drive area, including emerging opportunities to address local concerns. The Board highlighted the importance of seeking the views of young people before any decisions are made.
4	**Declarations of Interest** None declared.
5	**Identifying Opportunities for Unused Buildings and Vacant Land** JL, Assistant Director for Property and Assets at Wigan Council, presented an overview of opportunities relating to unused council-owned land and buildings within the area, especially Rose Hill Park. The Board discussed the importance of engaging residents at an early stage and being transparent about potential solutions so that local people have the opportunity to share their views. Access, traffic, and pedestrian routes were identified as key considerations. The Board agreed that further detail on potential opportunities would be beneficial to support future discussion and community engagement before any decisions are made.
6	**Community Feedback & Quick Wins** The Secretariat provided an update on community feedback received to date, including findings from the Pride in Place survey and other consultation and engagement activities. The Board noted a number of emerging themes, including young people, community safety, cleaner streets, green spaces, and strengthening community connections. Members discussed potential quick-win projects that could help respond to these priorities. The Board highlighted the importance of hearing directly from young people and discussed opportunities to engage through existing youth groups and other appropriate channels.

	JE and BH highlighted the work of the Worsley Hall Alliance in bringing local organisations together. The Board noted the update and agreed to return to the topic at a future meeting.
7	**Engagement Opportunities** The secretariat provided an update on engagement activity since the last meeting and a summary of upcoming opportunities
8	**Supporting Community-Led Activity** The Board discussed approaches to supporting local groups to undertake community engagement activity within the communities they already reach, in the places people already go. Members noted that feedback gathered through this work would help inform the development of the neighbourhood plan. KP highlighted the importance of reaching smaller, grassroots organisations. The board agreed to divide community engagement funding into four distinct categories: Marsh Green area, Norley Hall area, Worsley Hall area, and Youth engagement. **ACTIONS:** • Secretariat to circulate draft guidance and application materials to Board members. • Board members to promote the opportunity through their networks. • Secretariat to arrange information sessions for interested groups.
9	**Any Other Business** **Councillor Representation** CB outlined an approach to councillor representation on the Board which ensures the board remains resident led and gives all councillors in the Pride in Place boundaries the chance to contribute. One ward councillor will continue to sit on the Board, as required by Government guidance, and all six ward councillors will be invited to form a subcommittee to share ideas with and provide their input to the Board on a regular basis. The arrangement will be reviewed after 12 months.

	The Board agreed the approach. **Deputy Chair** CF raised the appointment of a Deputy Chair. The Board agreed that expressions of interest would be invited ahead of the next meeting, with the appointment to be considered at the meeting on 29th October. **ACTIONS:** • Secretariat to email Board members inviting expressions of interest for the role of Deputy Chair.
10	**Confirm Agreed Actions** Agreed actions are recorded under each item above.
11	**Date(s) of Next Meeting** Thursday 29th October 2026, 5pm – 6.30pm, venue to be confirmed.