PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Marsh Green & Laithwaite Neighbourhood Board

Date: Thursday 3rd September 2026
Time: 5pm - 6:30pm
Venue: Marsh Green Library, Harrow Road, WN5 0QL

Attendance

Neighbourhood Board Members	Observers/Support Staff
Chris Fairhurst – Chair (CF) Claire Burnham – (CB) Eileen Horrocks – (EH) Anthony Sykes – (AS) Akeem Akintola – (AA) Councillor Mary Callaghan (MC) Emma Rossall (ER) Mark Woodcock (MW) Megan Glynn – (MG)	Sam Flemming (SF) Stuart Prior (SP) Rosie Heaton (RH) Leanne Taylor (LT) James Jacobs (JJ) Sarah Pope (SP2)

1.	Welcome and Introductions The Chair (CF) welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves, including two representatives from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) who attended as observers (JJ & SP2).
2.	Apologies for Absence CF shared the following apologies for absence: • Karen Parker • Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP • Elaine Smith • Beth Hughes • Gary Hayes
3.	Declarations of Interest A standing item. A reminder was issued for board members to return their conflict-of-interest forms to the secretariat as soon as possible.

	CF proposed that where there is a property interest, to protect confidentiality of board members, the secretariat will share an address form with board members that will not be published but still declared. **ACTION: Board to return declaration of interest forms to secretariat. Secretariat to distribute confidential address form to board members for completion.**
4.	Terms of Reference Proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference highlighted since the last meeting were highlighted by CF. There was discussion around point 3.3 of the Terms of Reference, around the definition of public sector representatives and in what capacity members were sitting on the board. It was agreed that the existing wording was acceptable but that it would be reviewed should any issues arise. A confidentiality clause was discussed. General expectations were discussed by CF. JJ and SP2 will share with secretariat how other Pride in Place areas are incorporating this clause. **Vote 1: Board was asked to approve the terms of reference.** **Result: Board members unanimously approved the terms of reference.** **Decision: The terms of reference were approved.**
5.	Community Engagement CB and RH demonstrated the local authority's Neighbourhood Profile tool which includes asset mapping and local data. This led into a discussion around unused buildings within the boundary and how these could be brought to life, including St Barnabas Church and the three fields between each area. Norley Hall's 50p park was raised as a site with potential. CB highlighted that the council's corporate assets team could potentially attend the next meeting to explore how these areas could be activated for the community. This was agreed by the board. CF raised that a Pride in Place Facebook page to disseminate information independently should be explored. A discussion was raised about the logistics and who would run this. MW runs a local neighbourhood page with 10k members which could be utilised to spread the word. A digital survey was published on10 August, which will be promoted among residents of the Marsh Green and Laithwaite boundary area. Local organisations already operating and undertaking youth engagement in the area were discussed. JJ highlighted the concept of participatory budgeting which other neighbourhood boards are undertaking training on. The board will need a process for administering short term engagement funding.

	ACTION: RH to explore mapping out of use assets in the neighbourhood profile. **ACTION: Secretarat to invite corporate assets and property team to the next neighbourhood board meeting (October).** **ACTION: Board members to let secretariat know of any upcoming events that can be added to engagement schedule (including but not limited to: fun days, family events, exercise classes or school events).** **ACTION: Secretariat to explore and propose a process for short term engagement funds.**
6.	Quick Wins MC and ER raised local ASB issues: including quad bikes and off-road bikes, particularly around Sherwood Drive. Proposed solutions were explored, including metal fencing, though people noted that it is a large area. It was agreed that a council team would meet with MC and ER to scope out and cost up a solution. MW and SP highlighted road safety issues. CB proposed the local authority's highways team could attend a later meeting to explore solutions. EH raised that any quick wins should be unifying for residents. Pride in Place provides an opportunity to offer shared ownership and pride for those from Marsh Green and Laithwaite, Norley Hall and Worsley Hall and create something that belongs to everyone. **ACTION: Neighbourhood manager for Marsh Green (JE) to arrange meeting with GMP, Wigan Council and MC regarding anti-social behaviour and off-road biking issue.** **ACTION: Board members to submit ideas for quick wins to secretariat for discussion at October meeting.** **ACTION: Secretariat to invite highways team attend meeting in November.**
7.	Communications The group would prefer to communicate with each other via email. It was agreed email addresses would be shared among the group. A shared drive for board members to access board packs is being explored by the secretariat. **ACTION: Secretariat to share email addresses with the group.**
8.	AOB A reminder to board members was issued to return pen portraits which will be published on the web page.

	An upcoming opportunity to feature in the council's residents' magazine, Borough Life, was flagged. Content will be shared with the chair/board for consideration prior to publication. The role of deputy chair was discussed. **ACTION: Expressions of interest for deputy chair role will be included at the next meeting as an agenda item.**
9.	Date(s) of next meeting The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8th October 2026, 5pm – 6.30pm. The board agreed to continue to rotate meetings between Marsh Green, Norley Hall and Worsley Hall.

Meeting concluded at 6:30PM