



Whitehouse Neighbourhood Board Agenda and Supporting Documents

Date:	Wednesday 2 September 2026
Time:	18:00 – 19:30
Venue:	The Flying Horse Café and Bar
Members:	Isaac Turay Jannice Simpson Jess March (Chair) Mahmut Ozturk Martin Bignell Natalie Irish Patrick Spencer MP Sarah Battistetti Sean Fountain Westbourne High School representative – Martin Higgon / Matt Mason Whitehouse Ward Councillor representative – Cllr Lucy Trenchard
Apologies:	Glen Chisholm
Other Attendees:	Chrissie Geeson, Assistant Director – Programme Delivery, Ipswich Borough Council Laura Meadows, Pride in Place Programme Manager, Ipswich Borough Council Sharon Earp, Office of Patrick Spencer MP Invited guests: Isiah and Sarah to discuss social media and communications
Attendees to note that this meeting may be recorded	

STANDING ITEMS			
1.	Welcome & Updates on Actions from the last meeting (18:00 – 18:10)	JM	- AP1: LM to liaise with JM to add an additional line to the Code of Conduct regarding meeting etiquette, ensuring that everyone has a fair opportunity to contribute to discussions. - AP2: All members to check that the Register of Interests is accurate and inform LM/JM of any required changes.

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			- AP3: LM to invite Suffolk County Council's Knowledge, Intelligence and Evidence team to a future meeting to discuss local data, evidence, and insight. - AP4: LM to circulate a skills audit to identify existing knowledge and experience, understand the Board's strengths, and highlight any skills gaps. - AP5: JM to set-up WhatsApp group.
2.	Social media & communications (18:10 – 18:55)	JM	<u>For decision:</u> - To agree the approach, messaging, timing and communication channels for the announcement of Neighbourhood Board Members. <u>For discussion:</u> - Social media and working group - Branding - Website
3.	Local insight (18:55 – 19:25)	JM/ LM	<u>For discussion:</u> - To begin identifying and discussing local priorities for the area - To consider ongoing community engagement activities and approaches Appendix A: Whitehouse Area Fact Sheets (to be presented by LM) Appendix B: Resident Feedback Survey findings and analysis
ROUND UP (19:25 – 19:30)			
4.	Any Other Business (AOB) and Action Points	All	
FUTURE MEETINGS			
The first Wednesday of every month: - Wednesday 7 October - Wednesday 4 November - Wednesday 9 December - Wednesday 6 January			

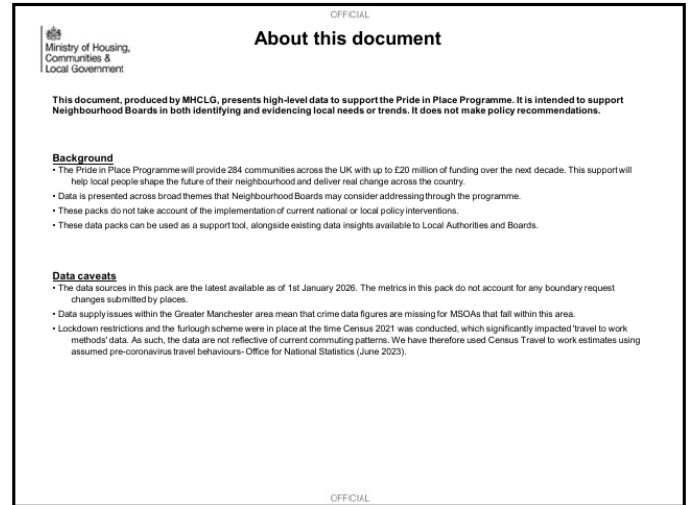
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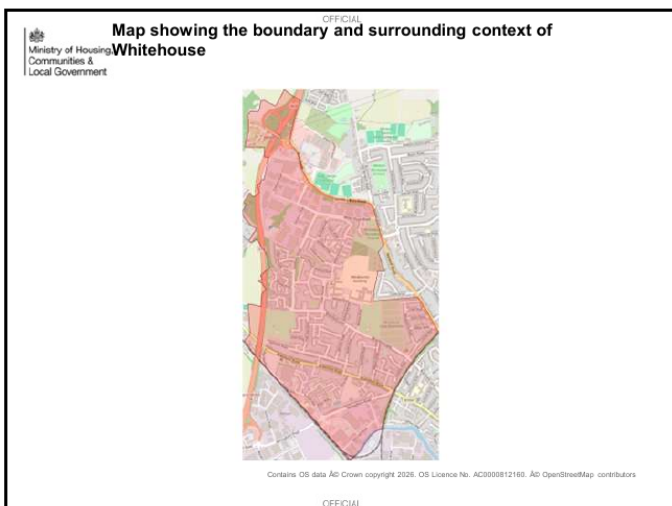
Appendix A: Whitehouse Area Fact Sheets



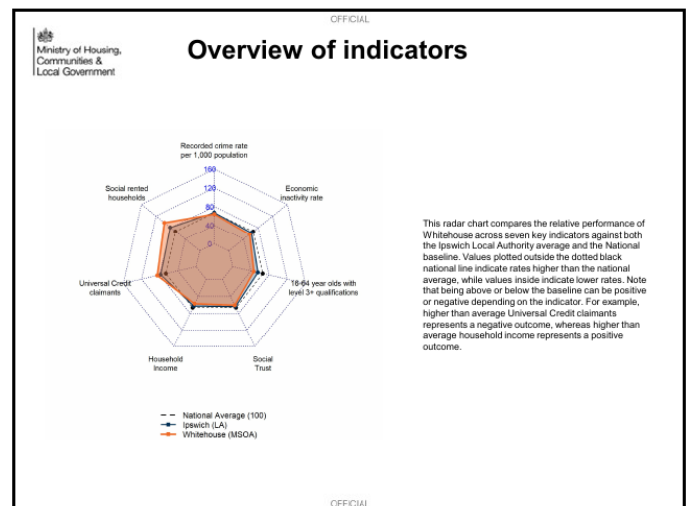
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Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Safety, Security and Cohesion

Recorded crime type per 1,000 population

Category	Whitehouse	Ipswich	National
Burglary	2.1	2.4	3.9
Criminal damage and arson	7.1	8.7	7.4
Drugs	2.2	3.1	3.6
Other crime	2.9	2.3	2.2
Other theft	7.1	6.8	7.0
Possession of weapons	1.3	1.6	1.0
Public order	6.6	7.1	7.0
Robbery	0.8	0.9	1.4
Shoplifting	17.6	13.3	8.6
Theft from the person	0.2	0.7	2.2
Vehicle crime	5.1	5.6	5.4
Violence and sexual offences	41.0	42.5	35.8

Headlines

Crime rates in Whitehouse are higher than the national average for 5 categories, specifically: Other crime, Other theft, Possession of weapons, Shoplifting and Violence and sexual offences. Compared to the local authority average (Ipswich), this area sees higher rates of Other crime, Other theft and Shoplifting.

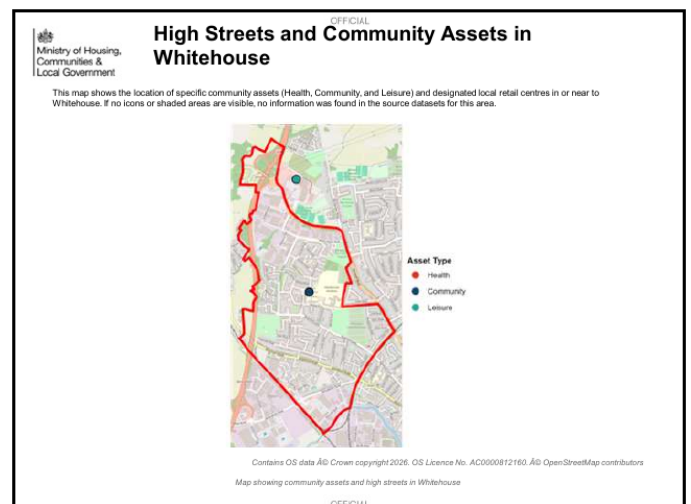
Category	Whitehouse	Local Authority	National
Social Trust	-11.8	-6.9	-3.1

Net social trust is defined as the estimated proportion of people who say they generally trust others. According to Onward (2023), Whitehouse has a social trust score of -11.8%, which is lower than the England average of -3%.

Source: Data police.uk sites (2025), Onward (2023). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

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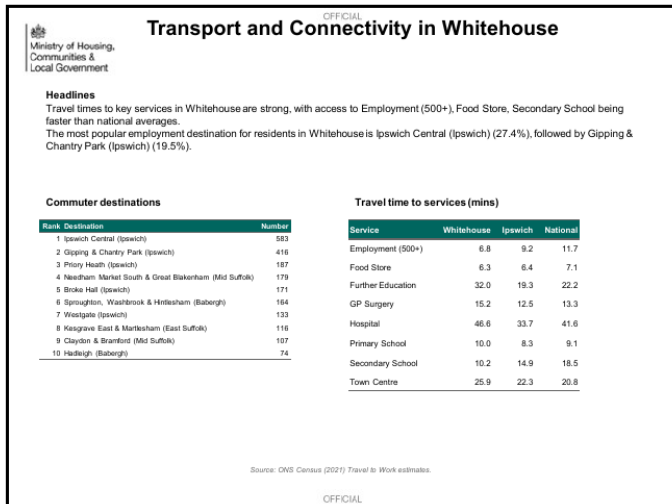
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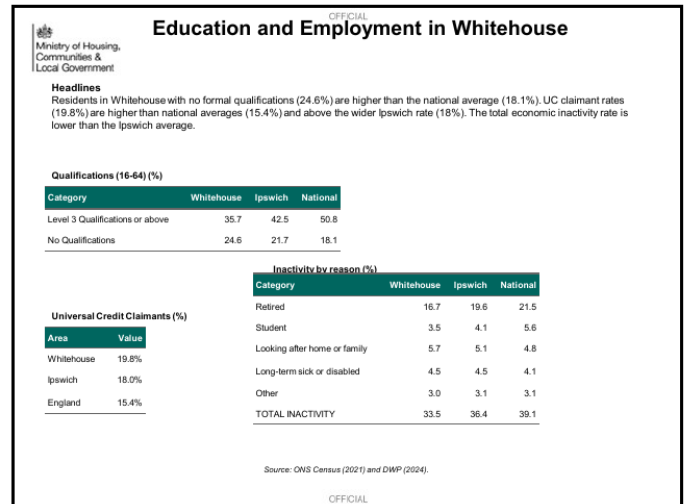
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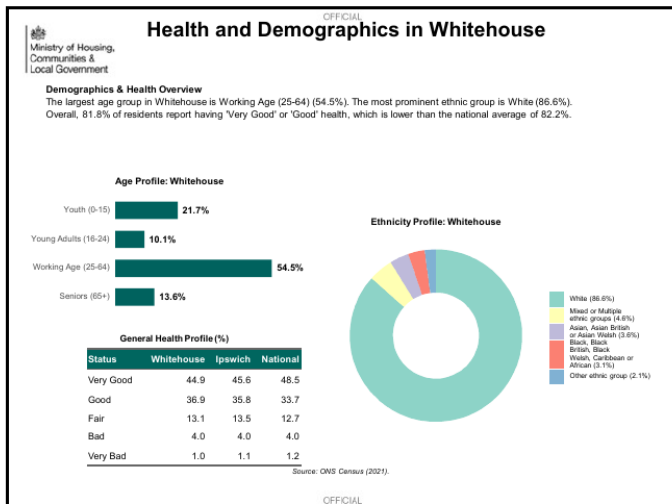
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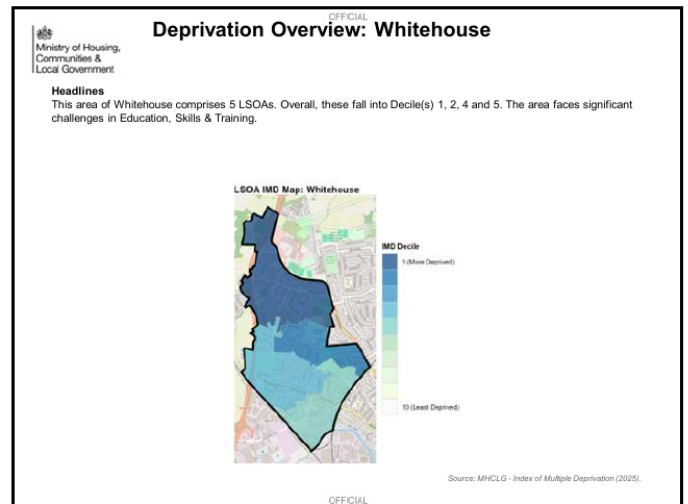
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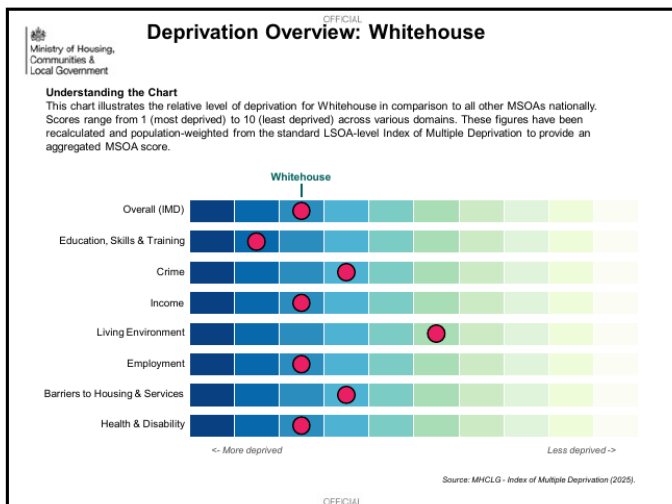
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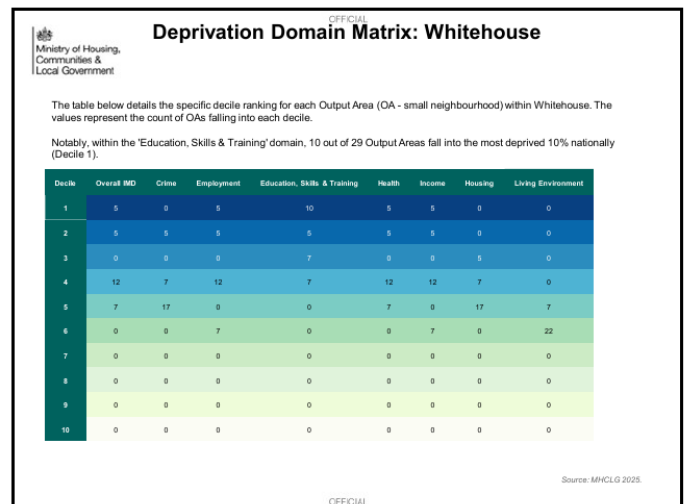
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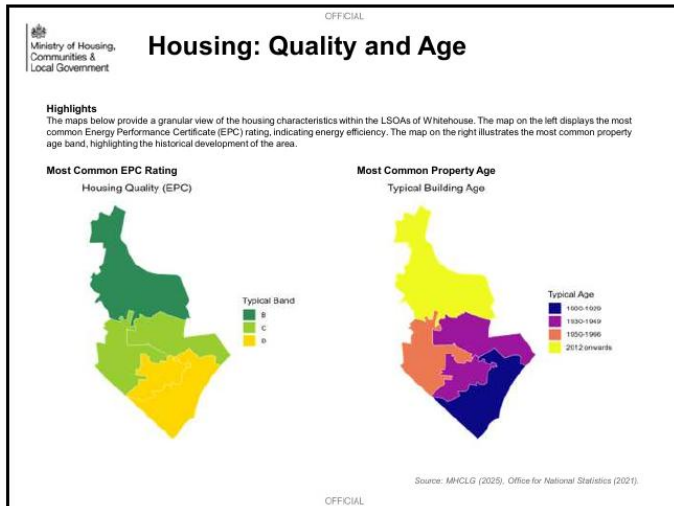
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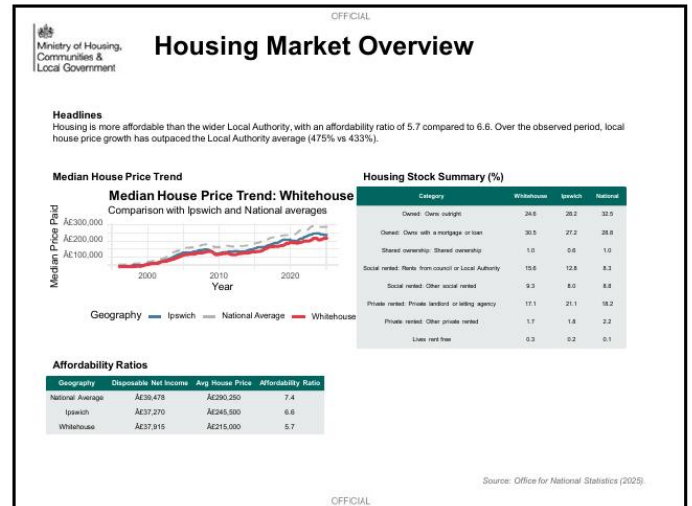
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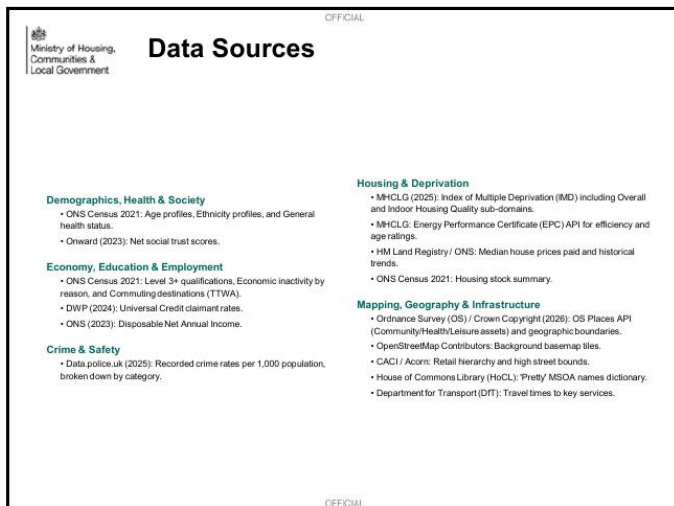
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Appendix B: Resident Feedback Survey findings – analysis of responses received to date

As of August 2026, over 90 residents have engaged with the Whitehouse Pride in Place consultation through the Volunteering Matters resident survey. This includes online survey submissions, face-to-face engagement through door knocking, and conversations at community engagement events. The survey remains ongoing, and further feedback will continue to be gathered to help inform the development of local priorities and future investment proposals.

Summary

The results demonstrate a community that has a strong attachment to Whitehouse and values its people, green spaces and family-friendly environment. However, residents consistently feel that parts of the area have been overlooked for investment and are seeking visible improvements that improve quality of life, community pride and opportunities for local people.

Across the responses received to date, four themes have emerged:

1. Investment in parks and green spaces
2. More activities and opportunities for young people
3. Community facilities and places to meet
4. Safety, cleanliness and environmental improvements

The condition of parks, particularly Lovetofts Drive and Bramford Lane, emerges as the single most frequently cited issue.

What Residents Like About Whitehouse

Strong Community Spirit	Parks and Green Space	Access to Amenities
Residents repeatedly highlighted: • Friendly neighbours • Looking out for each other • Long-standing community connections • Family ties to the area • Quiet residential streets	Residents value: • Whitehouse Park • Norwich Road Park • Walking routes • Allotments • Open space • Woodland areas Many residents described parks as one of the area's greatest assets, despite	Positive comments were also made about: • Schools • Local shops • Links to town • Bus routes • Proximity to the A14 This suggests Whitehouse is generally viewed as a

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Comments included: <i>"The community"</i> <i>"Friendly people"</i> <i>"Neighbours are friendly and most people get on and help each other out"</i> <i>"I've lived here all my life, I love it."</i> Several respondents have lived in Whitehouse for decades, suggesting a strong sense of place and pride in the neighbourhood.	concerns about their condition.	well-connected neighbourhood.
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Theme 1: Parks and Green Spaces

This was by far the strongest and most consistent theme throughout the entire dataset.

Key Locations Identified

Lovetofts Drive Park Mentioned repeatedly by both adults and young people. Common descriptions included: • Broken equipment • Outdated facilities • Dog fouling • Litter • Poor maintenance • Lack of accessibility A number of residents specifically said they travel to other parks because the facilities at Lovetofts are no longer adequate.	Bramford Lane Recreation Ground Residents described: • Broken equipment • Overgrown areas • Poor appearance • Lack of facilities • Underused space Several responses specifically called for a complete redesign or overhaul.
Suggested developments: • New play equipment • Splash pad or splash park • Basketball courts • Outdoor gym equipment	

- Running tracks
- Better paths
- More benches
- Drinking water points
- Toilets
- Better maintenance
- More trees and planting
- Community orchard
- Community gardens
- Wildlife areas
- Dog park facilities

Theme 2: Young People

Opportunities for children and young people were consistently ranked as one of the highest investment priorities.

Residents repeatedly stated that there is:

- *"Nothing to do"*
- Limited youth provision
- No dedicated youth spaces
- Insufficient school holiday activities

Common Requests

- Youth Clubs – Many residents highlighted the absence of local youth provision and referenced facilities available in neighbouring areas that Whitehouse lacks. Residents requested:
 - Safe places to meet
 - Drop-in centres
 - Youth hubs
 - Supervised community spaces
- Activities – Requests included:
 - Holiday activities
 - Sports provision
 - Fitness opportunities
 - Coding clubs
 - Arts activities
 - Community events
- Feedback from Young People – Young people repeatedly asked for:
 - Better parks
 - Swimming pools
 - Youth clubs
 - Cinema facilities
 - Community spaces

Theme 3: Community Facilities

A strong message emerged regarding the lack of community infrastructure.

Residents frequently said there is nowhere for people to gather locally outside existing parks.

Suggestions included:

- Community hubs
- Multi-purpose community centres
- Social spaces
- Affordable activity spaces
- Facilities for clubs and groups
- Spaces for older people
- Facilities for disabled residents

Several respondents expressed concerns about loneliness and social isolation and saw community facilities as a way of addressing this.

Theme 4: Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour

Safety concerns featured prominently across the survey. Key issues included:

- Drug Use – Many respondents specifically referenced:
 - Cannabis use
 - Drug dealing
 - Anti-social behaviour around parks and public spaces
- Traffic and Road Safety – Frequent concerns included:
 - Speeding vehicles
 - School traffic
 - Parking on corners
 - Illegal parking
 - Dangerous driving
- Environmental Safety – Residents cited:
 - Broken glass
 - Dog fouling
 - Litter
 - Poor lighting
 - Fly-tipping

There is a strong perception that environmental decline contributes to feelings of reduced safety.

- Accessibility – A significant number of responses highlighted challenges faced by disabled residents, wheelchair users and those with mobility issues.

Recurring concerns included:

- Uneven pavements
- Poor path quality
- Lack of dropped kerbs
- Wheelchair access to parks
- Insufficient disabled parking
- Grass verges obstructing access

Several respondents described situations where wheelchair users were unable to properly access local parks because paths were too narrow or uneven.

Other arising themes

Employment and Skills

Although not as dominant as parks or youth activities, concerns around employment featured regularly. Residents highlighted:

- Lack of local jobs
- Youth unemployment
- Training needs
- Opportunities for young adults
- Employment pathways for people with disabilities

Many respondents linked unemployment to wider community challenges and felt that more opportunities should be available locally.

Health and Wellbeing

Residents identified a range of wellbeing-related opportunities.

Suggestions included:

- Outdoor gyms
- Walking routes
- Fitness classes
- Tai Chi
- Community gardens
- Friendship benches
- Swimming facilities
- Wellness centres
- Neurodiverse-friendly gym provision

Many proposals focused on improving both physical and mental health while also helping people connect with others.

Community Identity and Pride

A recurring theme was the perception that Whitehouse appears:

- Tired
- Run-down
- Forgotten
- Untidy

Residents frequently requested:

- Shop frontage improvements
- Flower beds
- Hanging baskets
- Murals
- Better grass cutting
- New signage
- Estate-wide clean-up initiatives

Several residents suggested that visible improvements would increase local pride and encourage residents to take greater ownership of their neighbourhood.

Funding Priorities

Residents' strongest priorities were parks and green spaces, activities for young people, and safety and neighbourhood improvements. Free-text comments strongly reinforced the demand for improvements to local parks, particularly Lovetofts Road and Bramford Lane parks, better play equipment, youth facilities, safer public spaces, improved accessibility, and community facilities such as a swimming pool, community hub, and youth club.