Whitehouse Neighbourhood Board

Minutes, Decisions Taken & Action Points

Date:	Wednesday 4 November
Time:	18:00 – 19:30
Venue:	Whitehouse Community Primary School
Members:	Glen Chisholm Isaac Turay Jannice Simpson Jared Birt Jess March (Chair) Mahmut Ozturk Sean Fountain Westbourne High School representative – Matt Mason / Martin Higgon Whitehouse Ward Councillor representative – Cllr Lucy Trenchard
Apologies:	Chrissie Geeson, Assistant Director – Programme Delivery, Ipswich Borough Council Laura Meadows, Pride in Place Programme Manager, Ipswich Borough Council Natalie Irish Patrick Spencer MP Sarah Battistetti Sharon Earp, Office of Patrick Spencer MP Volunteering Matters Youth Collaborators

MINUTES	
1.	**Welcome and Apologies for Absence** Jess March (JM) opened the meeting and provided Apologies for Absence from Chrissie Geeson, Laura Meadows, Natalie Irish, Patrick Spencer MP, Sarah Battistetti, Sharon Earp and the Youth Collaborators.
2.	**Declarations of Interest** None declared.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Update on Action Points**

The group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. JM provided an update on the outstanding action points:

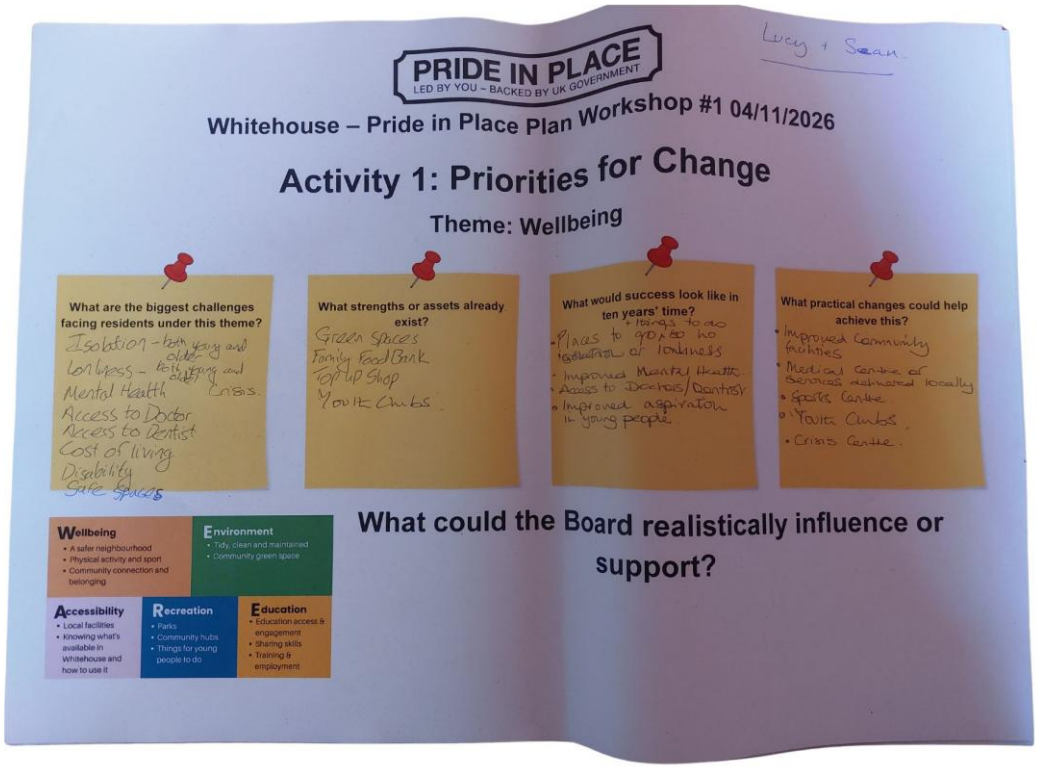
Actions from the last meeting	Update
LM to provide written information about the differences between the Pride in Place Impact Fund and the Pride in Place Programmes.	Complete
LM to work with GC and IT to develop the Social Media and Communications brief into a formal procurement specification covering the establishment and ongoing management of social media channels and a website.	Complete – This has been circulated to the group and agreed by email between meetings.
LM, GC and IT to work with Volunteering Matters to share the Board's feedback and progress the finalisation of the Whitehouse Pride in Place branding.	In Progress – feedback has been provided to Volunteering Matters, we are awaiting the final branding assets.
The Community Outreach Working Group to develop a brief setting out its proposed approach to community engagement over the coming months, including target audiences, engagement methods, key messages, and recommended activities for raising awareness of Pride in Place and gathering resident feedback.	Complete – a brief has been developed and the next steps are being progressed.
Each working group to review and update the Terms of Reference accordingly, setting out its objectives and scope.	In Progress – The Community Engagement & Outreach and Data & Insight Working Groups' Terms of Reference were circulated with the meeting papers. The Terms of Reference for the Social Media & Communications Working Group have not yet been shared.
LM to prepare a summary of the key discussion points and emerging priorities identified through the local insight gathered to date.	Complete
LM to send across the guidance from Government on what needs to be included within the Pride in Place Plan.	Complete

Cllr Lucy Trenchard (LT) discussed the current working groups and the need for Board Members to contribute time where possible to help keep things progressing between meetings. JM acknowledged that Board Members are volunteers with other commitments, so encouraged anyone who is finding things difficult to come forward for a conversation so that support can be provided.

	Martin Higgon (MH) raised issues accessing SharePoint. **AP1: Any members still experiencing issues accessing SharePoint should contact Laura directly for support.** A discussion took place regarding communication methods. Jannice Simpson (JS) and MH fed back that they prefer email to WhatsApp, noting that messages can easily be missed and conversations can move on quickly, resulting in a large volume of messages to work through. **AP2: Working Groups to speak with their members to identify the most effective method of communication between meetings.** LT updated the group on plans to hold two open community meetings in November to engage with local residents. The group discussed the need for the finalised branding to be available as soon as possible so that posters and other promotional materials can be produced.
4.	**Updates from Working Groups** The Board noted the written updates set out in Appendix B of the meeting papers. **Decision Made: The Board approved the Community Engagement & Outreach and Data & Insight Working Groups' Terms of Reference.** **AP3: The Social Media & Communications Working Group to complete its Terms of Reference.**
5.	**Introduction to today's workshop** JM provided an overview of the interactive activities the Board would be undertaking during the meeting to help develop Sections 1, 2 and 5 of the Pride in Place Plan. The Board was reminded that development of the Plan must be its primary focus over the coming months, with submission to Government due in February. Approval of the Plan is required before the next tranche of funding can be released, enabling delivery of projects to commence from April 2027.
6.	**Activity 1: Priorities for Change** The Board started by discussing the WE ARE framework (Wellbeing, Environment, Accessibility, Recreation, Education). The Board approved the WE ARE framework in principle, recognising that further amendments may be required following community engagement. **AP4: Jess to update the WE ARE framework following feedback from Cllr Trenchard.** In small groups, with each group focusing on one of the priority themes, Board Members discussed: • What are the biggest challenges facing residents under this theme? • What strengths or assets already exist?

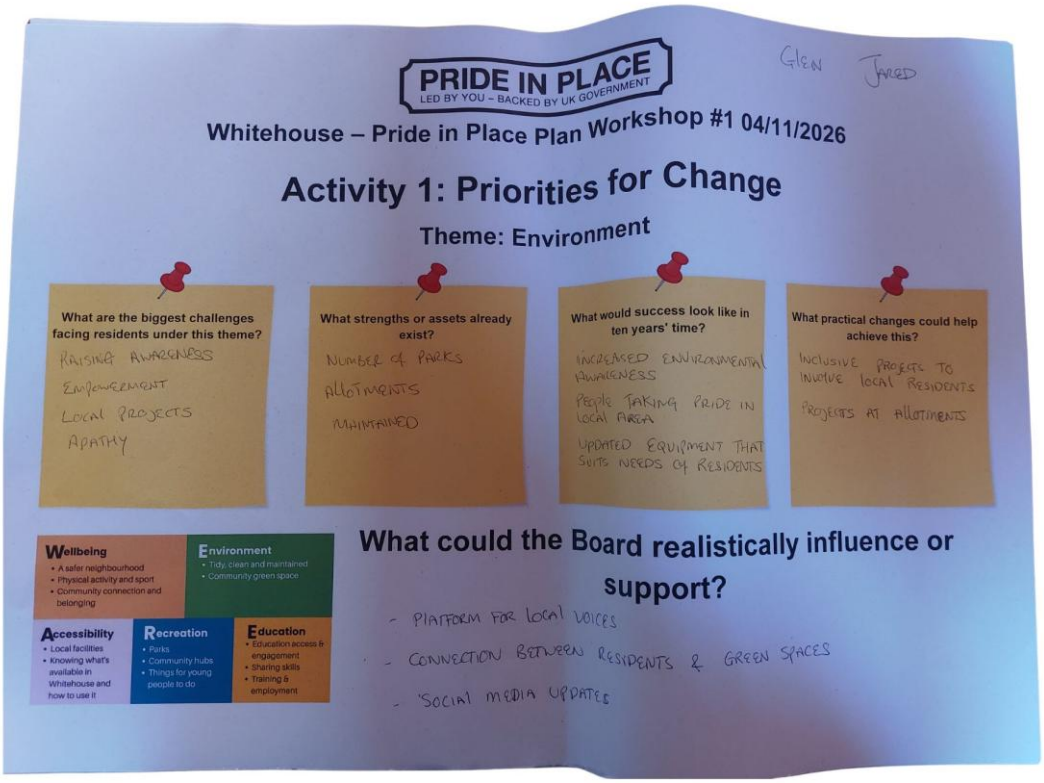
- What would success look like in ten years' time?
- What practical changes could help achieve this?
- What could the Board realistically influence or support?

Wellbeing



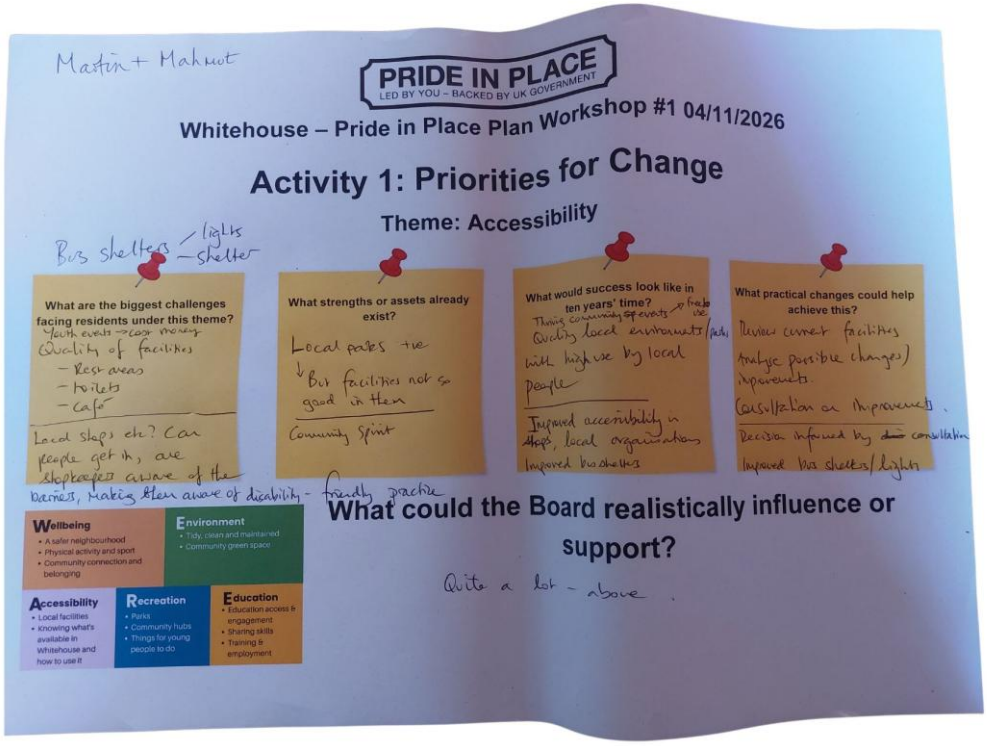
Cllr Lucy Trenchard (LT) and Sean Fountain (SF) focused on Wellbeing and noted that Whitehouse should be a place where residents feel connected, supported and able to access the services they need. There was a shared aspiration to reduce loneliness, improve mental health outcomes and create more opportunities and facilities for local people, particularly young residents. Suggested priorities included improved community facilities, local healthcare provision, sports facilities and crisis support services.

Environment



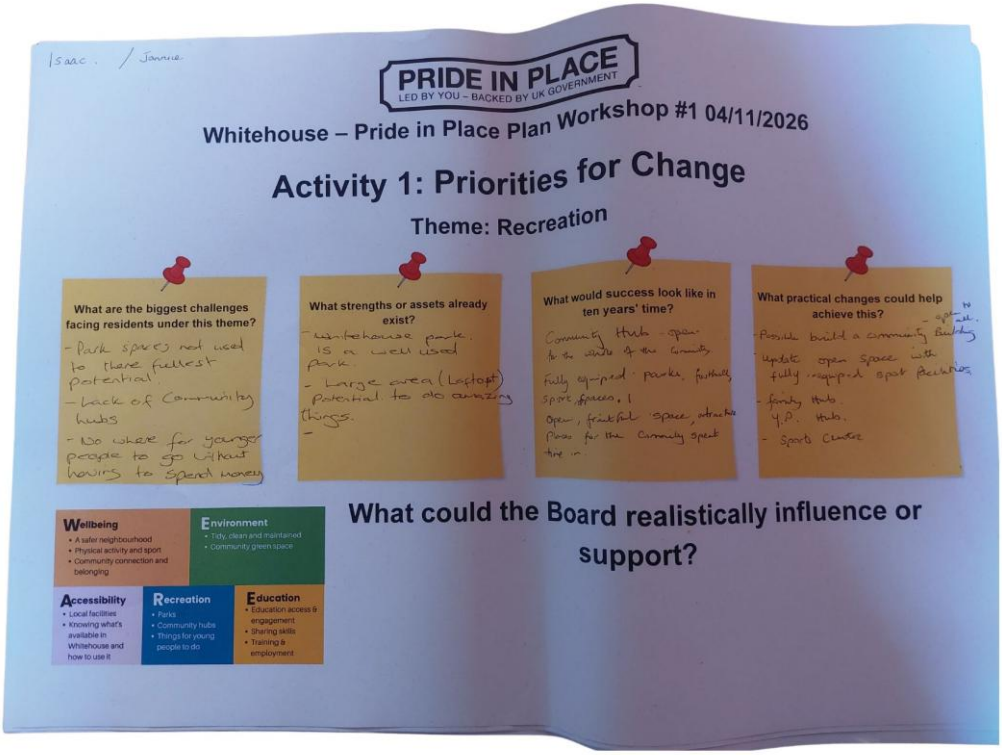
Glen Chisholm (GC) and Jared Birt (JB) discussed the Environment. They felt that Whitehouse's green spaces are a significant strength but that residents should feel more connected to them. Suggested actions focused on community-led environmental projects, making green spaces more inclusive, and community food projects using allotments.

Accessibility



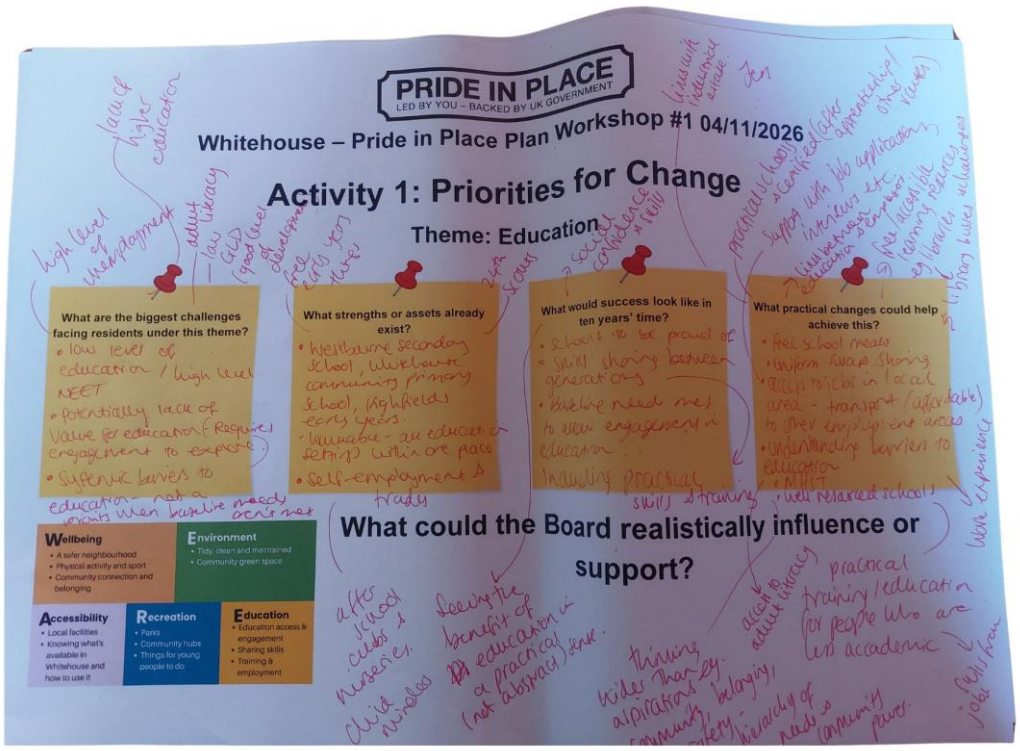
Martin Higgon (MH) and Mahmut Ozturk (MO) considered the Accessibility theme. They felt accessibility was an area where practical improvements could make a significant difference. There was support for reviewing current facilities, consulting residents on improvements and enhancing public infrastructure such as bus shelters and lighting. Improving access for disabled residents and creating more welcoming public spaces were recurring themes.

Recreation



Isaac Turay (IT) and Jannice Simpson (JS) focused on Recreation. There was strong support for creating more opportunities for recreation and social interaction. Participants envisioned a future with community hubs open to all residents, better equipped parks, enhanced sports facilities and attractive public spaces where people could spend time together. Young people having accessible, free activities was a particular priority.

Education

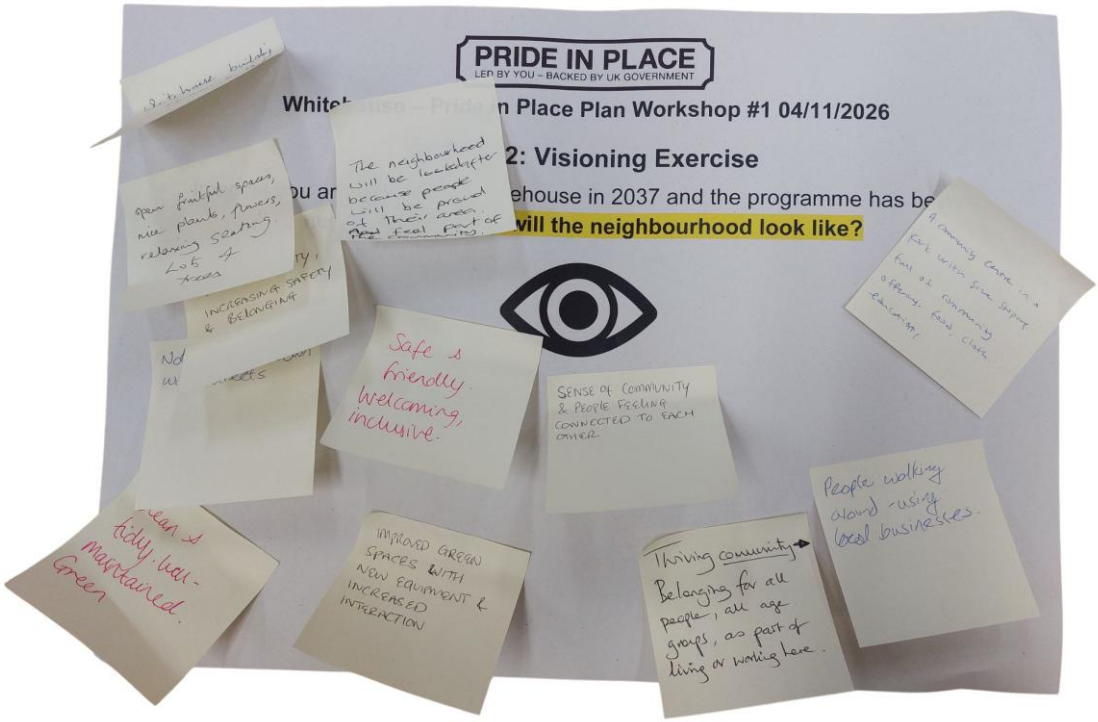


Jess March (JM) considered Education. It was felt that improving aspirations, removing barriers and strengthening links between education providers and employers would have a lasting impact. There was support for practical training opportunities, adult learning, careers support and helping residents access employment.

Following small group work, the Board came together to share their key discussions. Members highlighted the importance of increasing community engagement and discussed opportunities to involve more young people in the Board's work. Accessible community spaces and services came up in multiple discussions, with affordability recognised as a key factor in ensuring residents can participate in activities and access local opportunities.

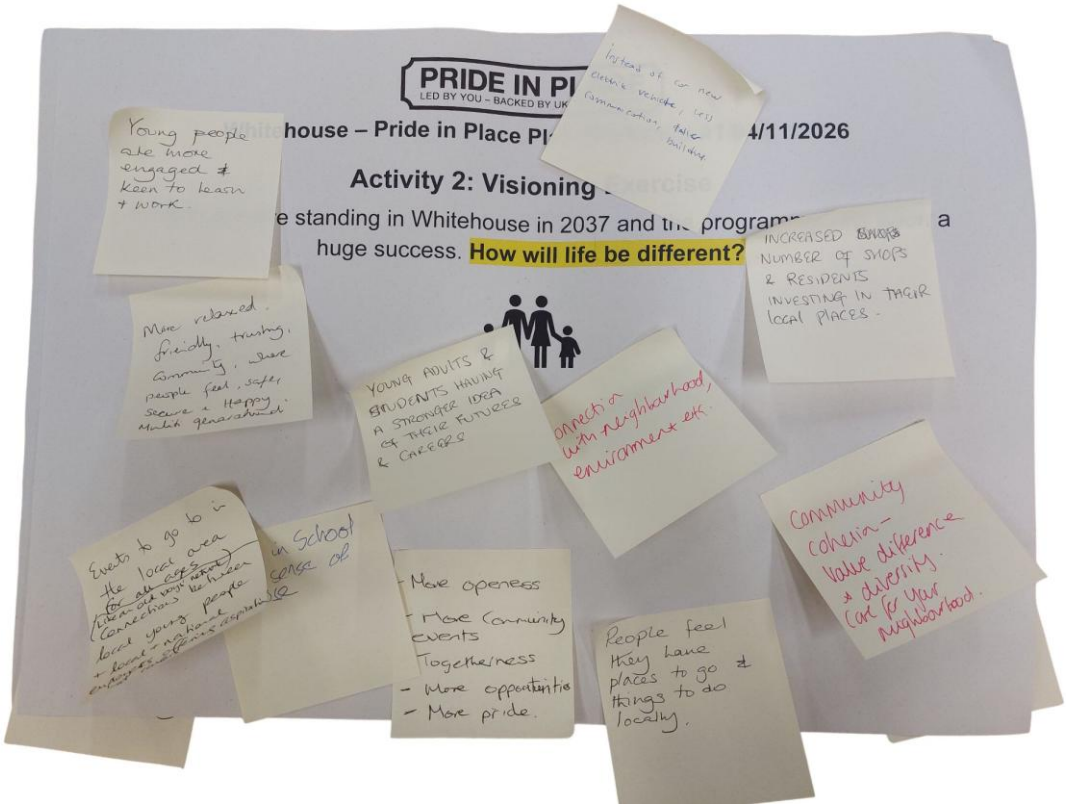
The Board discussed making local parks more welcoming and better used throughout the year. Concerns were raised regarding the design and accessibility of some existing facilities, including local basketball courts. Members also discussed the importance of effective communication during incidents affecting community assets and services.

The group noted the impact of loneliness and isolation across the community, particularly amongst younger and older residents, and reflected on the need for inclusive spaces and activities that bring people together. Members agreed that

	future priorities should include clear, measurable outcomes to help monitor progress and demonstrate impact.
7.	**Activity 2: Visioning exercise** GC facilitated a visioning workshop to explore the group's 10-year vision for Whitehouse. Members considered how the neighbourhood should look and feel in the future, how residents' quality of life could be improved through Pride in Place, and what success would look like over the next decade. Board Members captured their thoughts and ideas on sticky notes, contributing to each of the discussion topics. **What will Whitehouse look and feel like?**  • Safety and belonging. • Attractive and well-maintained public spaces. • Community facilities and gathering places. • Increased interaction between residents. • Pride in the local area. The Board described a future Whitehouse that is safer, greener and more welcoming. Residents would feel a strong sense of belonging, community spaces would be thriving and public areas would be attractive and well maintained.

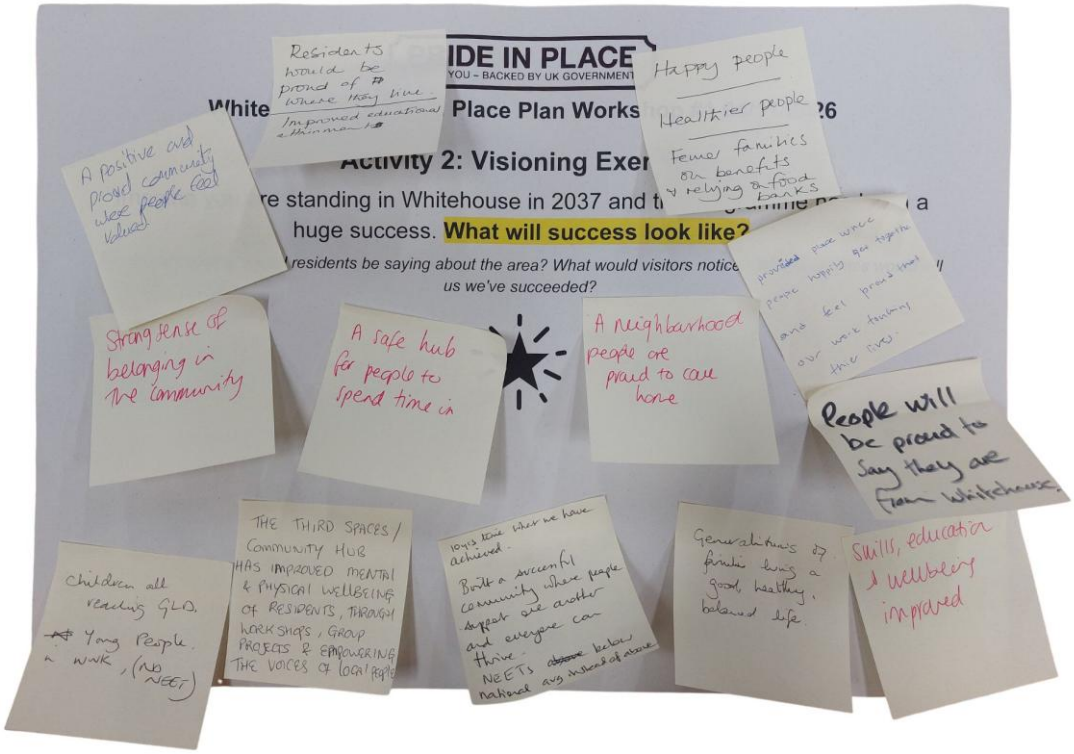
Improved green spaces and community facilities were seen as central to achieving this vision.

How will life be different?

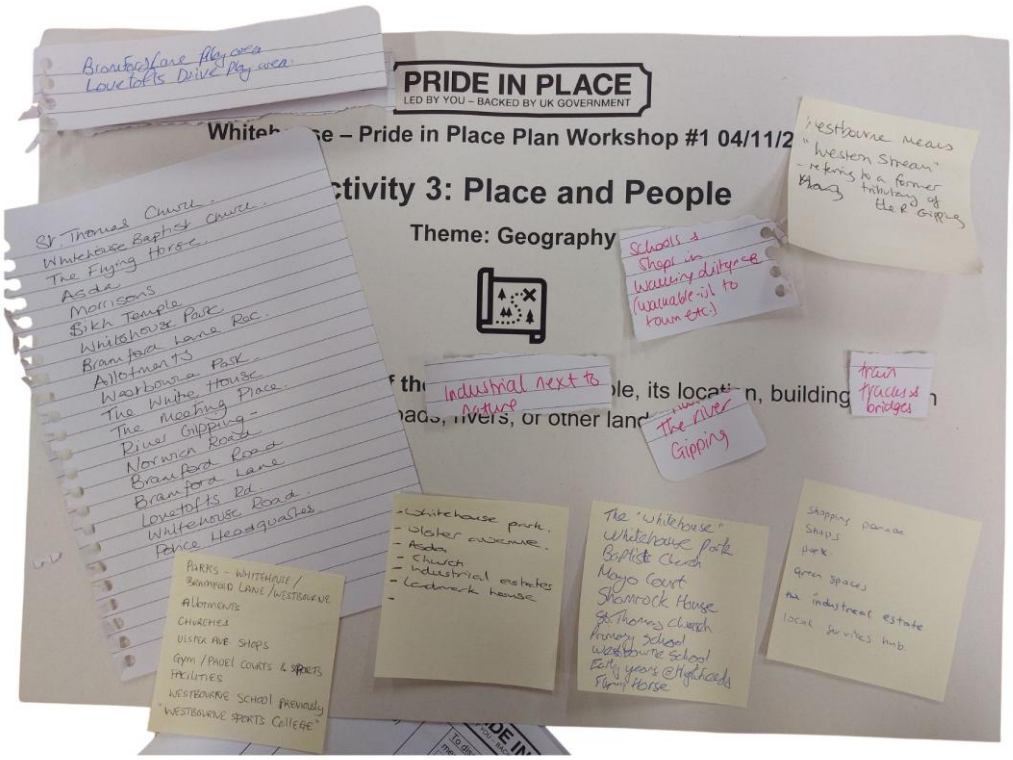


- Greater community pride.
- More events and social opportunities.
- Better connections between residents.
- Stronger links between young people, education and employment.
- Increased investment in local shops and facilities.

The group envisaged a more connected, supportive and aspirational community. Young people would be more engaged and better prepared for future careers, residents would feel safer and more included, and there would be more opportunities to participate in local life. Community cohesion and celebrating diversity were key priorities.

	What will success look like?  • Community pride. • Stronger sense of belonging. • Improved wellbeing. • Better educational outcomes. • Reduced reliance on support services. • More opportunities for young people. The Board believed success would be reflected in people being proud to say they live in Whitehouse. They wanted to see healthier, happier residents, stronger community relationships, improved educational achievement and greater opportunities for everyone to thrive. Community hubs and shared spaces were viewed as critical enablers of this change.
8.	**Activity 3: Place and People** LT facilitated the final workshop exploring Whitehouse's identity, history and defining characteristics. Working in small groups, members discussed the key features of the area, significant aspects of its heritage, and what makes Whitehouse unique today.

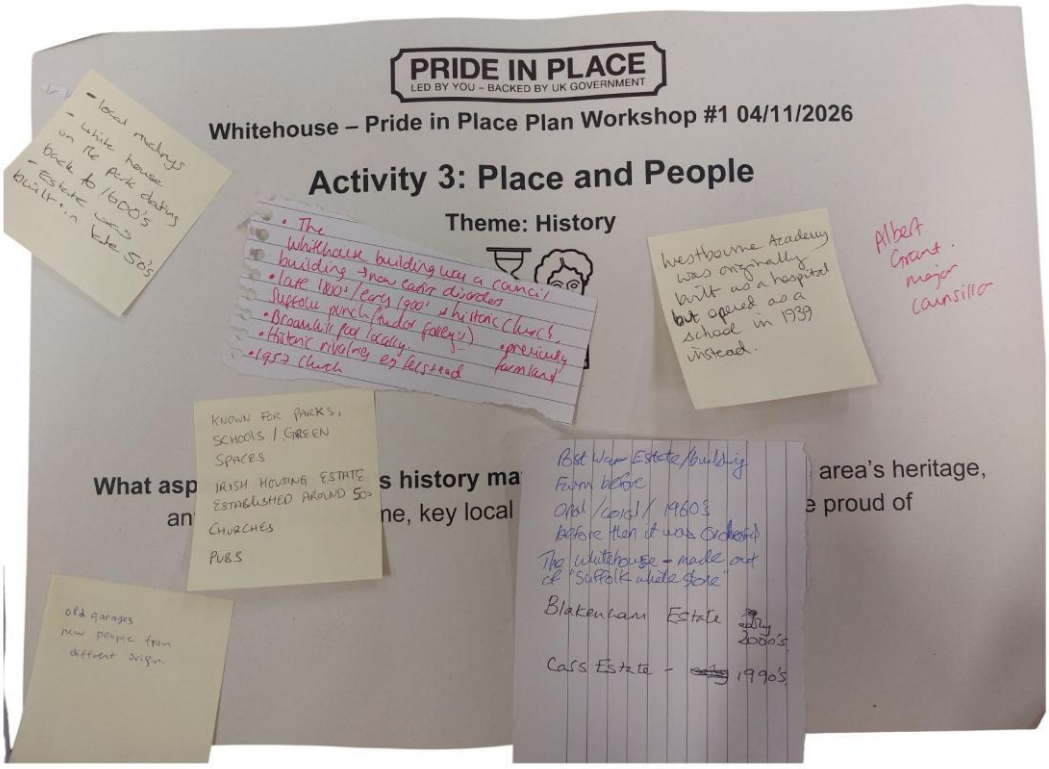
Geography



- Important local landmarks.
- Green spaces and parks.
- Schools and community facilities.
- Industrial areas.
- Shops and local services.
- The River Gipping and surrounding environment.
- Transport links and walkability.

Board Members identified parks, schools, churches, industrial areas, shops and green spaces as the defining physical features of Whitehouse. There was strong recognition of the area's accessibility, community assets and natural environment.

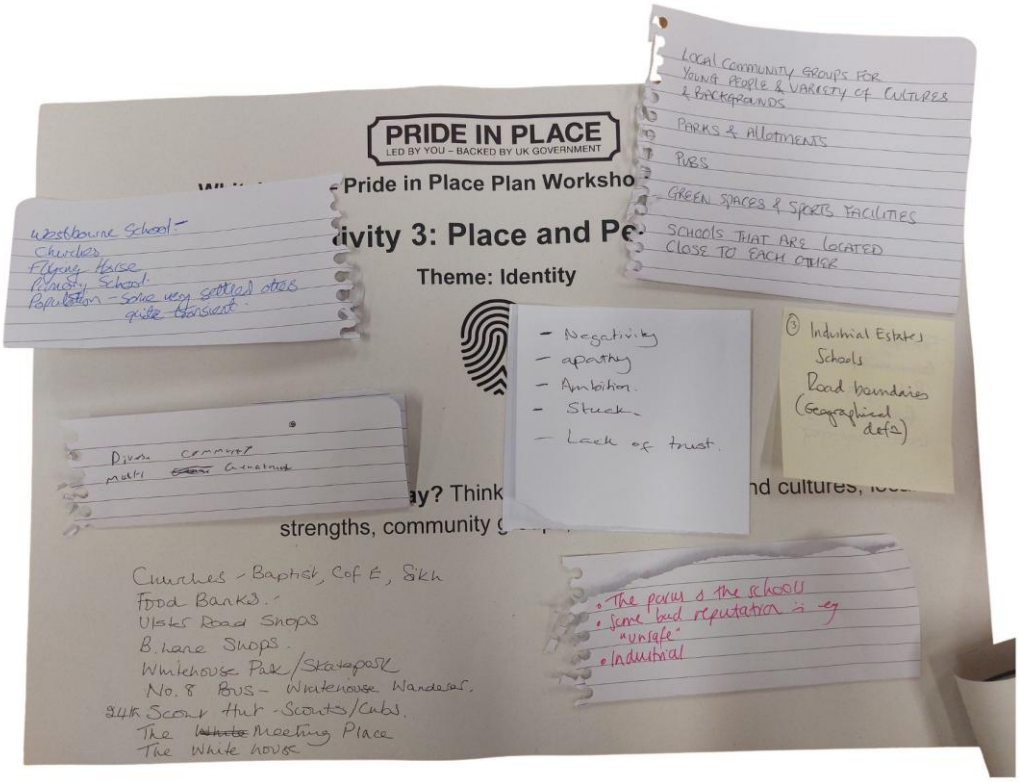
History



- Development of the estate from farmland.
- Historic White House building.
- Westbourne Academy's origins.
- Churches and pubs as longstanding community institutions.
- Growth of the area through post-war housing development.

Board Members recognised a strong local history linked to housing growth, community institutions and green space. Schools, churches and parks were identified as important historical anchors, helping shape Whitehouse's identity and sense of place.

Identity



- Community diversity.
- Multi-generational population.
- Community groups, schools and churches.
- Existing perceptions and reputation.
- Ambition, trust and community pride.

The discussion highlighted Whitehouse as a diverse and community-focused neighbourhood with many positive assets. Participants acknowledged challenges around apathy, reputation and trust, but felt the area's schools, parks, community groups and cultural diversity provide a strong foundation for building greater pride, confidence and community cohesion.

LT concluded that further community engagement would help develop a fuller understanding of local history and identity. SF highlighted the valuable knowledge held by long-standing residents, including those who lived in the area before the construction of the church in the 1950s, when much of Whitehouse was still farmland.

The group also reflected on the area's history of local rivalries and divisions between different parts of the community. Members agreed that understanding

	these historical dynamics would be important when developing a shared vision and strengthening community connections across the neighbourhood. **Post-meeting analysis:** *Several themes emerged consistently throughout the workshop discussions:* • *There was a clear ambition across all groups to strengthen community connection and foster a greater sense of belonging.* • *Young people, aspiration and opportunities for the next generation featured heavily across the wellbeing, recreation, education and visioning exercises.* • *Community hubs and shared spaces were repeatedly identified as potential projects that could bring people together and support a range of local needs.* • *Green spaces and parks were consistently recognised as one of Whitehouse's greatest strengths and most valued community assets.* • *Improving access to opportunities, services and facilities was seen as essential to enhancing residents' quality of life.* • *Education, skills development and pathways into employment were viewed as critical to the neighbourhood's long-term success.* *Overall, participants described a future Whitehouse that is safe, welcoming, connected and inclusive, where residents feel proud of where they live and play an active role in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.* **AP5: All Board Members to begin considering how the workshop discussions can be used to populate Sections 1, 2 and 5 of the Pride in Place Plan, and to start working with Jess to develop the first draft.**
9.	**Any Other Business (AOB)** The Board discussed the potential of holding a Christmas-themed community event centred around planting a Christmas tree in Whitehouse. Members felt that the initiative could provide an opportunity for community engagement, bring residents together, and establish a positive annual tradition for the neighbourhood. **AP6: Jess, Cllr Trenchard and Glen to explore whether it is possible to plant a Christmas tree in Whitehouse and use it for team building and community engagement events.**
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
Wednesday 2 December, 18:00 – 19:30, St Thomas the Apostle's Church	

PRIDE IN PLACE
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Future meeting dates:

- Wednesday 6 January, venue TBC
- Wednesday 3 February, Early Years @ Highfield

DECISIONS TAKEN

1. The Board approved the Community Engagement & Outreach and Data & Insight Working Groups' Terms of Reference.
2. Approval of the ‘WE ARE’ framework.

ACTION POINTS

- AP1: Any members still experiencing issues accessing SharePoint should contact Laura directly for support.
- AP2: Working Groups to speak with their members to identify the most effective method of communication between meetings.
- AP3: The Social Media & Communications Working Group to complete its Terms of Reference and share with the group for review.
- AP4: Jess to update the WE ARE framework following feedback from Cllr Trenchard.
- AP5: All Board Members to begin considering how the workshop discussions can be used to populate Sections 1, 2 and 5 of the Pride in Place Plan, and to start working with Jess to develop the first draft.
- AP6: Jess, Cllr Trenchard and Glen to explore whether it is possible to plant a Christmas tree in Whitehouse and use it for team building and community engagement events.