PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Stoke Park & Chantry Neighbourhood Board

Minutes, Decisions Taken & Action Points

Date:	Tuesday 10 November
Time:	17:30 – 19:00
Venue:	Paul's Social Club
Members:	Aaron Morley Abi Abidoye Cllr Chu Man (representing the Ward Councillors) Emily Swinerd John North Jon Reynolds Lee Walker (Chair) Peter Mower
Apologies:	Chrissie Geeson, Assistant Director – Programme Delivery, Ipswich Borough Council Jack Abbott MP Kerry Hawes Teresa Davidson
Other Attendees:	Laura Meadows, Pride in Place Programme Manager, Ipswich Borough Council

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Lee Walker (LW) opened the meeting and provided Apologies for Absence from Chrissie Geeson, Jack Abbott MP, Kerry Hawes and Teresa Davidson.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None raised

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

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

Actions from the last meeting	Update
The Marketing & Communications Working Group to complete its Terms of Reference and return it for approval.	Not started – to be completed by the next meeting in December
Marketing & Communications Working Group, with support from Laura, to progress the procurement of the website and social media partner(s).	Complete

	LM and LW to progress the procurement of the community engagement commission.	In progress – the specification has been submitted to procurement
	All Board Members to review the resources shared following the MHCLG webinar and the documents saved within the Pride in Place Plan folder on SharePoint.	In progress – to be completed by the next meeting in December
	CM and LM to liaise with the Stoke Park and Sprites Ward Councillors to identify a substitute representative for the December Board meeting.	Complete

4. **Updates from Working Groups**

LW provided an update that the Board's community engagement partner, Sonar DISC has commenced work. They have undertaken a walkabout of the area and have started contacting local organisations and residents through a residents' survey, as well as inviting them to take part in one-to-one interviews and/or focus groups. Sonar DISC will attend the next meeting to present their findings.

LW advised that the stokeparkandchantry.co.uk URL has been purchased and currently redirects visitors to the residents' survey.

AP1: All Board Members to share the survey URL (stokeparkandchantry.co.uk) with local residents and display posters within the neighbourhood.

5. **Introduction to today's workshop**

LW provided an overview of the workshop activities that the Board would undertake during the meeting to support the development of 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: Visioning exercise**

LW facilitated a visioning workshop to explore the group's 10-year vision for Stoke Park & Chantry. 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.

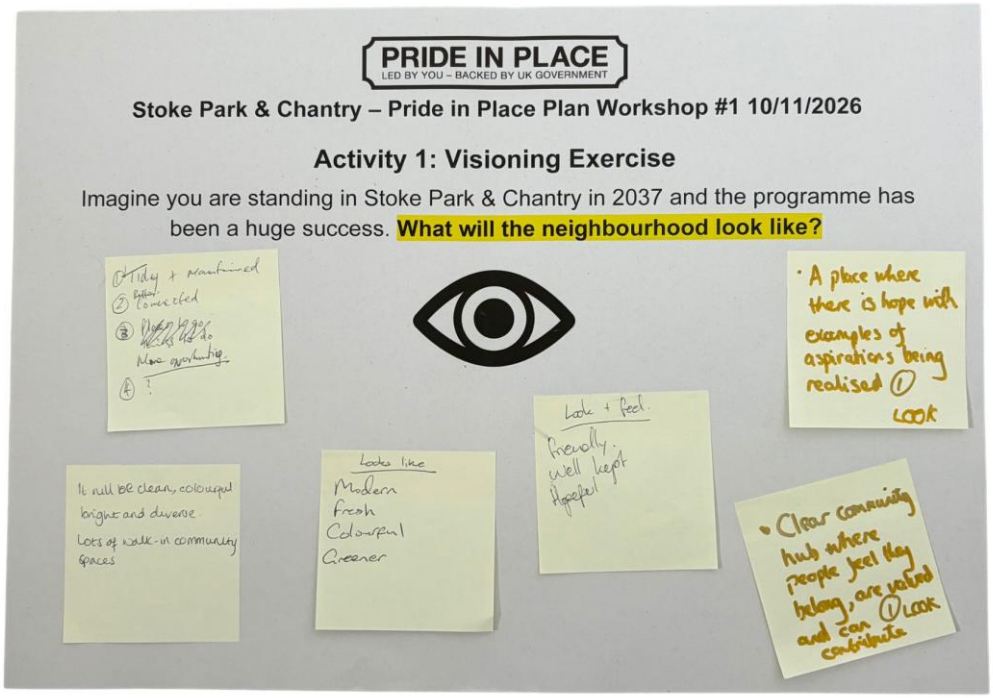
What will the neighbourhood look like?

Board Members envisaged Stoke Park & Chantry as a cleaner, greener and more attractive neighbourhood, with well-maintained public spaces and a stronger sense of community pride. Members described a future neighbourhood that is clean, colourful, diverse and brought up to modern standards, with improved environmental quality and reduced litter and mess.

Discussion also identified the need for welcoming community spaces and facilities where residents can come together, build relationships and participate in community activities. Overall, there was a shared ambition for Stoke Park & Chantry to become a vibrant, inclusive and environmentally attractive neighbourhood with a strong local identity.

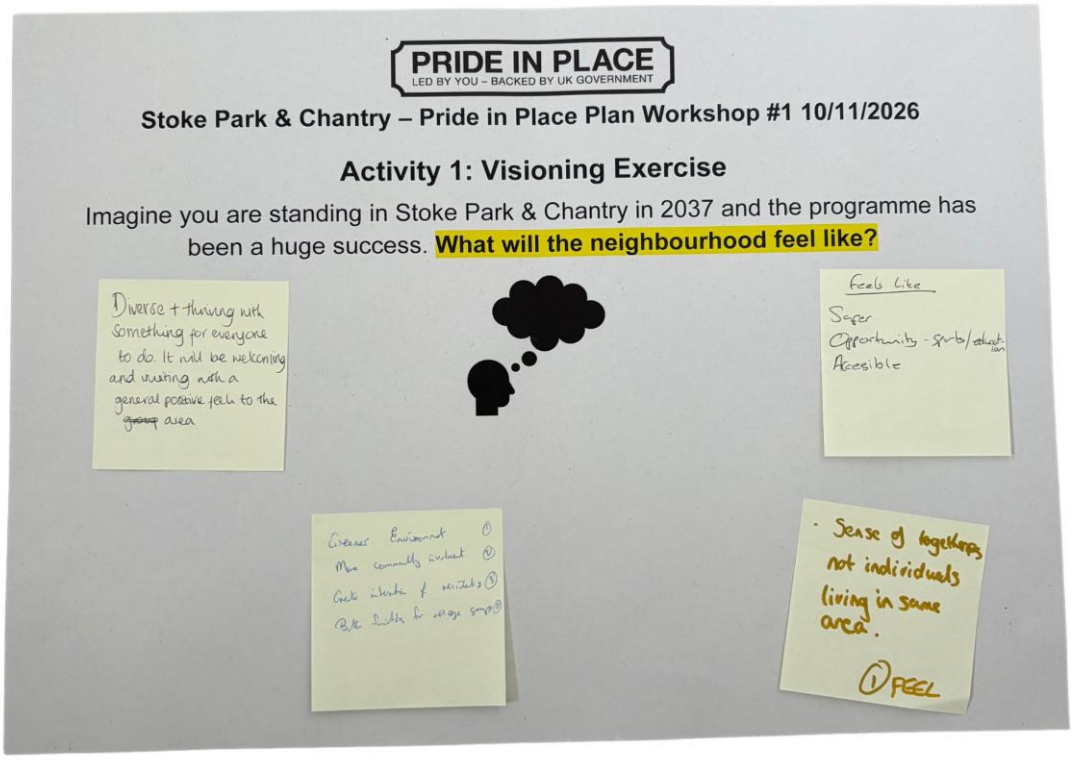
<u>Key themes identified</u>

- Cleanliness and environmental improvements.
- Greener and more attractive public spaces.
- Community pride and neighbourhood identity.
- Stronger community connections and sense of belonging.
- Modernisation and investment in the physical environment.
- Opportunities and aspiration, particularly for younger residents.
- Accessible community spaces and facilities.
- A thriving, inclusive and diverse community.



	What will the neighbourhood feel like? There was a strong consensus that residents should feel safe, welcome and connected to their community, with a greater sense of belonging and togetherness. Members highlighted the importance of fostering community spirit and creating an environment where people know and support one another, rather than simply living alongside each other. Discussions also focused on ensuring the neighbourhood is inclusive and diverse, with opportunities for all residents to participate in community life. A recurring theme was the aspiration to create a community that is hopeful and ambitious, where residents, particularly children and young people, feel they have opportunities to succeed and achieve their aspirations. Members also emphasised the importance of ensuring young people can access local services, facilities and activities, and feel that they have a meaningful place within the community. <u>Key themes identified</u> • Community spirit and social cohesion. • Sense of belonging and togetherness. • Safe and welcoming neighbourhood. • Hope, aspiration and opportunity. • Supporting children and young people. • Access to local services and facilities. • Inclusion, diversity and accessibility.

- Friendly and supportive community culture.



LW summarised discussions and the recurring themes of hope, community and opportunity, alongside a need for community assets and spaces to help achieve these aspirations.

LW reminded the group that this funding is intended to support long-lasting change and should not be used to cover day-to-day services or activities that would ordinarily be delivered by a statutory organisation.

The group discussed the disparities between Stoke Park and Chantry. While Chantry was seen as already having a stronger sense of community and identity, Stoke Park was perceived as feeling more left behind and lacking a clear voice. Members reflected that Chantry's stronger identity may be partly linked to the way the estate was originally designed and developed.

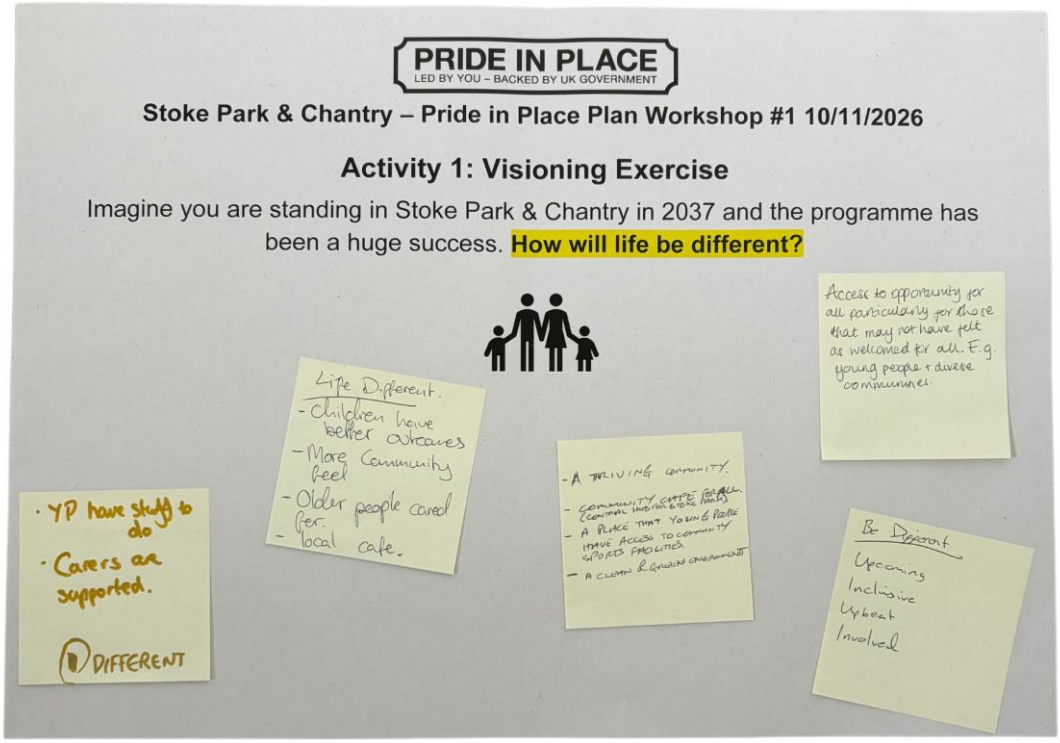
How will life be different for residents?

Members envisaged a more connected, inclusive and supportive community where residents of all ages have access to better facilities, activities and opportunities. Discussion focused on the need for a central community hub that can serve as a focal point for local services, community activity and social interaction. Members also highlighted the importance of ensuring no one is left behind, with improved accessibility, greater opportunities for residents to get

involved, better support for children and young people, and spaces where older residents can meet and reduce social isolation.

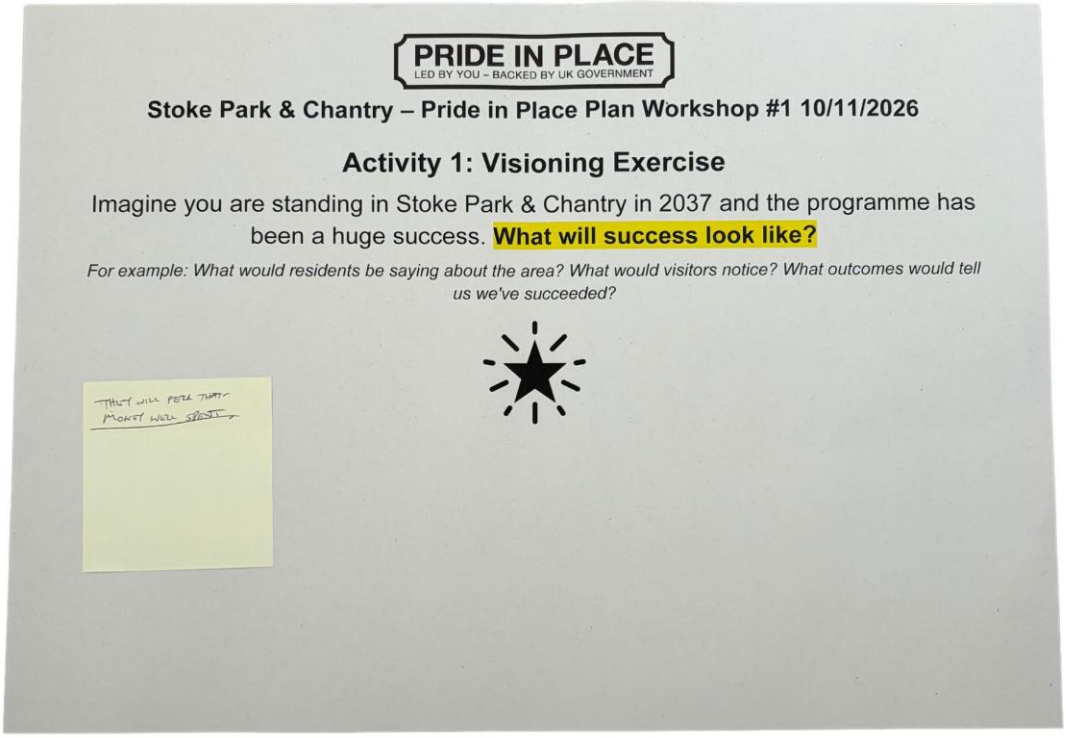
Key themes identified

- Community hub/community facilities
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Opportunities for all ages
- Community cohesion and belonging
- Resident involvement and participation
- Support for children, young people and older residents
- Reducing isolation and ensuring nobody is left behind



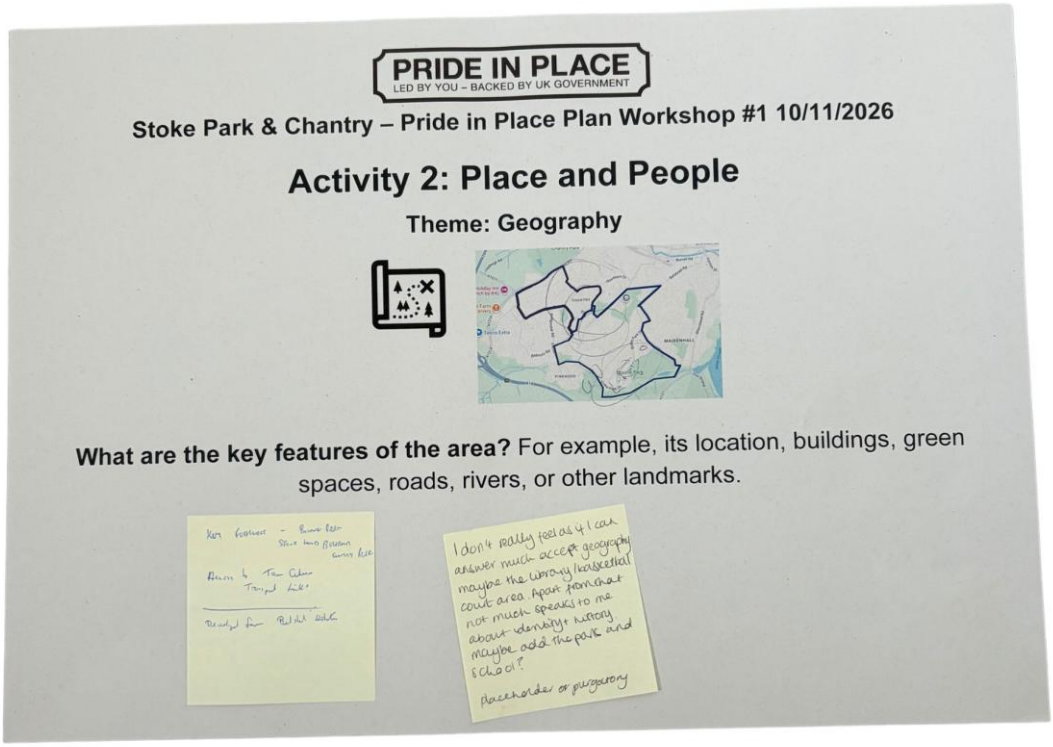
What will success look like?

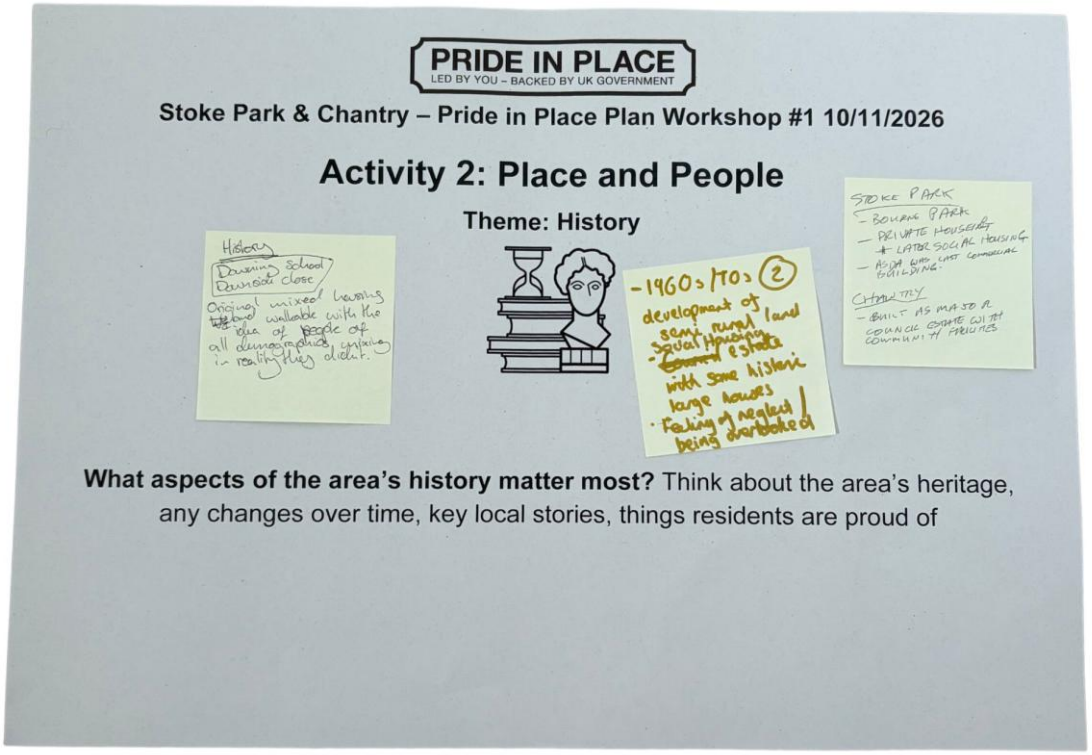
Members felt that success would be demonstrated through increased access to opportunities, improved outcomes for residents and a stronger sense of hope and aspiration within the community. Discussion highlighted the importance of creating tangible community assets and spaces that leave a lasting legacy beyond the lifetime of the programme. Members also suggested that success would be reflected by Stoke Park & Chantry becoming an area where businesses and organisations want to invest and engage, and where people actively choose to live because of the opportunities and quality of life available.

	Key themes identified • Access and opportunity • Hope and aspiration • Lasting legacy • Community assets and spaces • Investment and inward interest • Value for money and visible impact  Emily Swinerd (ES) highlighted that the Willows Family Hub may not currently be utilised to its full potential, suggesting opportunities to enhance or develop existing community facilities. Discussion also explored community identity across the neighbourhood, including whether Stoke Park residents feel part of a cohesive community and how existing community connections within Chantry can be strengthened and built upon through the programme.
7.	**Activity 2: Place and People** LW facilitated the second workshop exploring Stoke Park & Chantry's identity, history and defining characteristics. **Geography and History of the area** Members reflected on the history and development of Stoke Park & Chantry, noting the area's evolution from former estate land into a mixed community of private and social housing. Discussion highlighted the differing origins of Stoke

Park and Chantry, with Chantry being purpose-built as an estate, whilst Stoke Park has seen more piecemeal development over time. Members identified several important local assets and landmarks, including Bourne Park, St Peter's Church, the Willows site and the Library.

John North (JN) discussed how Stoke Park particularly has changed over the years, recalling former community facilities, shops, a pub and community centre that served local residents but have gradually disappeared. Members felt this had contributed to a perceived decline in local amenities and investment, whilst noting positive developments such as the arrival of Asda. There was also discussion around the area's heritage, including its links to Lord Belstead's estate, the former country estate origins of the area, and Chantry's significance as one of the largest social housing developments in Europe at the time it was built.





LW summarised that there is an opportunity to build the local story of Stoke Park & Chantry, celebrating the area's history, heritage, assets and community strengths to foster greater pride in place and a stronger identity.

Identity – What defines Stoke Park & Chantry today?

The Board identified parks and green spaces as key features that define Stoke Park & Chantry today. Discussion also highlighted the resilience of local residents, although members reflected on whether this resilience is sometimes linked to the challenges and disadvantages experienced within the community. Members noted the presence of established community organisations, including the Church, Scouts and volunteer-led groups such as litter pickers, but felt there were relatively few opportunities for community involvement, activities and organised groups in comparison to other areas of Ipswich.

8. **Activity 3: Priorities for Change**

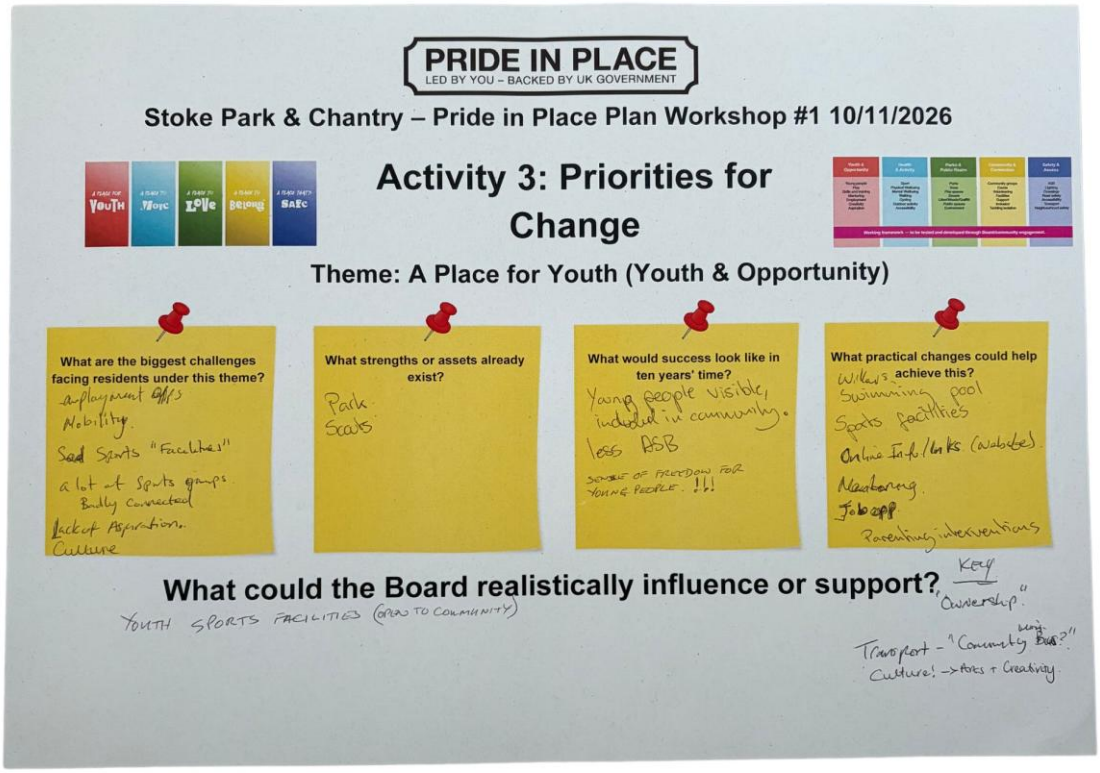
Laura Meadows (LM) facilitated the final activity, during which Board members split into small groups, with each group focusing on one of the priority themes. Groups discussed:

- 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?

A Place for Youth

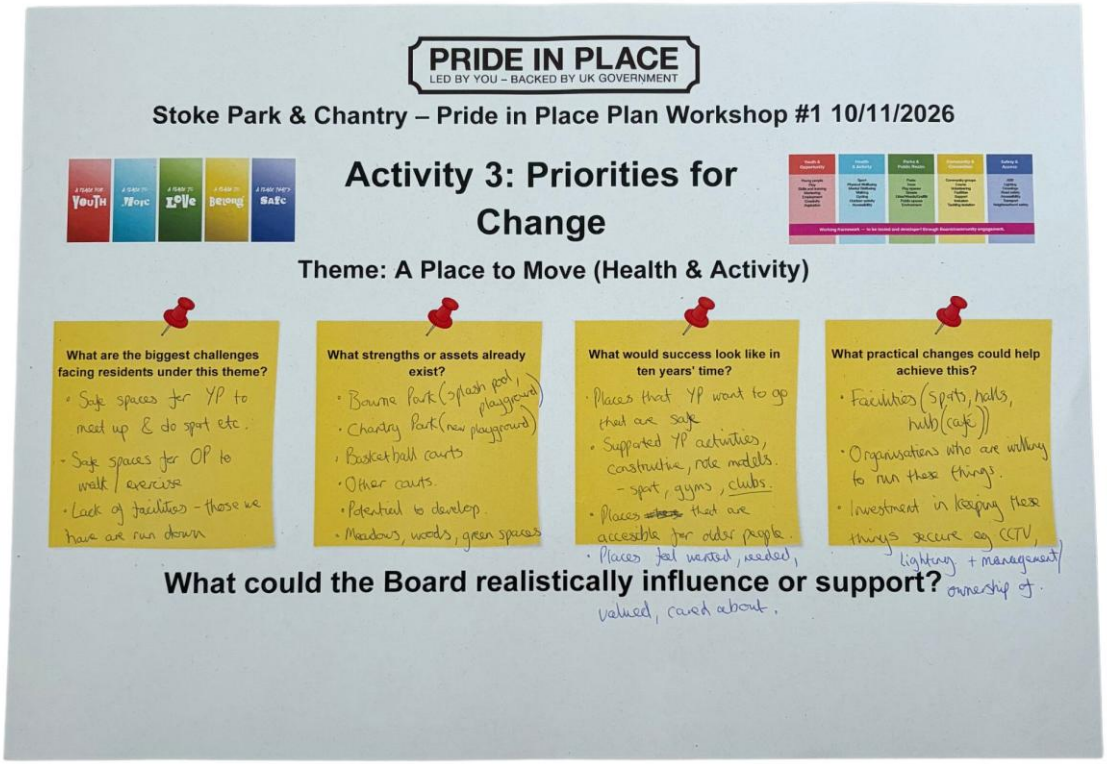
Members identified a lack of youth facilities, activities and opportunities as key challenges, alongside concerns around low aspirations and anti-social behaviour. Existing assets included local parks and Scouts groups. Members felt that success would see young people more engaged in the community and a reduction in anti-social behaviour. Suggested priorities included improved youth, sports and leisure provision, mentoring opportunities, and early intervention support such as education, skills and training, and parenting initiatives. The Board was seen as having a role in supporting youth facilities, community-led initiatives, transport connectivity and access to cultural opportunities.



A Place to Move

Members identified a lack of safe spaces for young people to meet and exercise, limited opportunities for walking and cycling, and concerns about the condition of some facilities. Existing assets included local parks, basketball courts, outdoor courts and green spaces, with members recognising significant potential for further development.

Participants felt that success would mean more accessible, well-used places for physical activity, increased participation in sports and clubs, and residents feeling that local spaces are valued and cared for. Suggested priorities included investment in facilities and community hubs, support for organisations delivering activities, and improvements to safety measures such as lighting, CCTV and site management.

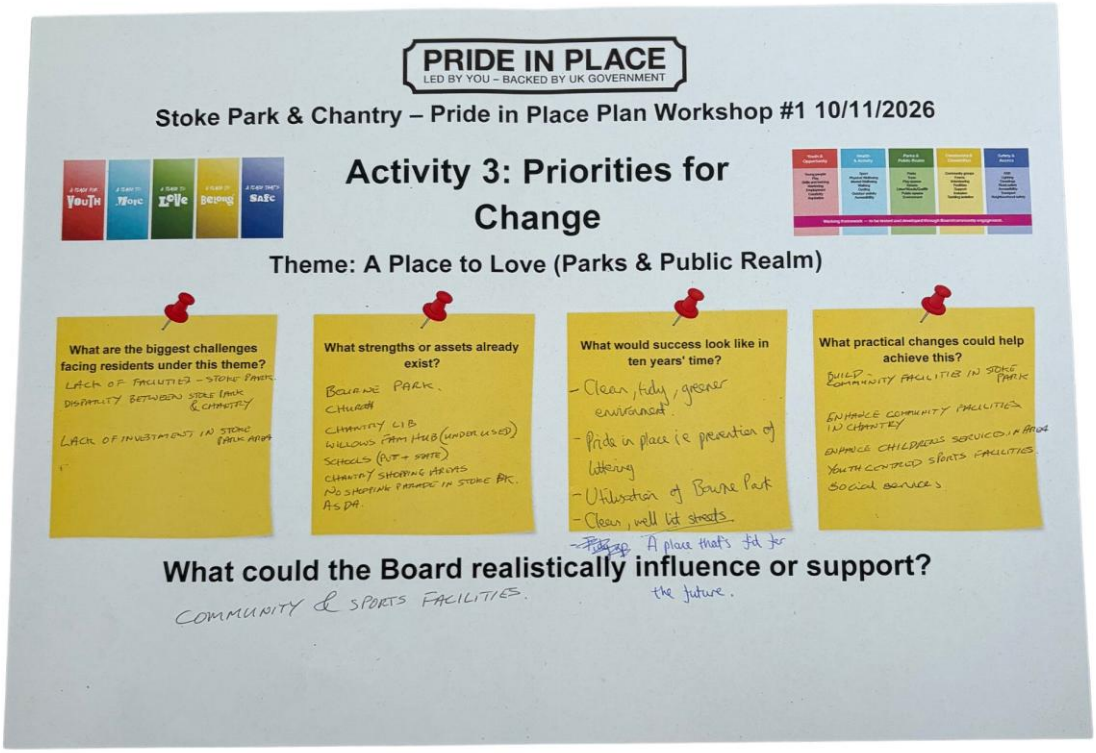


A Place to Love

Members identified poor-quality public spaces, a lack of attractive environments and limited investment in the area as key challenges. Existing assets included Bourne Park, local churches, schools, Chantry Library, the Willows Family Hub and community shopping areas.

Members felt that success would mean cleaner, greener and more welcoming public spaces, greater pride in the area, and better use of Bourne Park and other community assets. Suggested priorities included improvements to community and sports facilities, enhanced public spaces, and investment in local services and amenities. The Board was seen as having a role in supporting community

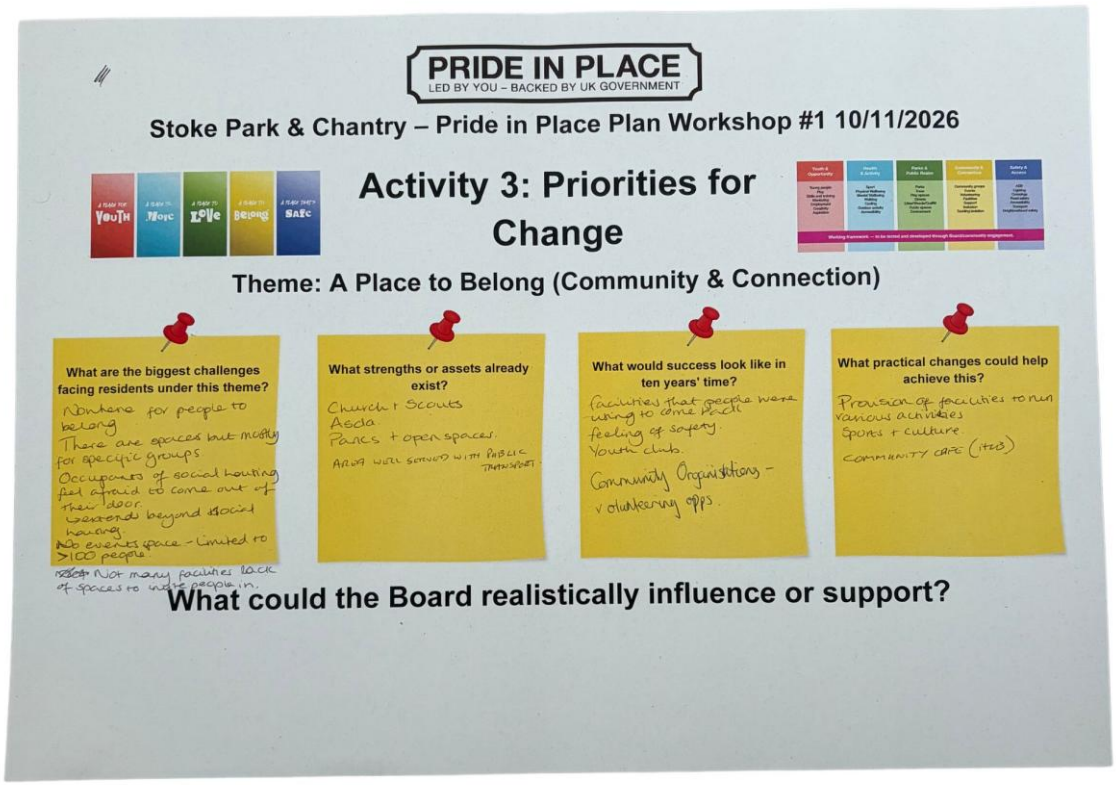
facilities and improving the public realm to create a place residents feel proud of.



A Place to Belong

Members identified a lack of opportunities for people to meet, limited activities for specific groups, and a shortage of community spaces as key challenges. Existing assets included churches, Scouts, parks, open spaces and local community venues.

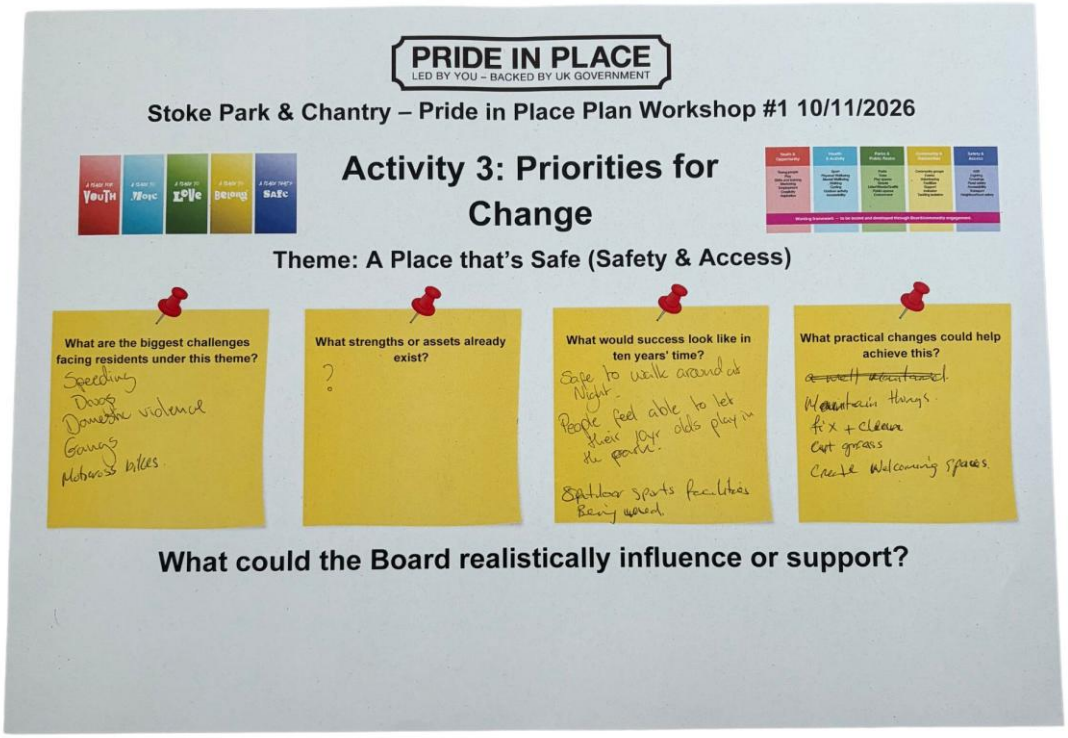
Members felt that success would mean stronger community connections, more residents feeling part of the area, increased volunteering and community-led activity, and more opportunities for young people to get involved. Suggested priorities included providing spaces and facilities for community activities such as a community café and youth club, and creating opportunities for residents to connect through sport, culture and local events.



A Place that's Safe

Members identified speeding, drug-related issues, domestic violence, gangs and motorbike nuisance as key safety concerns within the area. Success would mean residents feeling safe to walk around the neighbourhood, children being able to play safely outdoors, and sports facilities being better used.

Suggested priorities included improvements to the local environment, better maintenance of public spaces, and the creation of more welcoming community spaces.



Following the various workshop activities, the Board concluded that several strong recurring themes had emerged, including the need for more facilities and community organisations, increased sporting, educational and cultural opportunities, and a desire to foster greater hope, aspiration, pride and ownership within Stoke Park & Chantry.

LM asked the group whether the 'A Place To' framework still felt appropriate. Members agreed that the themes remained relevant, that the insight gathered to date aligned well with the framework, and that the headings would be easily understood by the public. Aaron Morley (AM) noted that there is significant crossover between the five pillars and that further work will be required to clearly distinguish priorities within each theme.

LM asked how the group wished to progress with the drafting of the Pride in Place Plan and invited volunteers to support Lee with this work. Cllr Man, Emily, John and Jon volunteered to assist.

AP2: Lee, Cllr Man, Emily, John and Jon to develop a plan for drafting Sections 1, 2 and 5 of the Pride in Place Plan and begin writing these sections on the shared document in SharePoint using the insight and evidence gathered through the workshop programme.

9.	**Any Other Business (AOB)** Nothing raised.

PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10 December, 16:30 – 18:00, Paul's Social Club

Future meeting dates:

- Tuesday 12 January 2027, 17:30 – 19:00
- Thursday 11 February 2027, 16:30 – 18:00

Meetings will alternate between Tuesday and Thursday evenings and be held at Paul's Social Club.

DECISIONS TAKEN

None

ACTION POINTS

- AP1: All Board Members to share the survey URL (stokeparkandchantry.co.uk) with local residents and display posters within the neighbourhood.
- AP2: Lee, Cllr Man, Emily, John and Jon to develop a plan for drafting Sections 1, 2 and 5 of the Pride in Place Plan and begin writing these sections on the shared document in SharePoint using the insight and evidence gathered through the workshop programme.