

## Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN) - Bedworth Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 9th, 5pm, The Old Meeting Church

	Actions	Who
<p><b>1. Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>  Welcome, Introduction and Apologies.  The Chair (Bill Basra) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies:  Aryan Bruzas - Nicholas Chamberlaine student submitted his resignation.  Maria Bailey – NBBC  Sue Tonks – Business Owner  Simon Aucott – Local Business Owner  Peter Kingham – Life Church  Richard Nedjati – NHS</p> <p><b>List of Attendees:</b>  Bill Basra- Chair  Rachel Taylor MP  Satvir Dosanjh – MP's Office  Lynda Greasley - Bedworth Society  Paul Spencer – Local Business Owner  Alison Thompson - WCAVA  Abby Kelwin - NBBC  Jonathan White - NBBC  Jeff Hunt - People in Action  Ken Whitehead - Armistice Committee  Rev Dave Poultney  Cllr Nicky King - WCC  Pastor Danny Murphy – Life Church (now United Church)  Gary Palmer- WCC  Gill Hancock - Harbour Centre/ Life Church  Julie Bromage- Vice Chair  Alison White - Admin support to Board  Owen Granfield - Armistice Committee  Alex Forster – Pride in Place program  Cllr George Finch – Leader of WCC (From 6pm)</p>		

<p><b>2. Declaration of Interests</b></p> <p>Sent via email, hard copies also available.</p>	<p>To be sent to Abby Kelwin</p> <p>To be sent again to all Board Members</p>	<p><b>AW</b></p>
<p><b>3. Minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and matters arising.</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a correct record. In terms of matters arising:</p> <p>Further education: RT in process of speaking with contacts at Coventry University and North Warwickshire &amp; South Leicestershire college. Discussing skills in logistics, health care and manufacturing.</p> <p>JB has spoken to contact at CDMT - Council for Dance Drama and Musical Theatre governing body regarding a dance academy.</p> <p>Business breakfast: Confirmation this has been arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> December, location TBC. A digital invite will be available once confirmed. Requests that Bayton Road will be considered.</p>	<p>Board members to let RT know if there are any specific businesses that need to be invited.</p>	<p><b>RT</b></p> <p><b>ALL/SD/AW</b></p>
<p><b>4. NBBC Update</b></p> <p><b>a) Fountain and Almshouses Maintenance</b></p> <p>Engineers are confident the fountain can be working for the event on October 25<sup>th</sup>, however, there are ongoing issues that need to be resolved.</p> <p>It was requested that costs be obtained for these and ongoing operation of the fountain.</p> <p><b>b) Community Event (25<sup>th</sup> October 2025)</b></p> <p>Activities planned, fair, stalls and some minor consultation for the voucher.</p>		<p><b>JW</b></p>

<p>Investigating banners to place on buildings, main roads, railings etc to advertise. Social media will also be used to advertise and also the fact that much of the event including rides are free.</p> <p><b>c) Market Redevelopment</b></p> <p>Working group meeting held.</p> <p>The general feeling is to create a flexible leisure venue that can be used by all. Ideas included improving the toilets and move the food &amp; beverage location (bring to the front so it can be outside in the summer). Investigating portable stage equipment (which will need storage), heating units, lighting etc to make it more friendly.</p> <p>Exhibitions, fairs, auctions, play events, evening and weekend events were some ideas.</p> <p>This will be circulated to the Board to discuss and look at costings.</p> <p><b>d) Pride in Place Award</b></p> <p>RT – plan for neighbourhoods coming under the pride in place banner. Total 244 communities that have £20m</p> <p>There is also a further £1.5 to spend over Nuneaton and Bedworth. RT will liaise with NBBC to establish what funds would be available for Bedworth.</p> <p>The Board expresses the view that the money should be used to complete the market and renovate the Fountain.</p>	<p>Circulate market ideas to the Board by 7<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>NBBC to note</p>	<p><b>JW</b></p>
<p><b>5. WCC Update</b></p> <p>Updated the Board with schemes that WCC would like to put forward:</p> <p>A Pocket Park in town centre was discussed – this could provide extra seating and a small park in a space in the town centre.</p> <p>A children, young people and family hub in the town centre.</p> <p>Still pursuing the additional bus service implementation plan which needs to be shared with the Board.</p>		<p><b>GP</b></p>

<p>A Youth Market - which would tie in with the market development.</p> <p>WCC could engage with the Board on an events programme.</p> <p>Kings house and the Crox are for discussion if the Board have any vision on how to use these buildings.</p> <p>The British Queen pub and cinema – unaware of what is happening with these buildings (cinema has been demolished).</p>	<p>Information re bus service implementation plan to be given to the Board.</p> <p>NBBC to report further</p>	<p><b>JW</b></p>
<p><b>6. Health Update</b></p> <p>Deferred as no NHS representative present.</p>		
<p><b>7. Consultation Update</b></p> <p>AT – pleased with response of around 1000 responses.</p> <p>WCAVA are in the process of completing a small number of consultations on certain areas i.e. St Micheals family hub.</p> <p>Interesting to note that a higher number of paper copies were completed rather than digital.</p> <p>Feedback is what the Board already know – smarten up the town, perception about safety, youth.</p> <p>Although the survey is closed, responses will still be noted but won't be part of the report.</p>		
<p><b>8. DRAFT Regeneration Strategy (2025-2035)</b></p> <p><b>9. Funding Profile/Investment Plan</b></p> <p>Items 8 and 9 were discussed under the same point as both documents are required to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.</p> <p>Alex Forster from MHLCG joined the Board to support with compliance and provided the Board with questions that need to be answered in the strategy.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the draft plan submitted was a good start and should be used as the basis of a final draft that would be prepared by NBBC. Specifically, it was agreed:</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the Vision and Principles be incorporated into a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.</li> <li>b) That Phase 1 be focussed on the Town Centre and basis of the Investment Plan.</li> <li>c) That consideration be given on empty premises and parking within the subsequent drafts.</li> <li>d) That the legal status of the Board be given consideration within the Strategy.</li> <li>e) That NBBC work with BB, RT, AT, GP to produce the Strategy and Plan that would then be submitted to the Board in November for approval.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>10. Update on Capacity Fund</b></p> <p>The Capacity Fund totals approx. £600k. The current spend is £2k. The Consultation and October Event will cost approx: £30k</p> <p>The fund is available to other projects to draw on for support.</p> <p>LG &amp; PS – suggested banners to cover shutters of empty shops in town.</p> <p>AT advised they had approached street artists they have experience of working with. Discussed the possibility of working with youth groups to give the centre a facelift. Projects could include one off activities, a festival of art for a week. AT has asked for costings to bring to the Board.</p> <p>AT will work with LG &amp; PS to look at banners which will come from the capacity funding.</p>	<p><b>AT to work with LP &amp; PS</b></p>	
<p><b>11. Update on Key Proposals discussed at workshop and new ideas (ALL)</b></p> <p>All Saints Corner proposal (DP): Council took possession back from HSBC landlord. Getting floor plans and costings, to create a community hub. More consultation and design work to do with Redeeming Our Communities.</p> <p>Harbour Centre (GH): Toilets. Permission from landlord for downstairs toilet. The lift is not used for people, only goods. Consultation has been completed: downstairs office to be changed to a toilet and fitted a pipe for running water to the café - £10K. Agreed that this would be progressed.</p>		

<p>Armistice Committee (OG): Works being progressed and costings being sought.</p> <p>JB: Update given on feasibility of a FE Provision within the sphere of performing arts. All agreed this merited exploration and if possible progression.</p>		
<p><b>12. Future Meetings</b></p> <p>Noted that 30/10/25 had been a placeholder in case it was needed. It was agreed that at least 7 days notice would be given as to whether the meeting would be progressing or not.</p> <p>Agreed that 13/11 would be rescheduled.</p>		