PRIDE IN PLACE
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Believe in Bedworth Board Monday 8th June 2026 Venue: Bedworth Cricket Club - 10am			
Name	**Role**	**Attended**	**Apologies**
Bill Basra (BB)	Independent Chair	x	
Julie Bromage (JB)	Deputy/Sub Chair		NR
Marina Kitchen (MK)	Believe in Bedworth	X	
Abby Kelwin (AK)	NBBC Officer		X
Alex Parsons – Moore (APM)	Nicholas Chamberlaine	X	
Alison Thompson (AT)	WCAVA		X
Alison White (AW)	WCAVA	X	
CI Ben Hembrey (BH)	Warwickshire Police	x	
Pastor Danny Murphy (DM)	Life Church Bedworth		NR
Rev. Dave Poultney (DP)	All Saints CofE	X	
Cllr George Finch (GF)	Elected Member – WCC	X	
Gill Hancock (GH)	Harbour Centre	X	
Garry Palmer (GP)	NBBC Officer	x	
Gurdeep Sehra (GS)	BVS		NR
Jeff Hunt (JH)	BB People in Action	X	
Jonathan White (JW)	NBBC	X	
Ken Whitehead (KW)	Armistice Group	x	
Lynda Greasley (LG)	The Bedworth Society	X	
Mark Farmer (MF)	NBBC Officer		NR
Nicky Jones (NJ)	Believe in Bedworth	x	
Nicky King (NK)	Elected Member – NBBC		NR
Owen Granfield (OG)	Armistice Group		X
Paul Spencer (PS)	Local Business - Spencer's	x	
Richard Nedjati (RN)	Clinical Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Primary Care Network		NR
Rachel Taylor MP (RT)	MP	X	
Simon Aucott (SA)	Local Business - Aucotts Butchers		NR
Satvir Dosanjh (SD)	Rachel Taylor MP Office	X	
Salmah Mahmood (SM)	Director of Strategy, Improvement & Partnerships GEH		NR
Sue Tonks (ST)	Small Federation of Businesses	x	
David Ayton-Hill (DAH)	Visitor – WCC	X	
Faye Winterburn (FW)	Visitor – WCC	X	
Paul Joyce (PJ)	Visitor – NWSLC Deputy Principle	X	

1.	**Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**	BB
	The Chair (BB) welcomed attendees and opened the meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2.	**Declaration of Interests**	BB
	No declarations were made.	
3.	**Minutes of last meeting and Action Tracker**	BB
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record. It was noted that all previous actions are reflected within the current agenda.	

4	**Early Thoughts**	MK
	BB introduced Marina Kitchen who had been appointed as the Programme Director for the Believe in Bedworth Programme. The Board received a presentation from MK on the “Art of the Possible” for town centre regeneration, showcasing initial, illustrative concepts supported by community consultation feedback. Key themes from consultation with the community had included a desire for independent retailers, improved public realm and shopfronts, quality food and hospitality, a revitalised market and a multi-agency hub. The Board strongly supported the vision, highlighting the need to enhance footfall, economic vitality, and long-term sustainability, alongside high-quality design and materials. Members emphasised the importance of safety measures in the design and delivery, stakeholder engagement (particularly with landlords and businesses), and coordinated delivery supported by clear funding strategies and partnerships.	
5.	**Projects 2026 – 2030**	
	Opportunities for Young People	
	Further Education College	**BB/GF**
	Following on from previous Board discussions where it had been agreed that a FE presence would be explored and established within the Town Centre, Cllr Finch discussed the development of a Skills and Employment Hub in Bedworth with the help of Warwickshire County Council (WCC) officers from the Economy and Skills Team. The vision was to create a central, multi-agency facility in the town centre providing careers advice, adult skills training, and flexible employment and training space. Key partners, including Adult and Community Learning, the Department for Work and Pensions, and North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, had already expressed interest, with the opportunity to deliver a coordinated service for both young people and adults. In addition to meeting the needs of the local community it would also address recent challenges such as the closure of the Future Destination Hub, reduced funding, and increasingly complex barriers to employment, particularly among young people. It was noted that there was a growing mismatch between local job opportunities and career aspirations, alongside emerging skills shortages in key sectors and increasing demand for reskilling. The proposed hub would aim to address these challenges through a collaborative and flexible approach, offering alternative pathways into work and bringing services together in one accessible location. The Board recognised the significant opportunity this presents but emphasised the need for strong partnership working, clear funding alignment, and a phased, realistic delivery approach. There was consensus that a strong business case would be required with a robust financial model that acknowledged that it was not the sole responsibility of BiB to fund and deliver the FE presence. Next steps agreed were: a) Identifying potential sites b) Developing delivery models c) Exploration with DWP for a Youth Hub d) Engagement with Young People and Local Schools e) Identifying funding sources from WCC, NBBC, DWP and Education	

	ACTION: Faye Winterburn to contact MK to meet and discuss	FW
	Arts Heritage & Culture	
	Youth Opportunities & possible sites (7)	**MK**
	MK stated that there was good quality youth work being delivered in Bedworth from several agencies, all with a different offer. She described the development of a youth project that would brings together the different and separate youth projects being delivered in Bedworth into a coordinated offer which will support a youth-focused provision within the town, creating an accessible space for youth engagement and facilities that complement wider skills and employment initiatives. Following discussion, it was recognised that the benefits of delivering provision quickly through an existing accessible building or via a mobile pop up while strengthening partnership working across the community was desirable given the importance attached to this theme from the consultation. Within that context it was suggested that a discussion be held with the Methodist Church in the Town Centre who has potential space. As next steps, MK will bring together relevant partners and stakeholders to start delivery mapping and to assess the feasibility of the proposal.	MK
	Brighter Bedworth Murals (8)	**MK**
	A proposal was presented to deliver a series of murals across the town centre with the aim of enhancing the visual appearance of the area and contributing to a stronger sense of identity and place. During discussion, MK stated that the project required further work to provide greater clarity on its scope, objectives, and delivery approach. The Board was supportive of the concept and approved the project, recognising its potential contribution to the wider regeneration programme. Further development work was planned to identify suitable mural locations and ensure alignment with broader town centre regeneration plans. As next steps, MK / AO would identify and assess potential sites for the murals and will develop detailed proposals for future consideration. The project would be brought back once further clarity had been established and potential locations and art had been evaluated.	MK
	Heritage Centre	**LG**
	The Board discussed proposals to expand the Heritage Centre, recognising that the current facility was too small to support its ambitions and also provide access to more people. The aim was to create a larger, more flexible space that celebrates the town's heritage, increases visitor numbers, and contributes to town centre activity. The Board supported further development of the project which would also include pursuing an Arts Council funding application, exploring expansion options and locations, and integrating Heritage Centre activities into the wider town events programme. There was consensus that the project, with its focus on history and heritage represented a valuable opportunity to enhance community pride, cultural identity and tourism. Linda and MK to meet to scope what support is needed	LG & MK

	Vibrant Town Centre /Thriving economy	Status	Working completion date	Owner
	Cemetery Work (1)	**Approved**	**29/10/2027**	**KW / OG**
	The Board received an update on the cemetery improvement project. The timescale for completion was 11th November 2027. MK confirmed that the business case was being finalised and aligned with the necessary compliance requirements. A dedicated working group had been established to progress the project and oversee its development. The next steps were to secure planning permission, continue the development of detailed design and delivery plans, and maintain progress towards completion date. in line with the Armistice 2027.			
	Harbour Toilets (2)	**Approved**	**31/8/2026**	**GH**
	The Board received an update on the Harbour Centre improvement project, which would enhance facilities through upgraded public toilets and the installation of washing machine and shower facilities. Works were currently underway and progressing well. Members welcomed the improvements, particularly the addition of downstairs toilet facilities and the inclusion of washing and shower amenities, which were recognised as valuable community assets. Overall, the project was viewed positively and is expected to significantly improve the functionality, accessibility and inclusivity of the Harbour Centre. BB commended The Harbour Centre on their rapid progression of the project and their encapsulation of what a community driven project should look like both in terms of inception and delivery.			
	Community Events (3)	**Approved**	**Ongoing plus calendar**	**MK**
	The Board discussed plans to develop a coordinated town-wide events programme in partnership with NBBC. The programme aims to increase footfall and activity within the town centre while providing a consistent and well-planned calendar of events for residents and visitors. To support delivery, two additional "Believe in Bedworth" roles would be established, focusing on community engagement, event planning and coordination. Overall, the Board recognised that a coordinated events programme, supported by dedicated resources, would play a significant role in increasing town centre activity and strengthening community engagement.			
	Fountain Regeneration (4)	**Approved (STFW)**	**Founders' Day 28/5/ 27**	**JW/MK**
	The Board considered proposals for the future of the town fountain, supported by an AI-generated visual illustrating potential design options. Members agreed that replacing the existing fountain should be explored as a preferred long-term solution rather than undertaking further temporary repairs. Permission had been received from the Almshouses and Trustees to progress scoping and feasibility work. The next steps were to develop design options and costings, assess the viability of replacement versus refurbishment, and ensure the project aligned with wider public realm improvements and in consultation with the residents.			

	Overall, the Board supported progressing the project, subject to further design development, feasibility assessment and funding considerations.			
	Market Development (5)	**Approved (STFW)**	**Christmas lights: 21/11/26**	**JW/ MK**
	The Board received an update on the Market Development project, which would improve the market through upgrading the market units and wider environmental improvements leading to a vibrant and viable market that can also be used as an event space. It would also ensure that the Market would not remain an incomplete project. Members agreed that priority should be given to essential improvements, including addressing the roof leak, pigeon issues, the condition of market units and the overall appearance of the site, before progressing additional event features. MK and JW will meet to agree the scope of works. Overall, the Board reaffirmed that the project remains a key regeneration priority, with the event space continuing to be an essential element of wider town centre activity once the key physical works have been completed.			JW&MK
	Units 2 and 4 (BiB Hub) (6)	**Approved (STFW)**	**Easter Wkd 13th / 14th / 4/2028**	**BB**
	The Board discussed proposals to develop Units 2 and 4 as a Believe in Bedworth (BiB) Hub, providing flexible community space and services. The potential inclusion of a Banking Hub was also discussed and discounted. Members supported progressing the project, recognising the need for a more detailed scope, emphasising the need for clear timescales, a defined scope and in response to community feedback. Opportunities to collaborate with partners, including community services and the library, were also highlighted. MK & JW will develop the project scope and JW arrange for surveys. GP will align around the public realm work in the town centre.			JW&MK
	Health on the High Street			**BB/MK**
	The Board discussed proposals to bring a range of health services into the town centre, including physiotherapy, primary and community healthcare, in partnership with organisations such as, GEH, UHCW. Primary Care Networks and the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Potential services could also include blood tests, diagnostics, mobile health units, and specialist clinics, alongside opportunities to link health provision with community events and mental health initiatives. Members strongly supported the "health on the high street" model, recognising its potential to improve access to services, tackle significant health inequalities across the borough, particularly in communities such as Bedworth Heath and Bulkington, and increase town centre footfall. It would also reduce the number of vacant shop units within the town centre and revitalise occupied retail units through improved footfall. The Board strongly endorsed continued partnership with NHS organisations and local providers to develop a coordinated and accessible health offer for the town.			
6.	**NBBC Update**			
	The Board received positive feedback from MHCLG on the regeneration submission, with recognition of the strength of the overall programme. Members highlighted the importance of defining Bedworth's role within the wider area, including its relationship with Coventry and Nuneaton, and developing a clear delivery plan with agreed milestones and programme management arrangements. The Board emphasised the need to move from planning to delivery, supported by stronger governance, greater coordination and the effective use of funding to achieve sustainable regeneration outcomes.			JW

	It was requested that Finance Updates become a standing item at future meetings with breakdowns across capacity funding and delivery both in terms of capital and revenue.	JW
7.	**Governance**	
	Following previous discussions about Board structures, membership and incorporation and following the MP's consideration of MHCLG requirements it was agreed: a) That revised TOR and Membership would be submitted at a virtual meeting of the Board in July b) That new arrangements would come into force September/October 2026 c) That in light of the need to focus on delivery, a degree of continuity of membership was desirable with existing Board Members albeit within a streamlined structure. Emphasis was given on Board Members on the importance of focussing on the collective outcomes to be achieved rather than the representation of self or organisational interests.	MK/BB
8.	**Engagement Activities & Events**	
	a. St George's Day Celebration 25th April 2026 b. Founders Day 22nd May 2026 c. Volunteers Quiz Evening 5th June 2026 d. Car Show 6th June 2026 e. Pride 7th June 2026 f. BVS 21st June 2026 g. Armed Forces Day 27th June 2026 Feedback captured – good engagement, positive feedback, importance of inclusive and subsidised food/activity especially for families.	MK/BB/ ALL
9.	**Community and Business Grants**	
	Noted that this would be an area of work over Autumn with a view to launching April 2027	BB/MK
11.	**Any Other Business and Future Meeting** • Week commencing 7th Sept – 18th Sept (New board) • Assembly thereafter	MK