Chalvedon Pride In Place board meeting notes

Date: Thursday 1 October 2026

Board members present: Jay Robinson, James Murdoch MP, Maz Salih and Janice Strachan

Officer support: Dave Toombs

Guest speakers: Darren Scorey from Bowers & Pitsea FC and Thomas Williams from Laindon Pride in Place

Welcome and Introductions

Jay welcomed everyone and introduced Darren from Bowers & Pitsea FC.

Bowers & Pitsea FC

- Darren, Chair of Bowers & Pitsea FC, gave an overview of the club. It currently has 40 teams and is at full capacity. The club would like to build a new 3G pitch and increase to 80 teams.
- An underused grass pitch near the Pan Lane development could offer an opportunity for future development.
- The girls' teams currently play at Woodlands. The club also hires Eversley on Sundays at a cost of around £20,000 a year.
- Between 60 and 80 children aged five to seven attend Saturday morning sessions. Many are trying football for the first time and have different levels of ability. However, the club can currently offer team places to only 12 children. The club would like more teams at different ability levels.

Board comments and questions

- Jay supported targeted engagement with the club. Saturday mornings were suggested because many children and families attend Eversley and Northlands. The club could also build stronger links with local schools
- Jay asked about opportunities for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Darren confirmed that the club is exploring a dedicated SEND session.
- James welcomed the range of opportunities available and the positive involvement of young people. Darren said there are not enough spaces for local children and young people to play sport.
- James added around 60,000 new homes are planned across Basildon and Thurrock. This could bring about 100,000 new residents, including an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 children and young people.

- Darren discussed the potential for new 3G facilities near Eversley. Early estimates were around £1.1 million for one pitch or £1.6 million for two.
- James asked whether the plans could include a mixture of facilities and sports. Darren said futsal and netball could be included, with scope for more activities if facilities are improved.
- Jay suggested linking with Active Essex, as the club has mainly worked with Essex FA so far.

The boards thanked Darren and the club for their hospitality and collectively agreed that the Club is a valued local asset to the community and hope to work with the Club in the future.

Next step: Arrange a discovery and engagement event. Jay and Maz suggested inviting local voluntary groups and charities so that the event can help shape future opportunities. The board agreed that the project has significant potential.

Thomas Willian Youth Advisory Board Laindon PIP

- Thomas described his experience in youth engagement, including work on the National Youth Strategy and engagement with 20,000 young people. His main aim is to make sure young people are heard and share real decision-making power through PIP Laindon process.
- Laindon plans to recruit through primary and secondary schools, pupil leadership roles, youth groups and partner organisations. This should create a regular and representative route for young people to join.
- Thomas said the board must also involve young people who are not already active in community work and welcoming to someone with little previous knowledge or interest.Laindon is considering a youth-led fund of around £50,000 to £60,000 from the wider £2 million allocation. This would give young people real influence over local spending.
- Laindon is planning its first meeting at James Hornsby School with local education leaders. The Chalvedon board agreed that schools are an important way to involve the community and raise awareness of Pride in Place.

Board comments and questions

- James thanked Thomas for his presentation and asked if the framework had been agreed.

- Thomas explained that the legal and governance arrangements are still being developed. Advice is being sought from MHCLG about delegated decisions, accountability and whether smaller awards could be made without full board approval.
- James acknowledged that he would imagine final decisions would always be expected to go through the board. But as a starting point, setting aside a clear budget, giving young people the trust and freedom to think laterally is a good idea.

The board thanks ed Thomas for his time and wished him good luck at university

Next steps: Consider how the Laindon model could work in Chalvedon, identify a youth engagement lead, consider youth membership of the board and explore joint youth board meetings. Thomas offered to provide further support.

New boundary discussion

- Jay shared an updated community boundary map following discussions with Olivia and Jack from James' office. James provided further information on the boundary requirements, including confirmation that the residential limit is 20,000 rather than 15,000, which allowed more flexibility in shaping the area.
- The revised map is very similar to the original proposal but includes the Bowers & Gifford area, as well as additional community assets. The boundary has also been simplified to make it clearer and easier to understand.

Members welcomed the changes and felt the updated map was an improvement. Diane had also reviewed the map and confirmed her support.

Decision: The Board agreed to approve the revised boundary map and proceed with the proposal.

<u>Wider Pride In Place discussion</u>

Schools and community facilities

- The board supported bringing local headteachers together to discuss the £20 million, 10-year Pride in Place programme.
- Members said organisations should work together and build a clearer picture of local facilities, strengths and gaps.
- Schools may be able to share facilities and identify joint investment opportunities.

Community engagement

- The board received updates on work with Hope Supermarket and other community groups.
- Surveys and future engagement events will be used to understand local needs and the challenges affecting families.

Christmas support and conflicts of interest

- Maz asked whether support could be provided for Christmas activities, including food and hampers for families in need.
- The board confirmed that it was appropriate to raise the idea because the possible conflict of interest had been declared openly.
- Members agreed that the conflict of interest register allows proposals to be discussed fairly and transparently. Christmas support projects
- Members valued this work but were concerned that using Pride in Place funding could make the purpose of the programme less clear.

Long-term investment and short-term support

- The board discussed whether Pride in Place funding should focus mainly on long-term facilities or also support short-term events and direct help.
- Some members felt the main priority should be lasting investment in community buildings and facilities.
- Others said investment in people, health, wellbeing and community connections can prevent longer-term problems.

Developing the board

- Members recognised that the board is still developing its approach and decision-making process.
- Trust and understanding will grow as members work together and learn more about different priorities.
- The discussion was seen as a positive example of handling difficult funding questions and conflicts of interest openly.

Actions and next steps

- Jay: Start informal discussions with local headteachers about a school leaders' meeting.

- Continue working with community organisations and share surveys to gather local views.
- Look for alternative funding for Christmas support projects. Dave Toombs to support this.
- Continue developing clear priorities and assessment criteria for Pride in Place funding.

Date of next meeting :- **Tuesday 13th October 10am-11:30am at Pitsea Tesco.**