

Clifton Neighbourhood Board meeting

Thursday 24th July 2025,

Clifton Cornerstone

Present:

Stephen Hackney (Chair)
Tracy Osborne
Tina Paddon
Sarah Speight
Matthew Wheatley
Cllr Linda Woodings

Cllr Hayley Spain
Holly Dagnall
Charlotte Batterham
Mark Armstrong
Claire McCurdy (notes)

Apologies:

Cllr Maria Watson
Sue Whitehead
Jemma Malloney
Insp Steve Dalby

Lilian Greenwood
Stacey Trainer
Gene Warburton

Welcome, apologies and introductions:

Welcomed Tina to the meeting in person, and her role was introduced.

Notes accepted as a record of the last meeting. Matters arising from the notes:

Place Matters training dates are scheduled for the end of August and September, and a third date is to be confirmed. Many board members have had meetings with Jo, Emily and Steff who are delivering the training and they are confident that they have sufficient background on the board and its members to shape the training effectively.

Grant process – working group didn't get a chance to meet, so this will be revisited and brought to the next meeting.

Policy adviser visit

This morning (24th) three Policy Advisers from Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) visited Clifton and met with Stephen, Mark and Claire, followed by a short tour of the area. The meeting went well and it was an informal way for the advisers working on the programme to get a better understanding of the community and area. They were able to provide clarification on the guidance for the programme including use of capacity building, and the assessment process (which will be light touch), and the need for the community to drive the strategy. MHCLG will also be procuring services from a variety of specialists who can support the board in the development of the programme plans, such as surveying and infrastructure specialists that boards can request support from at no cost to them. This may be particularly helpful when it comes to some of the larger capital projects.

Vision: Agreed as amended in the previous meeting.

Progress from here:

Agreed that taking forward from the main themes to have come from the consultation for the plan needs to have a vision for each area, and a working group to develop projects from this that will be brought back to the board. Main 3 themes are youth/ young people, high street and

market area, and the Playing Fields. There is some overlap in these themes, and there can be a number of smaller interventions and quick wins around the 3 main themes. Claire to map out which interventions are covered by the three themes as it falls across several.

High Streets and Market area:

Look at refreshing the plan Mark put together for the shopping area some times ago. Tracy is interested in developing this work with Mark.

Discussed need to look at the art of the possible with the resources and partners. Needs to have a balance of quick wins such as planting areas whilst developing the vision for the shopping area. This work ties into Objective 3 of the vision. The work may need to be spread out over the 10 years as a broader conversation. Needs to link with the EMCCA plans too.

Discussed former Wilko store and potential for that space if it was available – youth activities, café, training area, small units for businesses to rent on a short term basis, possibly child care/ soft play and/ or an internet café. Will need to look at how the board can hold assets should this be something that is pursued.

Holly suggested getting in touch with Access training to look at the links that can be set up there.

Action: Tracy and Mark to meet to discuss this.

Youth:

Possibility of the dance studio closing – enquire about this space?

Looked at swimming sessions for non-swimmers – Charlotte has been looking to fund this as it's a life skill people should have but struggle to access. Discussed training for more swimming instructors to be able to build capacity in the area as well as employment opportunities.

Updating playing equipment on parks – could this be included in the youth offer?

Craig Chettle formerly from Confetti would like to be involved – Stephen to link with him.

Stephen to take a lead on this theme.

Playing Fields:

Previous suggestions have been the universities' wish for a running track and a training pool.

The Lawn Tennis Association have suggested Padel, and there's offers from the Football Association for a 3G pitch (although All Whites need a new floodlit pitch?). Many people use the space and it could become somewhere families go for a day out to take part in activities and use the facilities.

Action: Holly to take the lead on this theme with the Parks and Open Spaces team.

Branding and next steps:

Need to make progress on getting the branding sorted so that the board can publicise and promote the things that are being put into place with a “you said, we did” approach. Need to improve online presence with Facebook/ website too.

Look at expertise within the partnership to look at impact of the work – research into the outcomes, and data/ modelling for outcomes and cost analysis via NTU?

Next meeting – TBC but training session 1 on 28th August 2025 4-7pm, Clifton Cornerstone.