

Chair's Report for Paignton Pride in Place Board

6 August 2026

Looking Ahead to the Next 6 Months

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has asked us to move forward quickly with Pride in Place (PPiP), and that is what we plan to do.

Elizabeth Spence, our Programme Delivery Lead, will come to the Board meeting on 6 August.

I plan to write a Chair's report before each Board meeting. This will help everyone know what has happened since the last meeting.

I would like to thank all Board Members for agreeing to work together. This is a special chance to help improve the lives of people living in the PPiP area. I will do my best to make sure our time is used well and leads to positive, lasting results.

Our first Board and Boundary submission was sent to Elizabeth on 17 July. Thank you to JP Hedge and the Team for completing this difficult job on time. If Elizabeth has any questions, I expect she will ask them during her visit.

I would like to explain what I think we should focus on during the next six months.

First, we need to finish our community engagement work by early October. We will then create a 10-year local vision and a 4-year investment plan by 28 November 2026. This is a very tight timescale, but I believe we can meet these deadlines.

After the plan is completed, we will move on to delivering it. I think it will be useful to learn from other Pride in Place areas, especially Torquay, rather than rushing ahead on our own.

When the first busy stage is finished, the Board will need to think about the future of PPiP and what sort of organisation should continue the work in the years ahead.

Board Membership

On 3 July, we agreed to have a Board of 12 Members. At that time, we had 11 Members but no one directly representing the Collaton area.

After speaking with local residents and Councillor Martin Brook, I would like to increase the Board to 13 Members by adding Jackie Kelly and Andrew Lavey. I will bring this matter to the board for you to vote on.

We cannot guarantee representation from every part of the PPiP area, but I believe Jackie and Andrew will bring valuable local knowledge, experience and commitment to the project.

Structures

I believe we now have a simple but workable structure to help us plan and deliver our work.

- A Board of 13 Members representing the whole area.
- Members include residents, Councillors, education representatives, schools, young people, businesses, housing providers and communication partners.
- All members either live, work, or have worked in the area for many years.
- A temporary Board Operations Sub-Group meets weekly until the community engagement review is finished.
 - Two online meetings have already taken place.
 - The next meeting is on 28 July at 2.30pm.
- Foxhole, Great Parks and Collaton each have their own local group to share residents' views with the Board.

Local Groups

- Foxhole Community Centre – existing group
- Great Parks Community Centre – existing group
- Collaton Parish Rooms – new group
 - First meeting: 13 August at 9am

JP and the Local Authority Team provide excellent support as our secretariat.

No structure is perfect, but I believe this one will allow information to move both up and down the system. If it does not work, we will change it.

Chair's Meetings

I have attended a number of meetings to learn more and help raise awareness of PPiP in both the local and wider community.

National and Regional Meetings Organised by MHCLG

I have attended several online meetings. Common topics included:

- How can we convince people that Pride in Place will be different from previous projects?
- The importance of working with local community, voluntary and charity groups.
- Board members attending community events whenever possible.

- Digital poverty and the need for good ways to communicate with residents.
- How to listen to disadvantaged groups, such as young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and older or less mobile residents.
- Whether Board Members are covered by public liability insurance (covered by the Local Authority).
- Challenges around buying goods and services because the Local Authority holds the budget while the Board makes decisions.
- A possible digital platform called MATIONNAIRE.
- The possible future appointment of a Programme Manager.
- The possibility that, once the Strategic Framework is complete, the Board will mainly be made up of residents.
- Chairs have been invited to attend a conference in London on 11 September. I will attend.

We can discuss any of these topics with Elizabeth at the next Board meeting.

Local Meetings

I have joined the Torbay Place Leadership Board and will attend Torbay Business Forum meetings.

I also plan to attend the Partnership Meeting at Great Parks on 29 July.

Meetings Planned

- Paignton Zoo on 10 August to discuss a possible family day for PPiP.
- Arts Council South West on 5 August.
- Active Devon in early August.
- A local network of Pride in Place Chairs. The first meeting took place on 27 July.

Ongoing Work

- JP, Matt Blay and I met on 20 July to discuss a digital strategy. Matt is working on ideas that should be ready for discussion on 6 August.
- Events are being planned for 28 August at Great Parks and for early September in Foxhole. These events will gather residents' views on PPiP priorities.
- The Paignton Zoo event will also be used for gathering feedback if it goes ahead.
- Children's Week has moved to Paignton Academy and will run for only two days. We need more information about this.

- A community engagement event at South Devon College has been suggested. More detail is needed before deciding if it can happen in August.
- I met with the Principal of Paignton Academy. A Board representative will be invited to the first School Council meeting in September to hear the views of young people in our area. The school needs the relevant postcodes.
- I expect a similar arrangement can be made with Kings Ash. Contact should also be made with Collaton Primary School in September.
- Collaton does not have the same community groups as Foxhole and Great Parks. Because of this, I met with Tracey Cabache from Torbay Communities to discuss carrying out local research so that Collaton residents' views are included in our engagement report.
- We have agreed a set of questions for our engagement survey. JP will explain more at the Board meeting.

Issues

Because we are working quickly and to tight deadlines, a number of issues have appeared.

Finance

There are questions about how financial decisions are made.

The Local Authority is responsible for making sure public money is spent correctly. The Board is responsible for making decisions that help deliver the Pride in Place mission.

Sometimes these responsibilities may clash because we need to act quickly. JP and I are working together to find a practical solution that protects public money while still allowing community action.

Spending on Community Events

I want our funding, whenever possible, to be spent within the local community and for the benefit of local people. I do not want work to be outsourced unnecessarily just to fit procurement rules that were not designed for projects like Pride in Place.

Communication

We are not yet communicating as well with residents as we need to. This is understandable because of the short timescales, but we must improve over the coming months.

Local Government Reorganisation

Changes to local government are likely to affect local discussions and planning for several years.

Conclusion

I would like to apologise for the length of this report. However, I think it is important that Board members have a full and up-to-date picture of what is happening. I promise future reports will be shorter.

Overall, I believe we have made a good start. However, we are not yet as far ahead with community engagement and planning as I had hoped when the Board first met.

Stephen Kings

27 July 2026