ein our Rhyl | BALCHDER BRO — CHI SY'N ARWAIN – GYDA CHEFNOGAETH LLYWODRAETH Y DU | PRIDE IN PLACE — LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Friday 19th June 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Date: Time: Location:	**Ein Rhyl / Our Rhyl Board** **Friday 19th June 2026** **3.00pm-5.00pm** **Rhyl Youth Centre**

Board Member Attendees:	Craig Sparrow, Chair		Gill German, MP		[Vacant,] MS	
	Cllr Jason McLellan		Cllr Barry Mellor		Nadeem Ahmed	
	Sue Nash		Julie Pierce		Emma Watling	
	Linzi Jones		Justin Bell		Leonie Wainwright	
	Jonathan Pico		Simon Keeting			
Advisory/ Support:	Peter James		Natalie Nolan		Tony Ward	
	Janine Downing		Martin Williams		Programme Support	
Invited:	Mike Jones					
Apologies:	Shown in red					

1.	**Welcome** **Apologies and Declaration of Interests** The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Apologies were provided as shown in red above. Introductions were made. There were no declarations of interest raised by those in attendance.	3.00pm 5 min
2.	**Minutes from 24th April 2026 Board Meeting** The minutes from the meeting held on 24th April 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were formally approved, having been proposed and seconded.	5 min

3.	**Rhyl Stakeholders Information** An update was provided regarding activity from the Town Council and Denbighshire County Council. It was noted that the Town Council is moving away from producing a traditional Town Plan and is instead undertaking a series of public engagement sessions over the summer/autumn period. The intention is to gather community views more effectively and to develop new Town Council priorities and strategic direction following this engagement. During discussion, members highlighted the importance of ensuring that the Our Rhyl Board, the Town Council and Denbighshire County Council work in a coordinated manner. It was acknowledged that a significant amount of engagement activity is already taking place, and there is a risk of duplication if this is not aligned. Members also highlighted the challenge that the public often does not distinguish between the different organisations, instead viewing them collectively as “the Council”. This lack of distinction contributes to confusion and can negatively affect trust. The Board discussed the importance of ensuring the whole community understands that the Our Rhyl Board is independent and separate to either Council. The Board recognised that there is currently a level of community scepticism and negativity, and that repeated engagement exercises without visible outcomes could lead to engagement fatigue. It was therefore agreed that clearer communication and a more joined-up approach across all partners will be essential going forward. The Board was reminded that the Pride in Place programme is about people, place and power sharing where everything is brought together for the benefit of the place. The engagement through the summer is about listening to the people of Rhyl, especially those who are not or are less heard, to understand their frustrations and concerns and to develop a 10-year vision. It was acknowledged that there are ultimately the same golden threads for all organisations and that Our Rhyl will have to work with others – such as the Council, businesses, other organisations – to deliver the improvements that people want. An update was then provided by Denbighshire County Council on the town centre public realm and promenade projects. These projects are being funded by the Local Regeneration Fund (LRF), which was formerly known as the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).	20 min

	The overall project value is approximately £11.3 million, with the current construction estimate at £10.7 million plus contingency. A funding gap of approximately £710,000 has been identified and is subject to a funding bid from the Local Growth Fund (LGF). The projects are focused on improving connectivity between the beach and the town centre, enhancing the quality of the public realm, and ensuring accessibility through inclusive design principles. It was explained that the designs have been “audited” by various organisations such as the disability forum, Age Connects, Social Care and Homeless and the Rehabilitation teams as well as North Wales Police Officers. Visual representation was shared and the Board were informed that there is a public consultation event on this project on 1st July at Queens Market, with online engagement running from 1st to 17th July. Construction is anticipated to start around March 2027 and complete around November 2027. An update was also provided on the pocket park scheme, which has a budget of approximately £900,000 from the Local Regeneration Fund (LRF). Planning and drainage approvals have been secured, and preparatory work, including pest control, is underway. Demolition is expected to commence in autumn 2026 with a target completion date of Summer 2027. It was emphasised that these projects are led by Denbighshire County Council and are not directly controlled by the Board. The role of the Board is to remain informed of these projects across Rhyl.	
4.	Engagement Update Board Members to update on: 1. Engagement progress 2. Board Participation 3. Evolving Ideas The Board received an update on ongoing engagement activity. Members confirmed that engagement is taking place through a combination of MP-led surveying, informal conversations, attendance at local events, and the use of tools such as QR codes and written feedback. It was noted that the emphasis of the current phase is on listening to residents, with a focus on gathering meaningful insights from conversations. Board members discussed their experiences of engagement to date and observed that more effective conversations tend to occur in informal and relaxed environments, such as community events, rather than formal settings. Whilst the programme encourages sporadic and smaller informal engagement conversations, several	30 min

members expressed concern that this engagement approach is too broad and risks inconsistent messaging, which can make it difficult to confidently communicate the purpose of the Board or respond to complex questions from the public.

It was reported by some members that feedback from residents reflects ongoing frustration and concern about issues in Rhyl, as well as confusion about the Board’s role in addressing them. Members acknowledged that residents often raise issues that sit outside the Board’s remit, particularly those relating to existing council-led projects.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring that community engagement leads to visible outcomes. It was recognised that maintaining ongoing communication with residents, including feeding back what has been heard and what will happen next, will be critical to sustaining trust and participation.

There was also discussion about managing expectations. It was agreed that the Board cannot address every issue raised by the public and does not replace the role of the Council. Instead, the Board’s role is to capture community views, influence priorities, and add value where possible. Clear messaging will be required to ensure that residents understand this distinction.

The Board agreed that engagement should continue to focus not only on challenges but also on identifying the strengths and assets of Rhyl, as this will help to build a more balanced and positive narrative. It was also emphasised that the quality of engagement is more important than the quantity, and that building trust and momentum over time is a key objective.

All engagement data, regardless of format, is to be shared with the Programme Manager for collation. This includes responses gathered through QR codes, written notes, photographs, and informal records of conversations. The data will be analysed and used to inform a submission to UK Government, which is required before the programme can move fully into delivery.

It was confirmed that the current engagement phase will continue through the summer, with the intention of concluding by the end of August 2026. The expectation is that delivery activity could begin in the latter part of this year, subject to Government approval.

Themes emerging from the engagement to date were shared and reflect the importance of the beach and natural environment and the strength of community. Posters will continue to be shared across

	town for further engagement input. The Board agreed to join the August Bank Holiday activities at the Miniature Railway, potentially the Rhyl Park Run and to continue engaging with young people through Board connections with partner organisations across Rhyl. **ACTIONS:** The Board also agreed on a number of actions: -Update the shared engagement calendar, -Explore the development of a directory of local groups and community assets, -Maintain regular feedback to the community on progress, -Explore the establishment of a network of community champions as supporters of the ongoing programme activity.	
5.	Feedback & Progression 1. Chair's Network Event 2. A Developing & Evolving Board The Chair informed the Board that he and Gill German, MP had attended a Chair's Networking Event for all Pride in Place locations. The event was for phase 1 and phase 2 locations, with a reminder that phase 1 and phase 2 of this programme are very different. Phase 1 places, which includes Rhyl, are based on the whole town whereas phase 2 locations cover a much smaller area. Additionally, there is a different split of capital and revenue funding, with phase 1 places receiving a higher % of capital funding than phase 2 places. The event was positive with shared learning and experiences from across the UK. DVSC explained that Board support and development is very important especially in preparation for a future scenario where the Board becomes its own standalone entity. Information was shared where DVSC could provide support and development for the Board in areas such as roles, behaviours, managing conflicts of interest, how to manage in a public facing role, a handbook, evolving governance towards becoming its own entity, communications and supporting leadership. It was explained that the areas of support could be delivered over time and in conjunction with the evolvement of the programme. **ACTION:** to develop a Board support programme and associated costings It was also shared that MHCLG are developing their Board forum which is aimed at providing further information that can support Board Members on this journey.	30 min

6.	Programme Updates The Board were informed that the Heritage Lottery Fund had presented to the phase 1 Wales places. The Fund could provide match funding opportunities if projects are in line with their 4 investment principles of saving heritage, protecting the environment, inclusion and access and participation. A learning event will be held in Cardiff in September focusing on shared learning, challenges, goals and collaborations. Building Communities Trust are the event organisers on behalf of MHCLG and Board Members will be invited to attend. MHCLG are continuing with their wider programme forum and most recently this covered the importance of asset mapping and role it has in ongoing engagement. Board Members acknowledged this and to explore it further. **ACTION:** to explore and plan for an asset mapping project.	15 min
7.	Summary of Ongoing Finances The ongoing financial position was presented to the Board in line with the MHCLG provided categories. Spending in the current financial year has covered ongoing staffing, communications and website maintenance/support. No other spending was reported. See Appendix A: Ongoing Financials	5 min
8.	AOB Under any other business, members discussed reviewing the website, establishing a central shared location for documentation and discussing digital communication. **ACTIONS:** -Improve/enhance the Our Rhyl website, -Establish a central location for documentation sharing, -Improvements to digital communication.	5 min
9.	Date of next meeting: Hybrid Update Meeting on 24 July 2026, 3-5pm The Chair thanked all attendees for their contributions and formally closed the meeting at 5.20pm. Meeting Close	5.00pm

Appendix A: Ongoing Financials

April-May 2026 Capacity Spending (Reporting Relating to the Financial Year 2026/27)			
MHCLG Category	£	Notes	Frequency
Training - ongoing	0	Board training under preparation - **costs to be provided**	Periodic
Management costs - ongoing	8324.46	Includes staff, comms & website support costs	Ongoing
Consultancy - concluded	0	N/A	N/A
Community outreach and engagement - ongoing	0	Engagement preparation underway - costs will arise	Ongoing
Other - as required	0	Stationery related items to support ongoing engagement	Periodic

Capacity Funding provided by MHCLG	**600,000.00**
Capacity Funding spent 2024-2026	**227,168.65**
Capacity Funding spent Apr-May 2026 (FY 2026/27)	**8,324.46**
Remaining Capacity Funding for ongoing/periodic costs	**364,506.89**

NB:

Staffing costs will increase with additional new hires

Community engagement is an ongoing requirement of the programme and costs will incur as required

Costs will arise from the Board training programme and other ancillary costs such as stationery, room bookings etc

Once the capacity funding has been spent, all Board related costs will need to be funded from the revenue portion of the delivery funding