

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Ein Rhyl / Our Rhyl Board

Friday 18th September 2026

3.00pm-5.00pm

Rhyl Youth Centre

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

1.	Welcome Apologies and Declaration of Interests Introductions were made. No Declarations of interest were made.	Chair	3.00pm 5 min
2.	Minutes from 24th July 2026 Board Meeting The Board noted thanks to the Vice-Chair for chairing the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2026 were approved.	Chair	5 min
3.	Chair's Update The Board was updated on political changes within Denbighshire County Council, following which the Local Authority Lead Member position on the Board had become	Chair	10 min

	vacant. It was explained that the programme guidance has changed since the Lead Member role was originally included. Now the Pride in Place guidance requires at least one ward Councillor representative, and therefore the Board may choose whether to retain the Local Authority Lead Member position. The Board were also reminded that a vacancy remains for a young person representative and the MS role also remains vacant, which is a separate matter and will be discussed later in the meeting. Members considered the benefits and risks of removing the Lead Member Board role. Discussion included the importance of maintaining the Board's community-led character, avoiding undue political influence, ensuring appropriate links with the Council, maintaining effective working relationships, and establishing a consistent precedent for future changes. Councillor elections in May 2027 were also mentioned. It was noted that the closest like-for-like replacement would be the Cabinet Member holding the Rhyl regeneration portfolio and that any new member would require a clear induction and explanation of their role. Decision: The Board voted unanimously to retain and replace (ie closest like-for-like replacement) the Local Authority Lead Member position. Action: Tony Ward to discuss Board membership with the Cabinet Member holding the comparable portfolio and arrange an appropriate induction. The Board also considered expressions of interest from Brighter Futures and two individuals wishing to join the Board. Members agreed that the Board is currently of sufficient size and that no additional Board positions should be created at this stage. Interested organisations or individuals could instead be invited to join the action groups once established and, where the Board feel relevant, could be asked to present to the Board. It was noted that responses to all EOIs should clearly explain the Board's governance and membership arrangements. Decision: The Board unanimously agreed that no new Board positions are to be created at this time. The Chair noted for the record that travel and accommodation costs associated with their attendance at the recent Pride in Place Chairs' meeting in London had been met personally. The		
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	discussion highlighted the need for a clear subsistence and expenses policy for future Board-related activity, and it was noted that the Chair is entitled to claim for those costs and is not required to fund them personally. Action: To create a subsistence and expenses policy.		
4.	Rhyl Stakeholders Information – Denbighshire County Council (DCC), Rhyl Town Council (RTC) The Board received an update on DCC’s consultation relating to the Children’s Village proposals. There had been 77 responses, with 42 supportive of the need to clear and improve the area and 15 strongly opposed to the proposals. The remaining 20 responses were not relevant to the proposals. Two online petitions had also been established (largely based on a desire for a free-to-use water attraction), but an email was provided by the petition organiser the day after the public consultation event which supported the Children’s Village proposals whilst still highlighting the local desire for a free-to-use water attraction. Community interest in future water-based or family attractions were noted, while recognising that the Children’s Village site may not be suitable for such proposals. It was also discussed that any proposal for such an attraction would require time to develop, a wider stakeholder discussion and consideration of how it would be maintained. It was noted that there is nothing preventing the discussions from taking place in relation to alternative locations for such an attraction. The Children’s Village proposals are expected to proceed to DCC’s Cabinet in October. The Board also discussed the importance of considering antisocial behaviour, long-term maintenance and management requirements in the design of public realm and green infrastructure projects. Members requested clearer visual material of the Children’s Village proposals. Action: Further visuals of the Children’s Village proposals to be brought to the next Board meeting. An update was also provided on Rhyl Town Council's recent 'Big Conversation' engagement. The engagement has now closed, and feedback has been reviewed and developed into a plan. Further discussion will take place with the Town Council to	DCC	20 min

	share plans, avoid duplication and identify opportunities for joint working.		
5.	Approval: Plan Vision, Outcomes, Objectives and the 4-year Investment Plan Following the Spring/Summer engagement, it was explained that the feedback from the community had been gathered and analysed in conjunction with feedback shared from external parties as well as from the 2025 engagement. The messaging consistency from across all datasets analysed was overwhelmingly strong and had been translated into the 10-year Vision for change, the programme outcomes and objectives and the initial starting actions, all of which had been documented and evidenced in revised sections of the Our Rhyl Plan. The engagement evidence, vision, outcomes, objectives and actions were explained to the Board to demonstrate that the revised Plan was firmly rooted in the community needs and wants from across all analysed Rhyl datasets. It was also demonstrated that the Our Rhyl programme is aligned to the Pride in Place themes and interventions, which provides the framework for the funding. The Board considered the proposed new sections of the Plan, including its vision, outcomes, objectives and four-year investment plan, which contain the initial actions. Members recognised the breadth and complexity of the issues identified through the programme and the importance of using the Board as a platform to bring partners and other programmes together around delivery. Discussion also considered whether, subject to the appropriate governance and constitutional arrangements, the Board could take a more active role in directly delivering, for example, events in the future. Decision: The Plan vision, outcomes, objectives and four-year investment plan were approved unanimously. Action: The remaining sections of the Plan will be redrafted and then shared with the Board.	Prog Mgr	40 min
6.	Continued Engagement Ideas The Board reaffirmed that regular community engagement will be essential throughout the 10-year programme. It was explained that it will be important to report the engagement	All	20 min

	findings back to the Rhyl community transparently, including through a short and accessible version of the Plan, publication of anonymised data on the website (subject to necessary approvals) and to find more engaging ways of communicating results. Ideas and suggestions for ongoing community engagement from all Members were welcomed. A proposal was then presented for Our Rhyl to participate in a high-profile music event on the Thursday preceding The Gathering festival in January. The concept was intended to support continued community engagement, create opportunities for young people to participate in the event production, performance and filming of the high-profile event, generate footfall, strengthen Rhyl's music and events offer and provide a potential platform for wider promotion of the town. A battle of the band's opportunity for young people, working in conjunction with schools and youth groups in Rhyl, could also be part of the event with competitions etc and an opportunity to work with other organisations and strengthen opportunities for Rhyl's young people. It was also explained that it could be an interesting way to raise the profile of Our Rhyl with young people and a route to filling the young person Board Member vacancy. It was explained that Rhyl Town Council had agreed to provide support, and the Board were asked to consider whether Our Rhyl would also like to provide support (a contribution of £15,000 was suggested) and to be involved, particularly around engagement and opportunities for young people. Although Gill German, MP was not present at the meeting, a short statement was shared in her absence outlining this to be an excellent opportunity particularly for young people to be involved in such a high-profile event and to connect with Our Rhyl. It also provides an exciting way to continue engaging with Rhyl residents and an opportunity to feedback our progress so far. Members welcomed the proposal and the commitment from Rhyl town Council. It was acknowledged that the proposal has the potential to raise Rhyl's profile, deliver footfall, create opportunities for young people and build on an established music event. However, concerns were raised about value for money, the proportion of the programme budget involved, the limited capacity of a ticketed event to reach the wider Rhyl community, accessibility for residents on low incomes, and whether equivalent funding could achieve broader participation through other smaller events. Members also discussed whether benefits could be strengthened through local ticket offers,		
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	linked community activity or charitable contributions, all of which were potential options. Members also discussed other towns across the region having their own unique selling points and this could be how Rhyl differentiates itself regionally, and in that context, the funding amount is small compared to the catalyst it could potentially create for repeat and growth in events activity and its contribution towards town centre revitalisation. On balance, the majority considered that the proposal, in its current form and at this stage of the programme, did not demonstrate sufficient direct and inclusive benefit to Rhyl residents to justify the proposed commitment. Decision: The proposal was not supported.		
7.	Staffing Update Julie Pierce left the meeting. The Board received a brief update and noted that the staffing arrangements were close to being advertised.	DCC	10 min
8.	Programme Updates The Board considered the vacant Member of the Senedd (MS) representative Board position in line with the revised Pride in Place Programme (PIP) guidance provided by UK Government. Decision: The Board unanimously agreed to remove the MS position from the Board structure given the change in UK Government guidance. Action: To set up the alternative MS information process as per the PIP guidance. The Board were also informed about other PIP guidance changes, which were not substantive policy changes, but minor changes including safeguarding, social media and assets. The Board were informed that a subsidy control webinar had taken place, which is important legal consideration in the provision of funding. The Wales Networking event is occurring on 24th September in Cardiff with 3 Board Members and 1 Advisor attending. Emma Watling left the meeting.	Prog Mgr	5 min

9.	AOB There was no other business.	Chair	5 min
10.	Date of next meeting: In-Person Meeting 23 rd October 2026, 3-5pm Apologies for the late finish of the meeting were provided. Meeting Close		5.24pm

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