

Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board Meeting Notes
Coatbridge Summerlee Museum
Friday 24th April 2026

Attendees: Gavin Whitefield, Christopher Moore, Cllr. Geraldine Woods, Gwen McIntyre, David Connor, David Woods, Grant Johnston, Martine Tumilty, Margaret Cumming, Frank McNally MP.

Virtual: Cllr. Allan Stubbs.

Apologies: Willie McBride, Fulton MacGregor

Observers: Kirsty Gray, Melissa McGarey, Greg Telfer, Jonathan MacVicar and Heather Liddle (all North Lanarkshire Council).

Item	Summary	Actions
1	<p>Introduction and Welcome</p> <p>GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an introduction to the new board members and NLC support staff joining the meeting.</p>	All Points Noted
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting/ Issues arising</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting as circulated were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Cllr Allan Stubbs requested an update on contact with Albion Rovers and the next steps. GW advised that an update would be provided as part of Agenda Item 5. <i>It is noted that this item relates to a proposed community grant programme to support groups to develop robust funding bids for project ideas.</i></p> <p>Cllr Allan Stubbs requested an update on contact by NLC officers with the Airdrie and Coatbridge Harriers. KG advised that contact had been made with a member of the group and it was aimed to meet with him over the next couple of weeks.</p>	All Points Noted
3	<p>UK Government Update Report</p> <p>Updates were provided as fully detailed within the report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of the Coatbridge Regeneration Plan and initial 4-year Investment Plan by the UK Government over the period, and subsequent issue of a Memorandum of Understanding for the first 4-year investment period, which will see £6.6M of funding allocated to Coatbridge. This will enable the delivery period to commence from April 2026. • Networking events held by the UK Government over the period and attended by Frank McNally MP and members of the NLC project team. • Findings from recent UK Government polling data, conducted UK wide across Pride in Place areas with a small sample size in each place and recommendations which will be incorporated into a communications plan for the board. 	All Points Noted

	at the Time Capsule for funding through the 2026/27 Pride in Place capital funding allocation for Coatbridge.	
5	<p>Delivery Plan Year 1 – Community Grant Proposal</p> <p>MM presented a proposal for a community grant fund titled the ‘Project Catalyst Fund’ to the board for consideration and endorsement.</p> <p>As outlined within the report, the proposal is to combine revenue funding across two community grant initiative headings in Year 1 of the Investment Plan, to maximise the number of groups who can be supported through the proposed Project Catalyst Fund this year and in recognition that there is Capacity Funding available this year to support community activity and events.</p> <p>The community grant fund proposal is an enabling intervention, to support local groups to develop strong funding bids for capital investment projects for community spaces and facilities and to help develop a pipeline of community-led Pride in Place regeneration projects in Coatbridge. The report also detailed that discussions were planned with VANL on support they may be able to provide for finalising the grant proposal and administration.</p> <p>A discussion was held with board members generally in support of the grant fund proposal. It was clarified that this grant fund would be separate to another community grant fund which will be launched with the Capacity Funding budget, which will provide support for local groups to run activities, events and programmes. It was agreed that the NLC project team would carry out further work on the grant assessment and threshold criteria and present a final proposal for approval at the next board meeting, including managing expectations.</p>	<p>All Points Noted</p> <p>Action NLC – MM</p>
6.	<p>Progress Update Report – Capacity Funding</p> <p>KG presented the regular progress update report on the delivery of capacity funding activities and initiatives. Key updates and priorities for the upcoming period were highlighted and a finance update provided.</p> <p>Updates presented included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a temporary Project Officer and 3no. temporary Support Workers to deliver the Youth Engagement Strategy work and the intention for an action plan to be developed and presented to the board in June; • Completion of the New College Lanarkshire (Coatbridge College) Living Laboratory engagement project with outcome report to be circulated to the board. <p>A proposal for the board’s consideration and endorsement was also presented, to reallocate Capacity Budget funding allocated to support the</p>	<p>All points Noted</p> <p>Action – NLC – (CLD)</p> <p>Action NLC – KG</p>

	<p>Monklands Canal Festival this year to support an expansion of the ‘Our Coatbridge’ schools engagement project, focussing on Main Street. This is following feedback from the Friends of Monklands Canal that they don’t intend to run the festival this year. This would enable the following additional project elements to be delivered this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Secondary Schools on both redesign of the Coatbridge Shopping Centre branding and signage, working with the shopping centre owners, and of artwork for vacant shop unit windows and temporary hoarding boards for gaps sites in the town centre. • Creation of a film short documenting the project and what happens next in the process (following completion of the school workshops and design selection processes) until the artwork outputs and signage are installed on site, for sharing with pupils who took part in the workshop and also accessible to the public using a QR code. • Autumn Outreach Drama project to bring schools together in cluster groups for afterschool drama sessions. This would enable pupils to explore creatively together to delve deeper into the Pride in Place themes and celebrate the achievements so far of the project in Coatbridge. There is also an opportunity through this strand to partner with New College Lanarkshire and work with performing arts students to offer placement opportunities for up to 10 students to assist on the drama project and provide hands on experience of workshop delivery. <p>The recommendations within the report to endorse the proposal to reallocate £12,000 of capacity funding budget from the Monklands Canal Festival, which will not run this year, to support expansion of the ‘Our Coatbridge’ arts led school engagement project focussing on Main Street was agreed by the board:</p>	
7.	<p>Spring Clean Up-Event</p> <p>Cllr Geraldine Woods and JM provided a verbal update on the planned activities for the Spring Clean-up event, which will take place on Sunday 26th April.</p> <p>Board members were encouraged to support the event.</p>	All points Noted
8.	<p>Scotland Loves Local Report</p> <p>JM proposed to enhance this year’s national ‘Scotland Loves Local Campaign’ by spotlighting more than one retailer, bringing in local buskers and displaying promotional lamppost banners.</p> <p>The board were provided mock-ups for the lamppost banners, selecting option 1 as the agreed design.</p>	Action:

	<p>During discussion, it was recommended that the lampposts used to display the banners include those on main approach routes to the town. Board members agreed.</p> <p>The campaign proposal and event were agreed by the board.</p>	NLC - JM
9.	<p>New Board Logo and Website</p> <p>JM highlighted the work completed by New College Lanarkshire on the new board logo, with a final version now created taking into account feedback from the board at the last meeting. An update on development of a new website for the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board was also provided.</p> <p>The DRAFT website will be circulated to the board for comment once available.</p> <p>The progress update was noted by the board.</p>	<p>All points noted.</p> <p>Action NLC – JM</p>
10	<p>UK Government Monitoring Return Report</p> <p>KG presented a report detailing the process and requirements of the UK Government for the first Phase 1 Pride in Place area monitoring return submission in April 2026, which includes Coatbridge.</p> <p>The submission of monitoring returns in accordance with UK Government timescales is a requirement of the Pride in Place funding award conditions. North Lanarkshire Council, as the Accountable Body for the funding, is responsible for completing and submitting the monitoring return, following agreement by the Coatbridge Neighbourhood Board. The monitoring return information was provided in full at Appendix 1 to the report and will be uploaded to the NLC website once agreed by the board and submitted to the UK Government.</p> <p>The board agreed to submission of the monitoring return as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report by North Lanarkshire Council, as the Accountable Body for the Pride In Place funding by 30 April 2026.</p>	<p>All points noted.</p> <p>NLC – KG</p>
11.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Deaf Services Lanarkshire</p> <p>KG highlighted that an initial meeting had been held with Deaf Services Lanarkshire, following their approach to Frank McNally MP for information on the Pride in Place Programme, to discuss their aspirations for a new facility at Shawhead.</p> <p>It was discussed with the group that, subject to board approval, it was planned to launch a community grants programme this year which would support groups to develop proposals for capital projects to 'funding ready' stage. NLC will provide a further update to the group.</p> <p><i>Date of Next Meeting: Friday 19th June. 10:00 - 12:00</i></p>	<p>NLC – MM</p>