



Pride in Place Information Session & Workshop with Marketplace

Central Hall, Hastings

22nd May 2026

Tracy Dighton (HCN Chair) opened the session welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.

On the day there were 43 attendees from 32 local organisations

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Julie	Abson	Sussex Community Development Association
Christopher	Anderson	Hollington Grows Together
Su	Barnicoat	HVA
Kim	Batty	HEART
Kevin	Boorman	Pride in Place HBC
Josh	Broadway	Pride in Place HBC
Sherry	Clark	Transition Town Hastings
Sophie	Craddock	Citizens Advice
Jim	Currell	ECR Foundation
Debi	Daly	Save The Convent
Mary	Dawson	Church Wood Community Orchard
Tracy	Dighton	CAB1066
Helena	Dollimore	HBC
Carolina	Downey de Oliveira	A Fairer Society
Jane	Dye	FSN
Ryan	Edwards	Active Sussex
Sharon	English	Orbit
Andra-viorela	Georgescu	Hastings Borough Council
Giles	Hart	
Simon	Hubbard	HVA
Laurelle	Hughes	Barefoot Opera
Dan	Hutton	Hastings Theatre Project

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Zoe	Jackson	EFT
Koah	Joseph	One You East Sussex
Angelica	McMillan	FSN
Judith	Monk BEM	Hastings & Rother YMCA
Didier	Montillaud	Hastings & Bexhill Parkinson's Hub
Rod	Morry	ExploreTheArch
Stephen	Mowat	naturebytes
David	Perry	Seaview Project
Shelley	Pletsch	Groundwork South
Claire	Power	Ageing Network
June	Pratley	WHDCA
Kiki	Prince	Association of Carers
Stuart	Reid	UOK East Sussex
Poppy	Rowley	HTP
Mary	Soul	Little Gate Farm
Gary	Storer	Orbit Housing Group
Mark	Townsend	Care for the Carers
Lorraine	Turvey	One You East Sussex
Jordan	Vibert	Pride in Place
Louise	Vladi	Association of Carers
John	Whittington	Safer Hastings Partnership

Tracy then introduced Helena Dollimore MP who gave a presentation showing where the Pride in Place money will be spent in Hastings



Helena then answered some questions from the attendees.

Tracy then introduced Kevin Boorman, Chair of the Hastings Neighbourhood Board who was supported by Josh Broadway, Pride in Place Programme Manager, to give a presentation about the work of the Neighbourhood Board.



To follow Kevins presentation, he and Josh led a Q&A session with the attendees

Following the Q&A session, there was an opportunity for people to look at the Marketplace tables and network with each other. There were 15 tables with information about local organisations and services.

SCDA
Hollington Grows Together
HVA
Transition Town Hastings
CAB
ECR Foundation
Church Road Community Orchard
A Fairer Society
FSN
Active Sussex
YMCA
naturebytes
Seaview Project
UOK East Sussex
One You East Sussex

The second part of the event divided the attendees into four groups with flip charts and Post Its to take part in four Workshops to discuss and give their views on the following subjects:

Removing Barriers (understanding) access challenges and how to reach grassroots groups

- What makes it difficult for smaller or informal groups to access funding or support?
- Where do you usually hear about funding opportunities?
- What kinds of application processes feel most challenging or off-putting?
- How can funders better reach groups that are already making a difference but may not be visible?
- What support would make applying for funding easier (e.g. help with forms, language, digital access, timelines)?
- Are there groups in your community doing great work who are currently excluded from funding? Why?
- How can we reduce duplication and make funding processes more inclusive and accessible?

Partnerships (collaboration and joint working)

- What would help you connect with other groups doing similar or complementary work?
- What prevents organisations from applying for funding jointly?
- What support would help you feel confident forming partnerships (e.g. facilitation, networking events, shared platforms)?
- How can funders encourage meaningful collaboration rather than competition?
- What kinds of partnerships would have the biggest impact in Hastings?
- What role could larger organisations play in supporting smaller grassroots groups?

Prioritisation (local priorities and needs)

- What are the most urgent issues affecting our community right now?
- Which groups or neighbourhoods should be prioritised for investment—and why?
- Where do you feel current funding or support is missing the mark?
- How should we balance immediate needs (e.g. crisis support) with long-term change?
- If you could direct funding to one thing only, what would it be and why?

Maximising Impact (learning from past programmes and improving outcomes)

- What has worked well in previous funding or regeneration programmes—and what hasn't?
- Can you share examples where funding made a real difference? What enabled that success?
- Where have programmes failed to reach the people who needed them most?
- How can we better measure success beyond numbers (e.g. lived experience, community wellbeing)?
- What would “real impact” look like for your community in 2–5 years?

The Workshops threw up many interesting discussions, which were fed back to the room:

WORKSHOP 1

Prioritisation

NE Hastings already has Hollington, Ore, St Leonards. Go back to where previous investment has been made; what has worked well or has not.

Funding

- Websites, advertising
- Creative lives
- CAB
- Local trusts/charities (Jack in the Green, Library, Post Office, Notice boards, Rotary Club/Lions, HVA & RVA).

Barriers

- Put out there the simplicity of the application.
- Anyone being able to do it (Making it Happen)
- Video/audio applications
- Umbrella Sussex
- Avoid fees implications
- Facilitate information sessions
- Have pathways
- Clear questions
- Ask Google

Reaching

- Groups
- Groundworks – community engagement
- Parking space – can provide parking to facilitate engagement
- ESCC Youth Team
- Xtrax
- Active Hastings
- Schools outreach
- Fire-works
- Facebook groups in the community
- Churches – groups, community cafes
- Use free papers with contact details
- Different languages/accessibility

Partnerships

- Social media
- PiP Apprentices
- Applications bringing organisations together.

Maximising Impact

- Go to communities
- Attend sessions
- Make contact
- Visit Community Centres
- Detached Youth Worker

- Reach the elderly – go on buses and ask questions
- ‘Pop-Up’ rooms in public spaces e.g. supermarkets
- ‘Public Living Rooms’ e.g. Hastings Commons
- Open communal spaces
- Service users – involve
- Use food/drinks like Housing Associations

WORKSHOP 2

Prioritisation

- Pride in Place to look at balancing based on priority
- Application needs to ask the question; immediate/sustainability
- Not mandatory
- Say can support
- Tick boxes to streamline
- Immediate community partnership
- Footpath; solve the problem, training in this, solution focussed
- Keep Hastings Tidy signs on bins
- Involve local people/those affected/participation
- Help with using the funding

Removing Barriers

- Transport e.g. bus prices, go to the people
- Digital exclusion – letters, leafleting, pop-up stands, word of mouth, take time for conversations, resources to help
- Engaging young people – listening, role models
- Information for groups/organisations about ongoing action/projects – events to share ideas and promote collaboration, using the ambassadors, ‘Collaboration Clinics’
- Work up from the neighbourhood level
- Place based and thematic groupings
- Insurance – a barrier to smaller groups

WORKSHOP 3

Difficulties for smaller charities accessing funding:

- Lack of a bank account
- Need flexible application process
- Digital exclusion
- Lack of better reporting; better mechanism
- Have a sponsor when no bank account
- Guarantor – HVA?

Where to hear about funding:

- ESCC Funding News
- Partnerships
- HBA Ebulletin
- Warm Welcome Space email
- Socials

What kinds of application processes feel challenging?

- 2 or 3 years accounts needed
- Time consuming/long application/many stages
- Online (have the ability to print off)

How can funders better reach groups that are making a difference but are not visible?

- Incentivise organisations to suggest groups
- Speak to users of other organisations

What Support?

- Learning disability – scribe, simple questions
- Access to computer (Library)
- English is second language – interpreter
- Printer, audible

Excluded from funding:

- Minimise paperwork
- Need to trust
- Encourage groups to try

WORKSHOP 4

Maximising Impact

Three key points:

- Scepticism/based on past experience – more optimism
- Simplify things
- Sustained improvement

Prioritisation

- Restoration/transformation of buildings and public realm
- Sustainable interventions over long term
- Buildings to improve community health
- Take the long view

Barriers

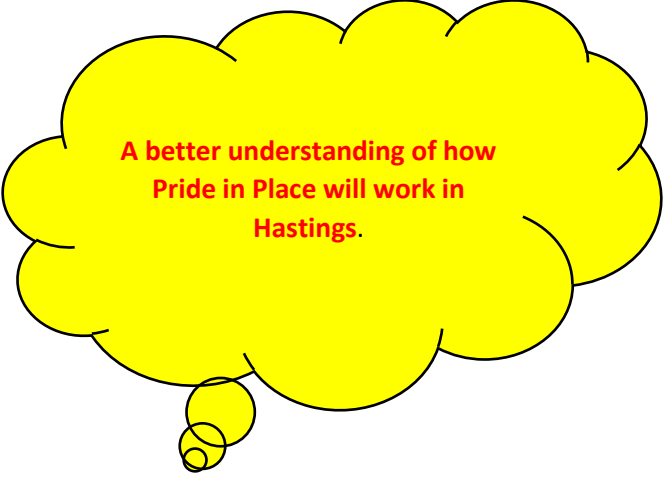
- PiP Comms – Continuous communication to keep all in the loop
- Stop speaking in acronyms
- Raising awareness and relevance of PiP for more people from more diverse backgrounds
- People don't have time, capacity or knowledge for bid writing.
- Simplify the application process
- ABCD approach
- Large statutory organisations need culture change
- Multiple organisations competing (collective impact framework)
- Set up a buddy system matching experienced organisations/people with those needing help, knowledge transfer partnerships, skill sharing

Participatory Budgeting

- Julia Hilton
- PB Group
- Lucy Abbott
- Sarah Macbeth
- Sherry Clark

After the Workshops there was time for people to have more networking time before Dave Perry (Chief Officer, Seaview Project) closed the event, thanking everyone for their time and input.

Feedback from the attendees after the event showed that the information given in the presentations was useful and appreciated



**A better understanding of how
Pride in Place will work in
Hastings.**



**A range of information
about the funding
available. Great group
session discussing
collaboration instead of
completion.**



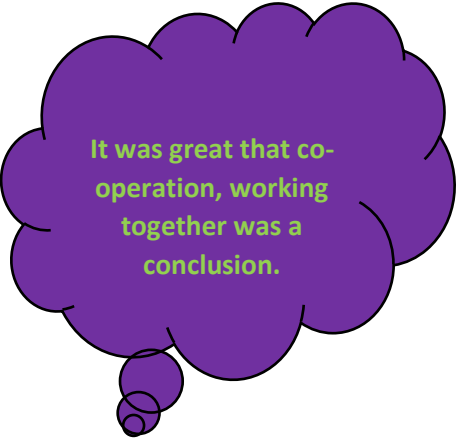
**Very interesting
and gained a lot of
knowledge about
the funding of
Pride in Place**



**Sharing ideas and
hearing others. Felt
that ideas were
listened to and
engaged with**



**Great to hear
about
collaborative
spirit and aims.**



**It was great that co-
operation, working
together was a
conclusion.**



**I found it all useful. It
was great to hear from
the Board and
understand better;
excellent presentation.
Networking
opportunities**



**Great opportunity to
meet other
organisations and see
how we are working
towards the same goals
for our community.**