

Alton Community Panel Meeting Notes

Meeting 4 – 15 Jul 2025



Main aim of meeting: Collaboratively develop a forward plan for the next six months of Panel meetings.

Panel members: Albert Balogun, Sandra Claringbould, Asma Choudhry, Tatiana Dobрева, Charles Einloth, Amanuel Gebrekidan, Nusrat Mahmood, George Mills, Cameron Qali, Jane Pavitt, Jo Playford, Angus Robertson.

Plus, apologies from: Nasharn Johns, Orleen McIntosh.

Others at meeting: Kate Batchelor (Programme Manager), Jo Baxter (Community Engagement & Cultural Coordinator), Charlotte Rowlands (Project Assistant) and Anna Singleton (Head of Alton Regeneration) of the Alton Renewal Team, plus Third Party Chair Daisy Froud.

A. Follow up on Meeting 3 actions and other ARP Team and Chair updates.

- Alternative venues.** Jo had looked into other possible locations but can't find a better option. However the Sheltered Housing Officer will improve the current space by removing surplus furniture and enhancing the lighting to make it more usable and welcoming.
- Planning training/skill-up session.** Booked for Mon 29 July, 4.00 to 6.00pm.
- Mini-feedback report from the post Meeting 2 survey on ballot comms imagery.** Daisy had prepared a report for the Panel capturing their advice and preferences.
- Daisy reassured Panel members that she is 'tracking' all Panel feedback:** where that goes within the Council or project processes, and how it is acted on. We don't want to overload people with information, but this tracker (*right*) can be shared with Panel members if / when they find it useful.

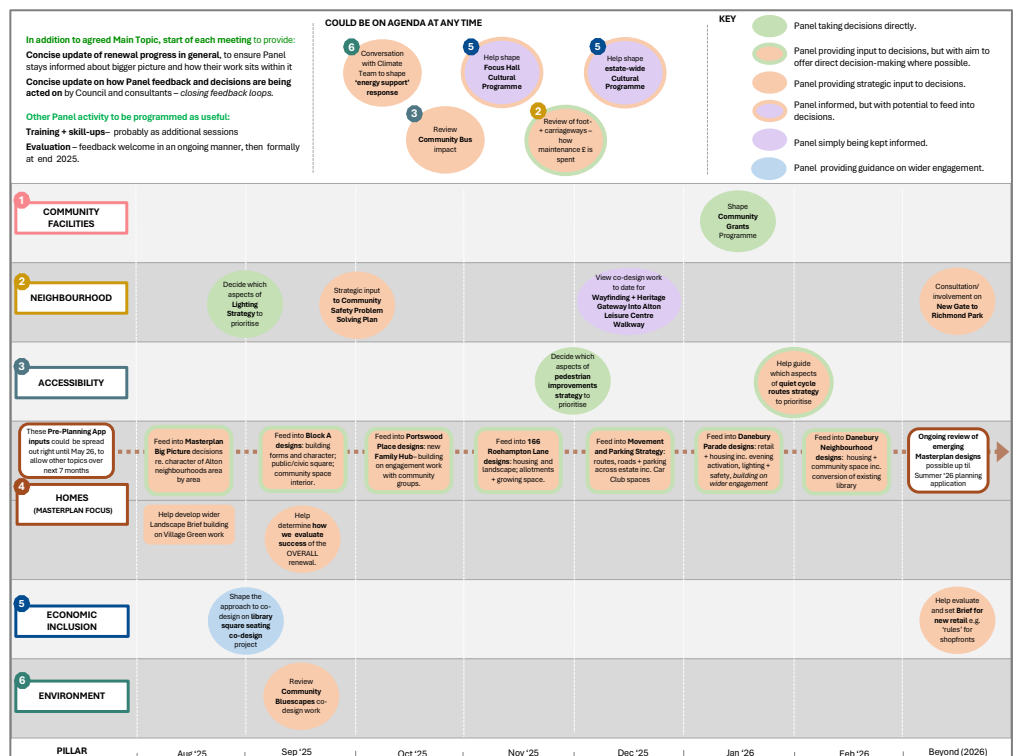
Item	What's Status?	Progress	How acted on/next steps
1. Feedback on the new design for the bus stop	Panel members have provided feedback on the design of the bus stop.	Design team has reviewed feedback and is working on finalising the design.	Design team to provide final design to Council for approval.
2. Review of the new design for the bus stop	Panel members have provided feedback on the design of the bus stop.	Design team has reviewed feedback and is working on finalising the design.	Design team to provide final design to Council for approval.
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B. Developing an August 2025 to January 2026 meeting programme

- We talked through the diagram below together** - also issued in advance.

This sets out possible discussion topics, month-by-month, aligned with the point in the renewal programme when there is the greatest potential for meaningful Panel influence.

- We clarified that as meetings are short, only one topic can be looked at in depth each month.** During the exercise that followed, this 'rule' *could* be broken if people saw possible ways to combine topics. But this would inevitably mean a lighter touch per topic.



- An initial informal 'vote' with stickers** allowed people to get a sense of what others felt important.

4. We then split into **3 sub-groups to plot out ideal six-month agendas**. Outcomes of this have been used to set out the proposed programme on pages 3 and 4.
5. **Finally we discussed as a whole group the logic behind the different approaches**. All aimed for:
 - (i) a balance of **big picture** with **smaller, more specific topics**, and
 - (ii) a mixture of **'quick win' topics** where influence can be rapidly seen, and **longer-term projects**.

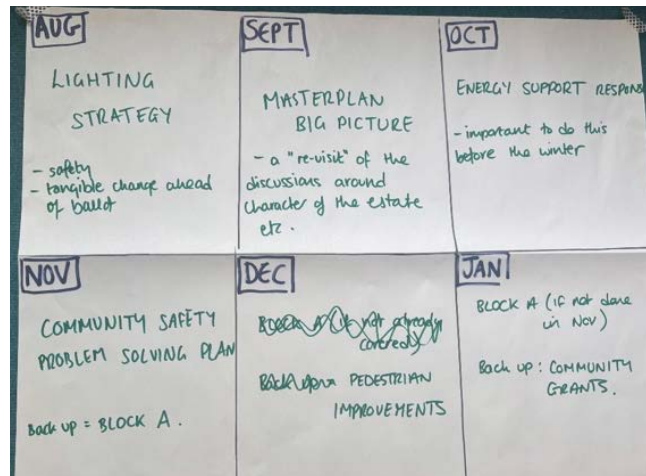
C. Panel requests: getting the most out of meetings

These were discussed as a whole group.

1. **At the end of each previous meeting:** briefly discuss the next topic and share any options for what could be focused on. Particularly for Big Picture topics, that will **help ensure we address aspects that are most meaningful to the Panel** e.g. *general or specific; aspects with short-term tangible impact or something longer term*. It may be that **sub-groups can look at different aspects of a topic**.
2. **In advance:** send a briefing with advance reading. Making clear (i) the topic's bigger picture and backstory, (ii) the influence the Panel can have, (iii) when/how that will become visible on the ground, and (iv) what we will do at the session and where we want to be by the end. **That way people can arrive feeling prepared**.
3. **At the meeting:** explain clearly how the topic links into the wider Renewal Plan, and into other topics. That way even if we can't discuss multiple things at a session the Panel are still enabled to make connections.
4. **Throughout:** look for **opportunities for additional training and briefing sessions** that can grow knowledge and make connections across topics. Notes from these should also be shared with those who can't attend.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12 August, 4.00- 6.00pm. This, in line with the priorities above, will look at the Masterplan as a whole, working with architects HTA to help define the different characteristics of individual neighbourhoods within the overall Masterplan area.

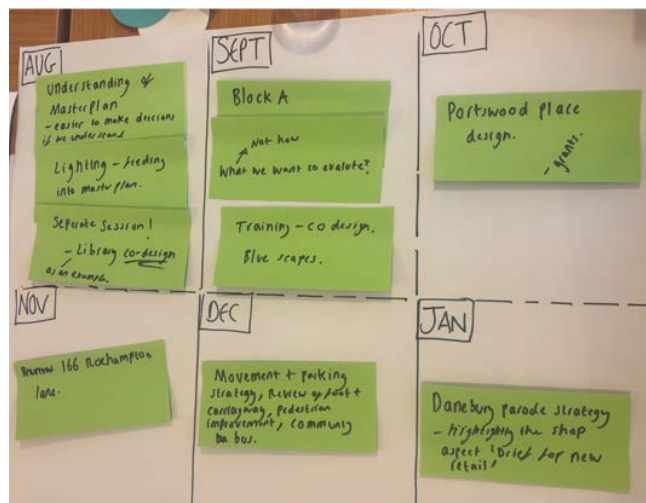
ENDS



GROUP A



GROUP B



GROUP C

Proposed ACP Meeting Programme 2025-26

A. The core programme of monthly meetings

Date	Topic	Level of influence	Reason why	Panel reflections/ Notes
Aug	Masterplan Big Picture decisions re. character of Alton neighbourhoods area by area.	 <i>Panel providing input to decisions, but with direct decision-making where possible</i>	All 3 groups chose this for Aug or Sept.	“re-visit of discussions around character” “housing is the top priority - a better understanding of the housing plan will help the panel make informed decisions and move forward with confidence” “easier to make decisions about the Masterplan if we understand it”
Sep	Which aspects of Lighting Strategy to prioritise.	 <i>Panel taking decisions directly.</i>	All 3 groups chose this for Aug or Sept.	“safety ahead of the Winter” “tangible change ahead of ballot” “early wins build momentum and demonstrate progress” “feeding into Masterplan”
Oct	Block A designs: building forms and character; public/civic square; community space interior.	 <i>Panel providing input to decisions, but with direct decision-making where possible</i>	All 3 groups chose this at some point. In HTA’s order of Housing topics, this one follows Masterplan.	“Opportunities to connect to Cultural programme?” – <i>ARP Team will invite the relevant officer along to the session.</i>
Nov	Which aspects of pedestrian improvements strategy to prioritise.	 <i>Panel taking decisions directly</i>	All 3 groups chose this at some point.	Two groups hoped to be able to link this into other Movement type discussions – <i>we can do this, but it does need to be split over more than one session (see Feb).</i>
Dec	Portswood Place designs: new Family Hub – building on engagement work with community groups.	 <i>Panel providing input to decisions, but with direct decision-making where possible</i>	2 groups (B & C) chose this at some point.	“Opportunities to connect to Cultural programme?”
Jan	Shape Community Grants programme	 <i>Panel taking decisions directly</i>	2 groups (B & C) chose this at some point, and Group A had it as a back-up in Jan (for Block A)	As this is time dependent (on the diagram) for January, we have kept it in that slot.
Plus... Feb	Movement and Parking Strategy: routes, roads + parking across estate inc. Car Club spaces	 <i>Panel providing input to decisions, but with direct decision-making where possible</i>	2 groups (B & C) chose this at some point. Logical next topic in the HTA’s order of Housing topics.	

Note: If the Panel feels happy with this programme, the ARP will start to book the meetings in with the relevant teams. Should changes become necessary (e.g. due to officer availability or changes to timings of projects) we will alert the Panel and review the schedule with you. We can also review as we go; at the meeting we suggested that we check at the halfway point (around October) re. whether everyone still feels the planned programme is useful and relevant.

B. Logic used

1. **All topics that at least two groups wanted to discuss** have been given a slot.
2. Creative combining was appreciated, but **we've been realistic about how much a session can cover**, given different officers lead different topics, and each topic needs its own briefing to enable meaningful input.
However, we will always aim to (i) explain each topic within the bigger renewal picture, (ii) invite additional officers along where relevant to encourage joined-up working, and (iii) share Panel feedback more widely.
3. We've **alternated Big Picture/ Housing Masterplan topics and smaller more specific topics with direct decision-making influence**, allowing us to keep weaving things back into the Bigger Picture.
4. We've **stuck to the order that HTA want to follow for discussing Housing Masterplan topics**.

Note: The programme has ended up being exactly what Group B proposed. This is just a coincidence!

C. Ways of picking up additional topics

We want to ensure that as far as possible all topics that mattered to any Group are picked up somehow.

Additional 2025 sessions or link-ups

1. Group C were interested in **training/skill-up around co-design**. We're going to offer as an extra session a 'field trip' to see another HTA project, at which Lucy/HTA will do a workshop around co-design approaches.
2. Group C were keen to feed into **what is evaluated to assess the regeneration's success**. We will look to offer a smaller separate session for those interested.
3. Group A wanted to talk to the Climate Team about the ongoing '**energy support response**'. We will aim to organise a smaller separate session for those interested.
4. Group A wanted to strategically input to the **Community Safety Problem Solving Plan**. We will invite the officer leading that work along to the Lighting session in September and the proposed Pedestrian Improvement Strategy session in November 2025.
5. Some Panel Members were keen to link into the **SEND family support work**. This was not a topic on the main diagram, as Children's Services have been delivering it through direct engagement with families. However, we will tell them the Panel is interested, and see what kind of link-up can be made.

Possible 2026 sessions

Panel evaluation will take place at end 2025; we can look at the 2026 programme on the basis of that.

6. Groups B and C were keen to feed into work being done to **shape Focus Hall and estate-wide cultural programmes**. As neither are time specific, we could do a focused session in 2026. We will also invite relevant officers along to the proposed Block A session in October 2025.
7. Group B wanted to help guide which aspects of the **Quiet Cycle Routes Strategy** to prioritise, suggesting combining that with Pedestrian and Movement topics. These are, however, different strands of work with different responsible officers and consultants; even doing them as sub-groups in one session would be ambitious. But as Cycle Routes work has moved slower than expected, it can be picked up in 2026.
8. Group C were keen to look at **166 Roehampton Lane** and **Danebury Parade** from the Housing pillar, as well as the **brief (e.g. shopfront design) for the new retail**. Both could be picked up in 2026 ahead of the planning application. 166 Roehampton Lane moves slightly out of HTA's order, but not to an unmanageable degree.
9. Group C also listed **Review of foot- + carriageways – how maintenance £ is spent** and **Review Community Bus impact** within their proposal for a multi-topic Movement focused session. If there is *specific* interest in these, as they are not time dependent, they can be looked at in 2026, or we can explore separate sessions.

ENDS