**Minutes of the West Didsbury Estate Community Group Meeting held at the Den, Merseybank on 2nd July 2018 at 7 p.m.**

**Present:**

Holly Jones, Co-Chair

Yasmin Brodie, Co-Chair

David Ellison, Councillor

Kelda Savage

John Leech, Councillor

Richard Kirkpatrick, Councillor

Leane Jones, Secretary

Claire Lawless (part), Fletcher Moss Rangers FC

Dave Horrocks (part), Fletcher Moss Rangers FC

**Apologies:**

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

Jude Grundy, Secretary

Maureen Ward, Southway Housing Association

Michaela McKie

Mario Semplis

**Minutes of last meeting of 8th May 2018.**

Have been distributed, read and no amendments recorded. Matters arising addressed in categories below.

1. **Southway Housing Association:**

Holly is to contact Maureen regarding the proposed use of community space at the new Southway premises on Princess Parkway for community events. Long term use of the hall at Christchurch would not be viable because of the costs involved.

1. **Significant Events:**

The Neighbourhood Watch Meeting will be held on 3rd July 2018 at 7 p.m. At Christchurch on Darley Avenue. This was advertised in the newsletter.

The Manchester Day event was hugely successful, and the South Manchester contribution supported by some members of the group.

We have held 2 coffee afternoons which were successful. There was a small attendance but it is hoped this will improve in time. The next coffee afternoon will be 10th July at Christchurch (1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Yasmin has been liaising with Catherine Morris, Age Friendly Officer at Southway. There is a Festival of Ageing Event at Christchurch on Darley Avenue on 11th July. Yasmin to follow up for full details.

The next AGM is proposed for 17th September 2018 and this will be advertised in the next Newsletter.

1. **Crime:**

The Neighbourhood Watch Meeting is due to take place tomorrow at Christchurch on Darley Avenue (7p.m.). There are no PCSO's available to attend, but Ian Tuft, PSCO, has provided Holly with a report to inform the meeting. All in attendance agreed that Police presence at these meetings is of great importance, but thus far due to shift patterns/absence etc. has not been possible.

There was a particularly unpleasant burglary on Penroy Avenue (no exact details available but thought to be early June) – it appears that at approximately 6:30 p.m on a Saturday evening, a group of men had been watching a house, and when it was unoccupied, used a great deal of force to break in. The road was constantly occupied by people walking to the field, which was not a deterrent. They were challenged by a female neighbour who was knocked to the ground, but was relatively unharmed. This was obviously reported to the Police. Everyone agreed to be especially vigilant, as windows are often left open in hot weather, and to inform and support neighbours.

David has requested a public meeting regarding crime in the area, and will advise the group accordingly.

People are still reporting abandoned number plates which are likely to have been used in the commission of crime. David reminded anyone who has lost a number plate to contact Police at once, or may be viable for crimes committed, e.g. petrol theft. Non-emergency number 101 may be used if other plates are found.

The Mini on Darley Avenue has been abandoned for months, and has been reported, but no action taken. It was discussed at last meeting that this area is though to be an area for drug dealing. Please report any evidence of drug use/dealing to the Police.

1. **Environment:**

Regarding the junction of Mersey Crescent and Craigmore and the unclear priorities of way, John has not received feedback as yet, but will advise as soon as possible. He has raised the issue of the state of Mersey Crescent (in particular potholes) and was advised that this is not a major route; all agreed that this is a significant thoroughfare. John will continue to pursue.

John and Holly discussed the fallen fencing on the verge of Merseybank Park – Steve West and John have applied for funding regarding this; John to pursue and advise the group.

Holly advised that building waste has been reported on the Southway land on the corner of Mersey Crescent and Riverbank Walk. It transpired that builders working on a nearby property have liaised with Southway directly, and are paying to keep the items there and they will be removed shortly. It was suggested that if such events occur in the future, that a sign to indicate that Southway is aware of the issue would be advised to stop people unnecessarily reporting it.

1. **Guest Contribution:**

Dave Horrocks and Claire Lawless from Fletcher Moss Rangers FC were welcomed to the meeting.

Approximately 3 years ago there was a public consultation regarding a proposal to modernise the pavilion for the use of the footballers and also as a community space. The land is owned by Manchester City Council and whilst a long-term lease is available, it is not sustainable. Their aims are to widen participation in football and also cultivate the courts for tennis and baseball. The Pavilion will be for the Club's use, however, a cafe/bar with a function suite which could be used for playgroups/yoga/social functions is also a part of the overall plan, in order to widen the 'revenue stream'

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There is a basic plan in situ and the Football Federation has offered some funding, but risk assessments, designs from the architects, public consultation will be necessary for the application for funding and planning permission, which is due in January of 2019. The running of the cafe may be tendered out to outside providers.

Some members of the group pointed out some of the current problems experienced, which are people parking inconsiderately (Dave suggested that the car park at the end of Penroy Avenue is often blocked by resident's cars), people driving very past out of the estate, and also litter. He also suggested that these issues are generated by the visiting teams which is beyond his control. Claire advised that all environmental issues will be taken into consideration, and proposed that the good transport links in the area may minimise the extra traffic.

Claire and Dave were thanked for their contribution.

1. **Funding Issues and Planning:**

It is hoped that we will be able to utilise the community space at Southway for events, as paying Christchurch on a long-term basis will not be financially viable.

Unfortunately the funding application to Autotrader was not approved.

Kelda informed the group that she is pursuing funding for the tree edging. This application will be due in Mid-August. Richard Salisbury is providing mulch and tools for the tree tidy on July 7th. David suggested that some funding bodies may require quotes and audited accounts.

1. **Any other Business:**

In relation to the proposed community picnic, Holly advised that in order to hold events on the main playing fields (large or small) would require £10 million worth of public liability cover, which is beyond the ability of the group to fund. Dave agreed to look into his indemnity insurance and see if he can assist with this, or offer advice.

Holly also advised that due to the Group Adult/Child Protection Policy and Code of Behaviour for committee members and volunteers, in the event of the group working with children and/or vulnerable adults, at least one person at each event will need to be DRB checked. Currently, this will include Leane and Jude. Clare suggested contacting Kate Maggs who is Safeguarding Officer for Fletcher Moss Rangers, for additional advice.

The provision of the wildflower seeds was well received, with many residents requesting them from the group.

Holly has talked to some of the people who have attended the coffee afternoons regarding which activities/interests etc. they would like to see. Some possibilities include:

* Film screenings (Holly has looked at accessing public service/public domain films/films about local issues) which can be accessed free via the Manchester Metropolitan University. We can purchase screen/projector etc. if necessary;
* Hanging basket making (we could provide the materials and try and find a resident with gardening skills to help!);
* Pebbling painting;
* Bingo;
* Old public domain films was suggested.

Holly and Yasmin have proposed a Cycle Tune up event/Cycle surgery in conjunction with Snow & Rock, with refreshments on offer.

Residents have indicated interest in Historical Archiving in the future. West Didsbury Residents Association and Didsbury Civic Society might also be able to contribute to this.

Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed.