**Minutes of West Didsbury Estate Community Group Meeting:**

**4th December 2017 @ 7 p.m.**

1. **Present:**

Holly Jones, Co-Chair

Yasmin Brodie, Co-Chair

Mario Semplis

Kelda Savage

Maureen Ward, Southway Housing

Jude Grundy, Treasurer

Councillor John Leech

Leane Jones, Secretary

Dianne Sakalas, Neighourhood Officer, Manchester City Council.

1. **Apologies:**

Councillor David Ellison

Mikaela McKie

Introductions were made.

Maureen had kindly printed the agenda, last minutes, boundary maps and the application 'Giving Back' which John provided (see under Funding Issues and Planning for details). These were distributed.

1. **Minutes of last meeting/Matters arising:**

All leaflets have now been distributed to the estate. There was a broadly positive reaction. It is hoped that there will be good attendance at tomorrow's meeting, Craig Boswell, PCSO for West Didsbury, will attend.

**Jude** has left several messages with the Police to establish who will be our named PCSO's – no response as yet.

**John** stated that as Councillors, they are advised to contact Inspectors directly (Paul Kinraid/Mark Hargreaves).

There is a GMP website which should list key personnel but this is out of date. **Dianne** advised that she has liaised with Jackie Cosgrove, PSCO, in the past.

Once we have an established Home Watch group, we will be able to ask for personnel information.

We will discuss tomorrow whether 1 Home Watch group will be sufficient.

**Holly** has agreed to draft a newsletter, and also ask residents whether they would accept notifications by e-mail. **Maureen** agreed to look into the costs of Southway providing colour prints. Holly suggested deferring a Facebook page until New Year. The group also agreed that she can receive monies to purchase a domain name.

Kelda and Jude are pursuing the bank account and advised that this should be sorted out this week.

**Holly** has created a draft website which we all agreed is excellent. Website can be used for signposting regarding crime/environmental issues, thereby clarifying areas of responsibility.

1. **Southway:**

Maureen's contribution has been detailed throughout the minutes.

1. **Crime:**

A resident on Elmbank has CCTV footage of 2 young adults trying car doors in the early hours. He says that the Police said that nothing can be done as these people were not actually committing an offence. All present agreed that it is important to report all incidences of crime, no matter how minimal. **John** stated that people have told him they don't report some crimes as they believe this will impact on their insurance premiums. He also stated that e-mailing the Police is a more efficient way of reporting crime. Obviously 999 should be used if a crime is in progress, but it is difficult to get through to the non-emergency number.

There have also been numerous of people trying front doors in the night – this was discussed during the leaflet drop and all present agreed to alert neighbours.

All present agreed that after the Home Watch meeting, it would be useful to have a record of which residents have CCTV.

John provided the application Giving Back, which aims to invest in community projects (maximum £1000) using the proceeds of crime. It also seeks to reduce anti-social behaviour and unite communities. This can be discussed further at tomorrow's meeting.

1. **Environmental Issues:**

Dianne advised that dangerous potholes have been identified and are slowly being addressed. If a pothole has been sprayed, this means that the hole has been assessed by an Inspector and should be repaired within 3 weeks. Please refer to the website manchester.gov.uk to report these matters.

**Yasmin** has been liaising with Richard Salisbury regarding protection/edging around trees. She will feedback further at next meeting.

**Maureen** informed the meeting that Richard Eccles will no longer be covering the West Didsbury area. His replacement is due to start in February/March.

**Yasmin** discussed with **Dianne** the problem of abandoned bins. Dianne agreed to look into this, with a view to putting stickers on bins still out after bin collection, advising owners to remove them from the street.

**Jude** raised the problem of slippy leaves, and advised that road sweepers are generally arriving at 7 a.m., when most cars are still parked. **Dianne** stated that to her knowledge, more road sweepers are being sent, and that often residents are sent letters asking them to remove their cars. She said that if any committee members are approached, we should refer the comment/complaint to **Dianne.** She also advised that there is an Assisted Collection available for those who struggle to move their bins.

Jude also raised the issue of road sweepers not being co-ordinated with the bin collections. Dianne said that she would look into asking the sweepers to come after the bin aollection.

1. **Guest Contributions:**

Dianne Sakalas from Manchester City Council, Maureen Ward from Southway and Councillor John Leech were all welcomed to the meeting.

Discussions with Dianne Sakalas, Neighbourhood Officer for Manchester City Council West Didsbury Ward already minuted.

**Dianne**  also advised that there is a Neighbourhood Investment Fund of £20,000 p.a. Per ward. Local Councillors sit on the panel. She agreed to send copy of the Ward Plan, and advised that sustainable activities such as clean ups are favoured.

**John** informed the group that the speed cameras on Princess Parkway are now operational. This was confirmed by **Holly** who has seen them go off. Reportedly, the speed limit was not immediately enforced – the authorities denied that the cameras were switched off but said that there was 'no enforcement'. All present agreed that this might mean that when the lower limit is reviewed, the data will be skewed and won't offer an accurate representation of how the speed limit has affected road users.

**John** distributed information regarding community investment, which was gratefully received and distributed.

1. **Funding Issues and Planning:**

Giving Back application discussed above.

**Kelda** informed the group of an organisation called Forever Manchester. Applications can be made for funding for many community interests, including vulnerable residents, environmental projects, raising community spirit and activity. Application forms can be downloaded via the website (google Forever Manchester). She also has links to a local artist who has in the past worked with local children/young people wo improve the environment – for example, a mural at the pumping station on the Mersey near Darley Avenue.

**Dianne** informed the group of the Neighbourhood Investment Scheme (see above).

**Jude** and **Kelda** are pursuing the bank account.

1. **Any Other Business:**

**Yasmin**  advised that people have expressed interest in setting up a social group for the 0ver 50's. **Maureen** suggested that it might be useful to invite a member of the Age Friendly team to the AGM to see how this could be facilitated.

6th or 13th March were proposed for the General Meeting. **Maureen** to check with Ann Pilkington regarding availability of the church hall.

In relation to a 'physical' postal address, **Maureen** to check if we can secure a postal address c/o Southway. **Holly** will set up an email address.

**John**  asked if Southway would have access to a community space both inside and outside of office hours. **Maureen** agreed to look into this as a possibility. The Pavilion on Mersey Fields had been proposed as a community space, but this is now not deemed to be suitable. **Holly** suggested that at the Annual General Meeting, residents could be asked which community space they would prefer.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

5th February 2018, 7 p.m. At the Den.

**Addendum to Minutes:**

**Maureen** confirmed on 12th December that the Annual General Meeting will be on **13th March 2018 at Christchurch on Darley Avenue.**

**The church hall has been booked between 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.**