**Minutes of the West Didsbury Estate Community Group Meeting held at the Den, Merseybank on 08/05/18 at 7 p.m.**

**Present:**

Holly Jones, Co-Chair

Yasmin Brodie, Co-Chair

Maureen Ward, Southway Housing

David Ellison, Councillor

John Leech, Councillor

Richard Kirkpatrick, Councillor

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

Dawn Bannatyne

Kelda Savage

Mario Semplis

Leane Jones, Secretary

Dawn Ballantyne, Urban Ranger

**Apologies:**

Jude Grundy, Treasurer

Michaela McKie

Minutes of the last meeting were distributed and are available on the website.

**Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising:**

No corrections to the minutes noted or reported.

Environment:

The abandoned motorbike has been removed from the river bank, but had since been seen in the river. John has emailed Holly regarding the responsibility of land around the river. Dianne advised that some properties on Darley Avenue overlooking the river own the land up to it, including the road. Some land on Darley Avenue has recently been redeveloped and as such is 'unadopted'. John pointed out that land that is unclaimed remains the responsibility of Manchester City Council. Holly will bring a map outlining boundaries to the next meeting, and will update the website.

John advised that he has yet to receive a reply regarding the road markings on Mersey Crescent/Craigmore Avenue. He agreed to follow this up and also stated that he is trying to get Mersey Crescent resurfaced. There is also a huge pothole on Waterford/Mersey Crescent in need of repair. Any issues should be addressed to k.gillham@manchester.gov.uk, or contact@manchester.gov.uk.

There continues to be people speeding/going to wrong way on the one way street. Holly to highlight on the website.

Crime:

Holly informed the meeting that the last Neighbourhood Watch meeting was not hugely attended. There are now signs up on Borrowdale and Craigmore. There is also an existing sign up on Northbank Walk.

David suggested that if Craig Boswell is not available to attend these meetings, we should request another PCSO. Richard agreed to speak to Craig about attendance.

Over 50's Coffee Afternoon:

George Cordrey will volunteer – Leane agreed to attend also. First one will be 12th June 2018 at 1 p.m., at Christchurch on Darley Avenue. It was suggested that we use the first one to establish people's views on what they would like. Yasmin has liaised with Catherine Morris, Age Friendly Officer, regarding other groups of this nature. She suggested using Martin's on Copson Street in Withington for sandwiches and has attempted to speak to Steve at the Co-Op regarding any possible donations. She will continue to try. She has also spoken to Sue Thurston, Didsbury Good Neighbours. Holly will speak to Sue regarding additional volunteers for the group, although committee members can staff the sessions otherwise.

**Southway:**

Maureen advised that Southway Housing is moving offices to Princess Parkway. This is anticipated for Monday 18th June. There will be community apace available there.

She informed the meeting that Mersey Fest, a community event organised and supported by Barlow Moor Community Association and Southway will take place on 30th May, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., on the playing fields next to the children's playground.

**Significant Events:**

Over 50's Coffee Afternoon will take place on Tuesday 12th June at 1 p.m., at Christchurch on Darley Avenue.

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will take place on 26th June at 7 p.m., at Christchurch. Holly agreed to contact Ann Pilkington to confirm availability.

The date for the next West Didsbury Estate Community Group meeting is 2nd July at 7 p.m., at the Den.

**Crime:**

John stated that there has been evidence of drug dealing around Darley Avenue, which has been reported to Police. Yasmin commented that there are a lot of drug bags and discarded hippy crack capsules in evidence.

Dianne reminded people that if they see evidence of discarded cannabis farms (tubing/plant feed/pots/compost) they should also report that to the Police.

2 members of staff at the Co-Op were robbed at knifepoint very recently. Luckily they were physically unharmed.

**Environment:**

Dawn Bannatyne, Urban Ranger, was welcomed to the meeting.

Dianne advised that David and John had been contacted by a resident who cycles her son home from Nursery in Northenden; he has a sight impairment and she reported that the kissing gate on Darley Avenue was problematic as it denies access for buggies/wheelchairs. Dianne advised that Manchester City Council hold radar keys which would open the gate and anyone can apply for one.

John has agreed to liaise with Steve West at the Council regarding replacement fencing near the Pavilion on the playing field.

Yasmin raised that there is only one bench on the estate, she has spoken to some residents who say that the lack of available seating hinders their ability to walk about as there is nowhere to rest. Dawn agreed to look into this, but suggested that the reason they are not usually keen to add more benches is due to anti-social behaviour.

**Funding Issues and Planning:**

Maureen informed the meeting that she has not received an application for the Starter Grant as yet and that bank account details with be needed to process this. Holly agreed to follow this up with Jude.

Kelda and Holly have completed a funding application, butunfortunately the submission date was missed. They have been told to resubmit their application to the Autotrader Community Fund.

David advised that Manchester Airport is a know funder of community causes.

**Any other Business:**

Holly agreed to draft a newsletter, to advertise the Neighbour Watch Meetings and the over 50's community coffee afternoon.

The closing date for the surveys will be on 18th June.

**Addendum to minutes: Date of next Neighbourhoold Watch Meeting is 3rd July 2018, 7 p.m. at Christchurch on Darley Avenue.**

**Date of Next Meeting:**

2nd July 2018 at 7 p.m., at the Den on Merseybank.