**Minutes of West Didsbury Estate Community Group Committee Meeting on 14th January 2019 at Southway District Offices.**

**Present:**

Holly Jones (Chair)

Maureen Ward, Southway

Carol McKrell

Kelda Savage

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

Leane Jones (Secretary)

**Apologies:**

John Leech, Councillor

Richard Kirkpatrick, Councillor

Yasmin Brodie

1. **Minutes of the last meeting of November 19th 2018 and matters arising not discussed in agenda items below:**

Minutes of last meeting circulated and agreed: no corrections or amendments noted.

1. **Playing Fields Pavilion:**

Yesterday, a resident had notified Holly that they received a message from Manchester City Council regarding planning permission for the Pavilion on the playing fields. Comments/Responses have been invited before the 30th January. The resident also indicated that they had spoken to Dave Horrocks, who had stated that they had no plans to hold a public consultation before this deadline. Holly has suggested an urgent public meeting for Wednesday 23rd at 7 pm at Southway Housing Offices. John Leech has also been informed by another resident, but indicated that this was the first he had heard of it. Leane and Holly agreed to distribute flyers to all properties on the estate advertising this tomorrow. The proposed function of the pavilion is thought to be improved changing facilities/cafe/community hub/function and meeting room. It is hoped that a representative of Fletcher Moss FC will also be in attendance at the meeting on the 23rd.

Holly agreed to email David Ellison regarding this.

1. **Coffee Afternoons staffing problem & forthcoming tea dance:**

Holly and Leane are no longer able to reliably commit to staffing the fortnightly coffee afternoon, which has not been well attended. Because of both these issues, it was agreed in this meeting that we will no longer be able to continue to run this event. Dianne advised that remaining monies from the grant can either be used for another community activity via a further application, or returned.

The Tea Dance on 5th February will be our last event and will go ahead as planned. Holly has received quotes for decorations, food and live music and is pursuing these. Leane and Maureen confirmed that they will attend, and Holly will try and secure other volunteers. This event, and the cessation of the coffee afternoon will be publicised on a forthcoming flyer which will be distributed to the estate by Holly and Leane.

1. **Children's Play Park:**

David Boothroyd has sent Holly a copy of the paly consultation document, which can be used to create some consultation documents regarding the possible development of a play park, but that there are significant obstacles to overcome regarding finance and support.

1. **Summer Picnic:**

Holly has been in contact with Steve West who has confirmed that a summer picnic can now go ahead without the purchase of costly insurance. Steve has sent Holly an application for this and will consult further with the group nearer to the time. It is envisaged that this will take place in July/August. We can acquire the keys for the pavilion to use the toilets there, dependent obviously on the status of its possible development.

1. **Funding update on tree edging application:**

The response from the application to Manchester Airport for community funding is pending and is expected mid-January. Kelda to update when further informed.

1. **Southway:**

Maureen informed the meeting that there is Beautiful South Funding available from Southway Housing, up to £25,000 per project , for a ten year term, for use in the community. Up to £2.5 K per project can be allocated, although larger projects can be considered. Southway are hoping to establish a decision-making panel of tenants to judge applications for the fund. There will be a focus group next Wednesday 23rd January, 6 – 7 pm, organised by Southway Housing, at Southway Housing Offices.

1. **Crime:**

There has been no further notification regarding Sgt. Alan Dean leaving, or his replacement. The next Neighbourhood Watch Meeting will be on Monday 21st January at Southway Housing Offices at 7 p.m.

There was a fire reported on Borrowdale where reportedly youths had set fire to a box of papers left on the pavement. People were advised against leaving flammable materials outside their properties. Additionally, there was a serious arson attack on a house at the end of Penroy Avenue, perpetrators unknown at this time. This will be discussed further at the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.

1. **Environment:**

The bin on Princess Parkway which had been destroyed by fire has now been replaced.

The fencing on Merseybank Park abutting the playing fields is still broken – John Leech has been messaging Steve West regarding this. Holly agreed to pursue further. Dianne advised to copy any emails to Kylie Ward.

The road markings at the end of Craigmore Avenue and Mersey Crescent establishing priority/right of way are now in place – thanks to Dianne who facilitated this. The lines at the other end of Craigmore have been requested – Dianne agreed to forward a response from the Highways Department regarding this application.

The trees on the path parallel to Princess Parkway leading down to the river are very overgrown – Dianne agreed to find out who owns the land. She also advised that her department at the South Manchester Neighbourhood Team have access to a variety of equipment, including for example, pressure washers, gardening tools, lopping equipment, wheelbarrows, etc. for those who may wish to help maintain our green spaces.

Clearing of leaves – Dianne confirmed that Biffa is contracted to clear leaves every 3 weeks, and it was agreed that during the autumn months this is not always sufficient. The problems on Northbank have been reported by Dianne. This has also been raised by John/Richard. Dianne also confirmed that the Leaf Clearance Programme has visited the whole of West Didsbury now and it has been reported clear. Any missed roads can be reported online or through the Manchester City Council switchboard.

1. **Any Other Business:**