**Minutes of Annual General Meeting for West Didsbury Estate Community Group.**

**Held on 17th September 2018 at Southway Neighbourhood Offices.**

1. **Welcome and Present:**

Maureen Ward, Southway Housing Trust

Judith Grundy, Treasurer, WEDCG

Kelda Savage, Committee Member

Philippa Abbott, Resident

Barbara Holland, Resident

Marilyn Timberlake, Resident

Pauline Cooper, Resident

Mario Semplis, Committee Member

Mikaela McKie, Committee Member

Margaret Knowles, Resident

Carol McKrell, Resident

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

Holly Jones, Co-Chair, WDECG

Leane Jones, Secretary, WEDCG.

1. **Apologies:**

Jean Fletcher, Resident

Yasmin Brodie, Co-Chair

Annie Johnson, Committee Member

John Leech, Councillor

Richard Kilpatrick, Councillor

1. **Brief Report of WDECG's activities:**

Events:

Manchester Day and Tree Tidy Day have taken place. Unfortunately, these were not widely attended.

In accordance with the community survey, Holly organised a Cycle Surgery event supported by Snow & Rock; this was well received. It was suggested to offer a bicycle tagging service in the future.

Several coffee afternoons have taken place. Activities have included a showing of History of Manchester Archive and pebble painting. This has not been well attended, but is is acknowledged that this is in its infancy, and that the Group plans to persevere and adapt. There is a 'Laughter Yoga' session pending.

Projects:

The History Archive is now opened – Holly indicated that some residents on the estate have said that they are happy to discuss their experiences of growing up here.

A survey was distributed to all properties on the estate; only 14 returned but there was some useful feedback.

1. **Accounts:**

Jude Grundy, Treasurer, has prepared a finance sheet and this has been circulated. She advised that all bank statements can be viewed by residents by request, and the finance statement is available online.

1. **Any changes in Membership:**

Maureen officiated the re-nomination and secondment of Holly Jones, Jude Grundy and Leane Jones as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. This was passed by at least 2/3 of the attendees as per protocol. Kelda Savage, Mario Semplis, Mikaela McKie and Yasmin Brodie will all remain as committee members. Annie Johnson and Carol McKrell have joined as new committee members.

1. **Any proposed changes to the Constitution:**

Holly had previously discussed with Maureen and Jude the requirement to have an independent audit and assessment of the accounts every year. For small companies this only a requirement by law in the event of high turnover of monies exceeding millions of pounds, and at present would incur a cost of approximately £200. Maureen confirmed that this will not be required by Southway. This proposal was duly passed in the meeting.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting of 2nd July 2018 and matters arising:**

It was noted that in the minutes of the meeting on the 13th March 2018, Jean Fletcher was mistakenly listed as John; this will be amended and apologies given.

1. **Southway:**

Maureen confirmed that the new building on Princess Parkway is now fully operational and available for use.

There will be a Tenant's Roadshow on **13th October 2018 at 11 a.m. - 3 p.m** at the offices, where a Hot Pot lunch will be provided. This is to launch “Our Voice” which is their Customer Involvement Strategy. All residents are welcome.

1. **Crime:**

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is now operational and the next meeting will be in October (date to be confirmed.) Holly has liaised with Iain Taft, Police Community Support Officer, regarding his availability. People are reminded that the Neighbourhood Watch is run separately from the WDECG.

Kelda reported an incident on Glenmore Avenue where a car was smashed up during daylight hours. She did not receive a response from the Police; however Holly did liaise with them regarding this matter.

Margaret found a stolen bicycle on Riverbank Walk. She reported this and received a positive and prompt response from the Police.

1. **Environment:**

Margaret reported that Riverbank Walk is no longer swept and as such, is often covered with messy seeds from the trees, slippery underfoot with leaves and therefore dangerous. Additionally, the lamp post is not working. **Dianne agreed to visit Riverbank Walk tomorrow to look into this.**

Mikaela reported that people are using the bin on the field at the end of Southdene to dispose of their own household waste. **Dianne agreed to look into this, though powers are limited in dealing with such issues for household waste.**

In previous correspondance John Leech and Richard Kilpatrick reported that they are continuing to lobby to have potholes repaired, specifically on the junction of Waterford Avenue and Mersey Crescent. Margaret pointed out that the potholes on Darley/Rowsley are particularly problematic and make driving out of the estate difficult. Some potholes have been sprayed, which means they have been inspected and are due to be repaired. John and Richard advised that Mersey Crescent has been awarded 4/5 (5 being the worst) for its surface, but not deemed to be a primary route. He has distributed a petition calling for this to be resolved to all residents.

**Leane agreed to email John Leech regarding the lack of road markings on the junction of Craigmore Avenue and Mersey Crescent.**

Dianne advised that she will be attending a Ward Co-ordinator's Meeting, where details of proposed road works for the next years will be made available. **She agreed to pass them on to the group.**

An estate clean up/weeding event is scheduled for the 29th September; how much can be done is dependent on how many might be able to contribute to this. **She will also check on the progress of the broken fencing with Steve West/Richard Salisbury.**

The West Didsbury Wombles recently litter picked in the woodland at the end of the estate, at the corner of Northbank Walk and Princess Rd.

Holly did a survey of the grids on the estate and liaised with John Leech regarding the blocked grids. Residents have reported that grid cleaners have been seen on the estate in recent weeks.

1. **Funding:**

An application for the Manchester Airport Community Fund is pending for the tree edging in Mersey Bank Park.

1. **Facilities for children:**

Holly has been approached by a local resident regarding the lack of facilities for young children on the estate and enquiring about the possibility of a playground. Barbara advised that the previous committee had secured funding for such but that this did not go ahead due to concerns about noise and anti-social behaviour. Dianne suggested directing enquiries to Kylie Ward, to establish how best to begin the process of exploring this possibility. **Leane to approach Kylie Ward and feedback to Holly.**

Holly has also discussed with this resident the possibility of establishing a Children's Cinema Club at Southway Neighbourhood Offices. This will depend on the availability of these offices and our ability to staff this. At least 1 volunteer present would need a valid DBS check for this purpose to comply with our insurance policy.

1. **Playing Field Pavilion:**

Fletcher Moss FC are in the process of applying to develop the Pavilion into a community hub/improved football facility. They attended the WDECG meeting on 13th March 2018 to share information regarding this. It was emphasised to all present that the WDECG is in no way affiliated with this process, but found the information sharing useful. Residents have noticed people assessing/measuring/surveying the pavilion and would appreciate an update. In any event, Fletcher Moss FC will have to hold a Public Consultation regarding their proposals. Concerns have been voiced regarding the existing litter, parking and speeding motorists from the football site.

**Leane to email Dave Horrocks of Fletcher Moss FC for a prompt update.**

1. **Any other Business:**

Margaret asked about the recent Tea Dance which was organised by Southway/Age UK. Unfortunately she was not able to make this event, but expressed an interest, as have other people. Maureen indicated that she would look into putting on another similar event. Holly also indicated that that this type of event can be explored as part of the over 50s coffee afternoon, but that we would need a PRS licence in order to play music, which can be purchased using the NIF grant.

Because of the high cost of insurance, it has not been possible to organise group events on the field. Dianne advised that Parks & Leisure are seeking to look at Public Liability Insurance to cover small groups such as WDECG. **She agreed to update this regarding this.**

**Date of next West Didsbury Estate Community Group Meeting to be confirmed.**