**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Didsbury Estate Community Group held on 23rd September 2019 at 7 p.m at Southway District Offices.**

1. **Welcome to all and apologies received:**

Present:

Janet Bastow, Resident

Ian Bastow, Resident

Barbara Holland, Resident

Philippa Abbott, Resident

Maureen Ward, Southway Housing Trust

Kelda Savage, Resident

John Leech, Councillor

Richard Kilpatrick, Councillor

Greg Stanton, Councilor

Holly Jones, Chair

Leane Jones, Secretary

Apologies:

Jean Fletcher, Resident

Margaret Knowles, Resident

Jude Grundy, Treasurer

1. **Addendum to Agenda submitted by Holly Jones, Chair:**

West Didsbury Estate Community Group Project Report:

There was a Tea Dance held in February which was moderately well attended.

There was an Estate Tidy in May – only Holly attended.

Tree Mulching in May only Holly attended..

The picnic in August was also poorly attended.

The Coffee Afternoon had to be cancelled as the 2 volunteers had work commitments. Monies from this can be used for the Christmas Meal.

Environmental work to provide edging for the young trees on Merseybank Park has been temporarily shelved due to expense and low support.

A Playpark Survey was sent with the recent Newsetter, and local resident Danielle Fuller canvassed the estate to try and get more responses. Of 109 residents that she spoke to, 104 responses were positive, 3 negative and 2 neutral. Holly will present the results including numbers of children, age demographics, etc to David Boothroyd. Danielle has expressed an interest in joining the Committee. The current suggestion is that the playpark will be situated opposite Northbank where the tennis courts are.

1. **Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous WDECG meeting of 05.08.19:**

Near Misses on the junction of Craigmore Avenue and Borrowdale:

Holly advised that there has been no feedback from residents regarding this issue. Dianne has pointed out that it would obviously be convenient to mark this junction at the same time as marking the lines at the end of Craigmore/Mersey Crescent following the re-surfacing. John agreed to pursue this.

There has been one favourable response regarding the possibility of a Christmas Meal for residents.

There is nothing further regarding the litter initiative. Holly agreed to ask Dianne about leaflets on waste disposal.

1. **Southway Housing:**

Nothing to report at this time.

1. **Significant Events:**

Nothing to report at this time.

1. **Crime, including Neighbourhood Watch:**

There has been no update on the reports of a man exposing himself on the riverbank, although it was reported that the Police are taking this very seriously.

Crime on the estate is low but people are still trying doors for opportunistic burglary. All residents are reminded to please report such instances even if a crime is not committed, because the data is used by the police to combat burglary and other crimes. Richard advised that people who do not have a computer at home can report via the Councillors or can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Richard advised that due to complaints of a rise in the amount of nitrogen oxide cannisters on the estate, a recent drug raid executed on the estate has led to arrests over this matter,

1. **Environment, including the development of the Pavilion on the playing fields:**

Barbara explained that wheelie bins are being left out near Riverbank Walk and this is an ongoing problem. Richard stated that a bin had been contaminated (ie not correctly filled as per recycling requirements) and had been removed, but 3 weeks later had been contaminated again, therefore Waste Disposal services had refused to take them. Stickers are usually left on bins in these instances. Richard agreed to take this up with Dianne to investigate.

Barbara has raised the problem of overgrown trees on Riverbank Walk. Holly had reported this to Steve West. Colin Evans had assessed this as not necessary at that time due to summer priorities. Richard suggested that this may have been curtailed due to nesting birds. John stated that they had agreed to do this but did not give a timescale. He agreed to email Phil Appleby about this,

The motorbike in the river which had been submerged by recent floods is now visible. Holly agreed to re-report this. There are also lots of tree trunks bocking the bank near the pumping station. Richard suggested that Dianne Sakalas is very helpful in these matters, or her manager Rob Dylan, (Neighbourhood Manager).

The overgrown footpath parallel to Princess Parkway was reported by John and has now been dealt with.

United Utilities have confirmed John's enquiry about the spraying of chemicals at their station on the river but gave no further information.

Complaints about grass growing through paving stones – Holly has raised this and is still awaiting a response.

The issue regarding street cleaning on Riverbank Walk still not being swept is ongoing, whether this is a Southway or Biffa concern. Greg agreed to pursue this at the next Council Meeting.

Development of the Pavilion.

The Planning Council Meeting was held last Thursday. The proposal for the development was unanimously passed. John and Richard were thanked by all present for representing the community at this meeting.

Conditions were levied but John expressed concerns that these may be bypassed; namely marshalling of parking, bike racks and an alcohol license.

The lack of communication between the Football Club and the Residents was represented by John and Richard.

John, Richard and Greg shared concerns expressed to them by residents at this meeting: proximity of the new pavilion to the houses, parking and an alcohol license, and that some of the original plans might have changed prior to the meeting. In response, they advised that the proximity to local houses cannot be changed. Marshalling of the car parking has been agreed. The proposed new entrance of the site now precludes the need to remove trees.

Probable damage to roads because of increased traffic will be addressed by Richard.

1. **Funding Issues, including Planning:**

None of concern. No further funding applications have been made.

Jude Grundy will sign off accounts as Treasurer and these will be available.

The money previously for the Coffee Afternoon will be used for the forthcoming Christmas Meal.

1. **Election of Committee Members:**

Holly Jones is due to step down as Chair. Unfortunately, there were insufficient committee members present to allow the election of a new committee, therefore Holly will arrange a further meeting to discuss the re-election of the Chair and other committee members. This will be advertised to the estate via a forthcoming leaflet.

1. **Any Other Business:**

A pig carcass was dumped on the river bank below the playpark on the Merseybank Estate. This was reported, removed and dealt with via the Police and Southway.

**Everyone present was thanked for their attendance and contribution to a very positive meeting.**