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

**Held at 7 p.m. 5th February 2018 at the Den, Merseybank.**

1. **Present:**

Jude Grundy (Treasurer)

John Leech, Councillor

Kelda Savage

Holly Jones (Co-Chair)

Maureen Ward (Southway)

Mario Semplis

Leane Jones (Secretary)

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

1. **Apologies:**

Yasmin Brodie (Co-Chair)

Michaela McKie

Richard Salisbury, Manchester City Council

David Ellison, Councillor

Holly made a request for the following to be added to the agenda:

1. The format for the forthcoming AGM;
2. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme
3. Identification of a project for funding.

Maureen kindly provided copies of the minutes of the last meeting, notes from the Neighbourhood Watch meeting of the 05.12.17, and condensed notes of the minutes of the last meeting which were placed in the noticeboard.

Dianne kindly distributed a copy of the Didsbury West Ward Plan 2017/2018.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 04.12.17 and Matters Arising:**

The minutes have been distributed via email. Copies were available at the meeting. The minutes were agreed as correct. Please refer to separate headings in the minutes for matters arising.

1. **Southway:**

Maureen informed the meeting of a forthcoming event on 17th June entitled Manchester Day. The theme is Word on the Street/On our Street. There is funding attached (offered by Southway) for those wishing to participate. Southway will be sponsoring a float and there will be walking parts available. Any volunteers welcomed. Further information is available about the full event online (type in Manchester Day), and via Maureen on behalf of Southway.

She also discussed the existence of a Residents/Consultative Group run by Southway which will include a Tenancy Group representative, Tenants, Lease holders, Residents (Owner/Occupiers) – there are 2 spaces available. Please ask Mo for further details/copies of any minutes.

1. **Significant Events:**

As minuted elsewhere, there was an attempted burglary and the noticeboard has been vandalised.

1. **Crime:**

2 Neighbourhood Watch signs have been made available. Holly previously requested feedback on the WDECG whatsapp group regarding the best locations for these. It was suggested that both ends of Mersey Crescent would be the best locations. Craig Boswell has the stickers. **Holly** agreed to follow this up with Craig. She is also liaising with Janet from the Manchester Neighbourhood Watch group.

Holly reported that there has been minimal feedback from participants of the Neighbourhood Watch group via the publicised e-mail address, but some emails sent from this address have been bouncing back.

**The next Neighbourhood Watch Group meeting date is proposed for 27th March 2018 at 7 p.m at Christchurch on Darley Avenue.** The availability of the venue is expected but will be confirmed – Mo to follow this up with Ann Pilkington.

The Noticeboard was unfortunately vandalised on or around 22nd January. Holly managed to fix it so it is operational but still vandalised. Jude also reported this to Richard Salisbury. All present expressed that this is very disappointing as Jude had gone to a great deal of effort to enable us to use this facility.

Holly advised the whatsapp group that on 10th January, there had been an attempted burglary at her neighbour's property. She had reported this to the Police and there had been a prompt and helpful response. Holly reminded the meeting that West Didsbury Estate crime statistics can be found on the GMP website:

[www.police.uk/greatermanchester](http://www.police.uk/greatermanchester) (just add postcode).

John Leech stated that Police activity has been increased in the area; this corresponds with an increase in burglaries which is normal for the Christmas period.

There is now a named PCSO:

Bernadette Tildesley (bernadettem.tildesley@gmp.police.uk).

1. **Environment:**

Litter picks – there has been one informal one on the estate, and more recently an organised West Didsbury Wombles event near the bus depot at junction of Palatine Road and Lapwing Lane which was very well attended (15+ people).

Mo and John informed the meeting that there are Recycling Tours run by Manchester City Council which aim to educated residents about recycling, and can be accessed via:

[www.recyleforgreatermanchester.com](http://www.recyleforgreatermanchester.com/)

Fly Tipping continues to be a big problem – in particular the pathway parallel to the fields and the parkway which continues to be littered with crates/carpets and the usual general litter. Please report these incidences to:

www.manchester.gov.uk or contact 0161-234-5000.

Dianne has addressed the issue of abandoned bins as actioned in the last minutes. It was acknowledged that there will inevitably be abandoned bins and these can be reported via the Manchester City Council website, or via Dianne.

The problems regarding leaves making walkways treacherous, bin collections and road sweepers appear to have been addressed as no further problems reported – thank you to Dianne for pursuing these.

Dianne informed the meeting of the Keep Britain Tidy/Manchester City Council “Great British Spring Clean” Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March. Groups can register to participate online:

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

and will be given branded bin liners. Dianne will give further information if requested.

Any issues should be directed to contacts@manchester.gov.uk, or through the switchboard which is 0161 234 5000, or via the website [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/)

John reported that there have been complaints regarding McDonalds staff using the very limited spaces off Princess Parkway – he has agreed to address this.

Mo informed the meeting that a new Urban Ranger (Dawn) has been recruited (to replace Richard ) – she will start on 26th February. Mo agreed to invite her to a future meeting.

1. **Guest Contribution:**

Dianne. John and Mo were welcomed to the meeting.

Dianne distributed the West Didsbury Ward Plan for 2017/2018. She also advised that this is shortly to be updated.

Dianne reported that there have been no further complaints regarding bin collections or road sweepers.

1. **Funding Issues and Planning:**

Jude and Kelda put forward the suggestion of planting of wild flowers near the Utilities station which was agreed by all as a worthwhile community project. Kelda agreed to look into this and activate by the end of February.

Dianne suggested that using a local artist in conjunction with members of the community to enhance the environment is a good use of funds, and agreed to forward information to Holly.

All present are of the firm view that a monthly event at the church aiming to involve older residents in a social/craft setting with light refreshments would be a beneficial project to pursue. Kelda agreed to speak to Ann Pilkington at Christchurch regarding availability of the hall.

There is funding available via the Neighbourhood Investment Fund and the above suggestions are good examples of how this fund is usually accessed – please refer to Dianne for further details.

1. **Any Other Business:**

Holly has been working on the West Didsbury Estate Community Group website and also the Newsletter. Thank you to Holly for all her hard work. She suggested that the Newsletter should be quarterly, to include issues such as environment and crime (including responsible agencies), community events and applications for funding, recycling, general community issues. Holly is completing a template and she stated that she would welcome feedback when this is completed.

Leane will continue to keep the West Didsbury Estate mobile phone and check for messages each day, but reported that no one has contacted this number as yet.

The proposed date of the AGM will be confirmed after the Public Meeting on 13th March 2018.

The Neighbourhood Watch Meeting will be on 27th March.

The date of the next West Didsbury Estate Community meeting will be confirmed when Yasmin has checked availability of the Den with Annie.

Leane will forward condensed minutes for the noticeboard to Holly.,