**Minutes of West Didsbury Estate Community Group Meeting:**

**Held on 5th August at Southway District Offices at 7 p.m.**

**Present:**

Carol McKrell, Resident

John Leech, Councillor

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

Maureen Ward, Southway Housing Trust

Jude Grundy, Treasurer

Kelda Savage, Resident

Holly Jones, Chair

Leane Jones, Secretary

**Apologies:**

Greg Stanton, M.P.

Richard Fitzpatrick, Councillor.

**Minutes of previous meeting of 10th June 2019:**

**Amendments:**

Apologies to Maureen Ward who did attend the last meeting, but this was omitted from the minutes.

Other than this, minutes have been distributed and agreed.

**Matters Arising:**

Near Misses at the Junction of Borrowdale Crescent and Craigmore Avenue:

No feedback from the community has been forthcoming. Dianne pointed out that inclusion of lines at this junction would provide a precedent for other similar junctions, and we require evidence of accidents/incidents. Holly stated that she would include this issue again in the forthcoming newsletter. Carol stated that this junction is used as a short cut and speeding is common here.

John was of the view that it would have been cost effective to put lines at this junction at the same time as the ones at the end of Craigmore/Mersey Crescent, and that it is not appreciated by the Highways Agency that this is the only exit from the estate other than Princess Parkway.

Newsletter:

This will be issued at the end of August.

Coffee Afternoon Monies and Christmas Meal:

Holly will include the possibility of a Christmas Meal for residents (including free transport) in the next newsletter and will ask residents of preferences (venue, proximity to the estate, etc). Holly stated that she had spoken to some residents after the tea dance who had expressed an interest in going for a Christmas meal.

Dianne asked Holly to email her regarding the use of Manchester Investment Fund monies for this prospect, to provide an accountable paper trail for auditing purposes. Holly agreed to submit this.

Summer Picnic:

This took place as advertised but was not well-attended.

Pavilion Development:

Holly attended the Stakeholders' Meeting. There is no financial plan in place as yet. John suggested that finances will need to be available to pay for the initial development of the project, and also the maintenance and ongoing running of it. The general feeling from the Football Club is that they feel that the local community is not supportive of this venture, although all present stated that they would be supportive of the Pavilion being used productively, as are most of the local residents.

John is as yet unaware of when the Planning Application is due to go to the Committee and will keep the group informed.

Dianne advised that plans seem to have been revised. There was a public consultation on the changed plan which was not well-attended. Jude added that the second consultation was not well-attended either.

John informed the meeting that Richard had asked Louise Belcher, Sports Specialist at Manchester City Council, for feedback. Comments from final engagement meeting will be typed up; all issues raised to be addressed and adaptations considered. The next Planning Committee Meeting is **9th September 2019.** They will have to re-submit if plans have changed.

Litter Initiative:

Previously, a skip was provided for the use of local residents twice a year. Kelda applied for further funding via the Beautiful South Funding but this was rejected.

Dianne advised that Redgate Recycling has community skips and agreed to get further information. If this is popular it would be accessible but also expensive.

Holly pointed out that fly tipping continues to be a problem. All residents have been informed via the Newsletter the services offered by the Council (once a year, up to 3 items, costs incurred after that) – but the costs may be prohibitive to many.

Dianne agreed to send Holly a leaflet regarding waste disposal.

McDonald's litter is also a huge problem. John stated that McDonald's were previously committed to helping address this but this seems to have waned.

Environment:

The trees on Riverbank Avenue are still overgrown and this is affecting visibility. Holly has reported this to Steve West and has received notification that this is in hand. John has also reported to Steve what Dianne referred to as 'epicural' growth which again affects visibility.

Holly has posted a letter to a resident regarding Manchester Care and Repair which offers subsidised services to residents aged 65+ as she was struggling with accessing her front door as the keyhole was in darkness.

**Any Other Business:**

Jude advised the meeting that on the riverbank near to the gate on Darley Avenue, she had been approached by a male asking for directions. He was sexually inappropriate and asked her to watch. He was approximately 35 years old, with dark hair and of a scruffy appearance. She has reported this to Police who will take this seriously.

There is still an abandoned motorbike in the river but this cannot be accurately reported until the flood water has abated.

Carol advised that the access to the river for cyclists parallel to Princess Parkway is very overgrown. This is dangerous and is also affecting the light. John agreed to look up the footpath number and investigate.

Jude expressed concerns about United Utilities spraying what is presumably Roundup near the sewage plant. The staff member involved did not know what he was spraying, he was not wearing protective clothing and there were no signs advising the pubic of this. She also expressed concerns for the environment and animals. This was previously raised by John but no response given. He agreed to follow up. Reportedly Manchester City Council have reduced the use of this chemical to address weeds but not stopped it altogether.

Holly reiterated that she will be standing down as Chair in September. There was some discussion about having alternate chairs from committee members, but there are no firm plans at present.

**The next meeting will be the AGM. Date to be confirmed.**