**West Didsbury Estate Community Group Meeting.**

**9th October 2017.**

1. **Present:**

Holly Jones (Co-chair)

Mikaela McKie

Yasmin Brodie (Co-chair)

Maureen Ward (Southway)

Jude Grundy (Treasurer)

Mario Semplis

Kelda Savage

Leane Jones (Secretary)

1. **Apologies:**

Sankofa Chiamaka

Maureen was welcomed to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of last meeting (Matters Arising):**

The minutes have been read and agreed.

**Holly** has received the boundary map from Southway and will e-mail to Leane to distribute.

**Yasmin** is awaiting an e-mail from Richard Salisbury from Manchester City Council regarding the responsibilities of the Council in our area.

Re: Homewatch – **Mikaela** has contacted Sally Ann Hill (PCSO) and has yet to receive a reply. She agreed to contact her again.

**Maureen** will check if Sally Ann is known to Southway’s Anti-Social Behaviour Team. She confirmed that it will be the Police who will steer the group and offer guidelines.

**Holly** volunteered to access the Homewatch/Greater Manchester Police site to start the application for Homewatch as soon as possible. Jude has attempted to contact the Police about local matters (evidence of cannabis plant dumping, for example) and has been advised that unless a crime is in progress, we are advised to call 101, or use Twitter as a way of communication.

Once Homewatch is in place, representatives from the Police will be invited to meetings.

Holly has spoken to a member of staff at Snow & Rock. They remain keen to be involved and have also reported incidents of low level crime at their premises on the Parkway.

**Kelda** advised that there is a forthcoming public meeting regarding the spate of crime at the Co-Op and agreed to update people regarding this.

**Maureen** agreed to look into the issue of the unsafe disposable of needles. United Utilities have been very helpful in the past; however it is the responsibility of Manchester City Council to manage the upkeep etc of grids. **Jude** agreed to speak to Diane Sakalas at the Council regarding this.

Holly has drafted an excellent Newsletter template and distributed it. She has also looked at other examples. Examples of what to include in this were useful telephone numbers/contacts, Crime, Litter Picks, Recent and forthcoming Events. Maureen informed the meeting that there is a budget available for this. She also stated that Southway might be able to print the Newsletter but that this would not be in colour.

She also advised that in the interests of impartiality, it is advisable not to include pictures of any members of a political party/group in the Newsletter.

Maureen informed Holly that funding would be available for the purchase of a domain name.

**Jude** will pursue the bank account, which will be held at the Didsbury branch of Barclay’s Bank. Holly and Jude will act as signatories. Once a bank account is in place, we will be able to apply to the Neighbourhood Improvement Fund.

**Holly** agreed to set up a group e-mail, and also a website. The boundary map will be included in this.

1. **Southway:**

Minuted throughout the meeting.

1. **Significant Events:**

See Crime below.

1. **Crime:**

All present at the meeting agreed that even minor incidents need to be reported and logged. Twitter is a useful tool for this for those who use it. Holly informed the group that, unfortunately, she and her family had been victims of a burglary. This had occurred in the early hours of the morning. It would be beneficial for all to alert others, in particular, elderly and/or vulnerable residents on the estate, and warn them to be vigilant. It appears that there have also been incidences of people trying doors to check if they are open. A resident on Penroy Avenue also had her children’s bike stolen from the garden.

Once registered with Homewatch, all present agreed to do a leaflet-drop alerting people, and wherever possible, to continue to alert neighbours.

**Yasmin** will liaise with Steve (Manager at MacDonalds) and **Holly** with Dan from Snow & Rock once the e-mail address is up and running.

Yasmin stated that she has received complaints from a number of people about primary school age children throwing stones at cars entering the estate. No-one present had experienced this personally. Yasmin advised them to contact the Police directly.

1. **Environment:**

Issues regarding disposable of needles addressed in Matters Arising.

Yasmin/Jude have been proactive in informing the relevant authorities regarding fly tipping and urged all present to do so too.

The consultation regarding the fields being an exclusion zone to dog walkers has now been closed.

There is another Litter Pick on 21st October at 2:30 p.m. for Cavendish Park and surrounding areas (off Burton Road) – all welcome!

The possibility of going to Moat Lane Park in Withington at a future Litter Pick was raised as this covers the M20 postcode.

Richard Salisbury has been liaising with Yasmin about the planting of trees in our locality – for some you require planning permission, but not replacement trees or wildflower gardens. **Kelda** agreed to look into any possible input from the City of Trees Team. Richard Eccles would be the point of contact.

Potholes – whilst some work has started addressing this, it is still an outstanding problem. There is a page on the Manchester City Council website to report potholes.

1. **Guest Contribution:**

N/A.

1. **Funding Issues and Planning:**

Addressed in Matters Arising.

1. **Any Other Business:**

Jude and Yasmin have spoken to Ann Pilkington at Christchurch regarding the hiring of a room for hire: the only availability is on Thursdays. Yasmin suggested that a group for over 50’s might be an option for this facility, and also suggested that some people might welcome a walking group.

**Maureen** agreed to speak to the Age Friendly Team within Southway to see if this could be pursued.

In relation to any forthcoming events – Maureen advising that because of obvious Health & Safety issues, it is better to use outside caterers.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 11th December at 7 p.m. at the Den.