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

**Held at Southway Trust Offices on 19th November 2018 at 7 p.m.**

**Present:**

Maureen Ward, Southway

Jude Grundy, Treasurer

Kelda Strange

Holly Jones, Chair

John Leech, Councillor

Richard Kilpatrick, Councillor

Leane Jones, Secretary

**Apologies:**

Mario Samplis

Yasmin Brodie

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council.

David Ellison, Councillor

Michaela McKie

The minutes of the last meeting have been read by all concerned. One amendment is that Annie Johnson was named as a Committee Member in these minutes and we have been informed that this is not the case. There appears to have been a miscommunication regarding her membership of the group.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 17th September 2018:**

Local Police:

John advised that Sergeant Allan Dean will soon be leaving the team in West Didsbury.

Facilities for Children/Opportunities for a Play Park:

A resident has contacted the group requesting that we look into providing a play park for children. The suggestion was to situate a play park near the tennis courts on the rear Mersey Bank playing field. In the past, a play park has been actively proposed by the former Committee in Mersey Bank Park, but the project was abandoned following an unfavourable public consultation.

Holly has met with David Boothroyd from Manchester City Council regarding what would be involved in the process of installing a play park. Mr. Boothroyd stated that it is possible, though the process is long and the council currently has no money to support such projects. Public Consultation would be the first priority. The idea has been mentioned in the newsletter and initial opinions were invited. The Committee will pursue a full public consultation in the New Year. Mr. Boothroyd has agreed to forward some information regarding play parks to Holly.

John advised that Section 116 monies have been used in the past, and also recommended pursuing some wheelchair accessible play equipment for the play park. One resident with young children has agreed to be involved in circulating a petition regarding this issue.

Renovation of the Pavilion on the football field:

The recent West Didsbury Estate Community Group newsletter provided information on this. It is still subject to Consultation and plans are ongoing. Surveyors have been to assess the site, but there are no plans for an office block.

Road Markings on Craigmore/Mersey Crescent:

**Feedback from Dianne Sakalas:** She has raised the issue of road markings. (Ref CRM 357 6070.) John confirmed that monies ring-fenced for roads in South Manchester are being spent elsewhere. He and Richard will continue to pursue this matter. Some committee members reported frequent near misses.

**Update:** After the meeting, Diane informed us that proposed road markings at the junction of Craigmore Avenue and Mersey Crescent will go ahead, however at the moment they will not be adding road markings to the other end of Craigmore Avenue, at the junction with Borrowdale Crescent. It was argued that this is still necessary, and the issue has been taken up by Richard.

Potholes:

The potholes (particularly on Mersey Crescent and Waterford) have not been addressed. They have been assessed between 4/5 and 5/5 for priority. Other roads assessed at 4/5 on the Merseybank Estate have been filled, and John has asked for an explanation for this decision. He advised that Mersey Crescent is not on the list as a' community network road'. All present expressed that it is the ONLY main community road which serves over 300 houses and regular football traffic. John and Richard will continue to pursue this. Dianne Sakalas has also reported this again (Ref. CRM 355 4785) and a Work Order has been raised. The work to repair the potholes on Rowsley Avenue are now completed.

Clearing of leaves on Riverbank Walk/Other maintenance issues:

A resident mentioned to a committee member today that leaves are still problematic for the residents on Riverbank Walk**.** Richard stated that Biffa are contracted to do this every Thursday. To clarify responsibility between Southway and Manchester City Council. Holly agreed to report the 2 street lights which are still not working.

**Update:** The broken street lights have been fixed. We have also clarified that it is Manchester council that has responsibility for Riverbank walk, not Southway Housing.

**Other Business not addressed in the minutes:**

Environmental Issues and Concerns:

The broken fencing on Darley Avenue is believed to have been fixed but has now been damaged again. John has highlighted this to to Steve West.

Holly has e-mailed Richard Salisbury regarding the tree edging. He has approved this project as for the good of the park and the environment.

The West Didsbury Estate Community Group had a session to clear some undergrowth on the park adjacent to Riverbank Walk. Future events will be held to continue this project.

Funding and Planning:

The deadline for the Manchester Airport Community Fund is on Friday. The suggestion to resubmit was agreed. Kelda agreed to locate the draft application.

Crime:

The Neighbourhood Watch Meeting on 22nd October was not well attended. PSCO Ian Taft kindly attended and provided a crime report. A report of the meeting including Iain’s notes was sent out to all members. There were no acute concerns raised but the importance of vigilance and looking out for vulnerable neighbours was emphasised by Iain, especially with winter and Christmas approaching. Date of next meeting is still to be confirmed.

**Any Other Business:**

Communication:

We discussed modes of communication between the WDECG and residents following concerns raised that we might not be reaching the whole community. Currently, we have:

* Mobile phone number **07396 177378**
* Communications in both notice boards (Mersey Crescent/Craigmore junction, and Darley Avenue. However space on the Mersey Crescent notice board is limited because it is for communications from Southway Housing)
* Quarterly Newsletter delivered to all residents
* Email [contact@westdidscommunity.co.uk](mailto:contact@westdidscommunity.co.uk)
* Website – showing upcoming events, and providing newsletters and minutes for download
* Copies of the minutes are available on request, either digitally or physically (a reminder of this will be posted in the next newsletter). We originally posted the minutes on the noticeboard, however it was pointed out that the text was too small to read and the chair decided that it would be better to simply make them available by request.

The fortnightly Coffee Afternoon:

This has not been well-attended and all new customers will be welcomed!

The next session is 11th December and this will be Laughter Yoga.

Following the popularity of the recent tea-dance which was organised by Southway, Holly has organised one for **5th February 2019, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Christchurch Hall** in conjunction with Southway Housing**.** Holly now has a music licence for the West Didsbury Estate Community Group.

Estate:

Richard advised that the burnt out bin at the bus stop on Princess Parkway beside the Garage. He has also requested that any residual litter accumulating there is removed.

Public Meetings:

Maureen Ward from Southway confirmed that the required number of public meetings for the West Didsbury Community Estate Group is 2, and that one of these may be the Annual General Meeting. This is stated in the constitution.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

14th January 2019 at Southway Trust Offices on Princess Parkway, at 7 p.m.