**Public Meeting for the West Didsbury Estate, held at Christchurch, Darley Avenue, on 13th March 2018 at 7.p.m.**

**Present:**

(As of sign in sheet):

Holly Jones, Co-Chair, WDECG (West Didsbury Estate Community Group)

Kelda Savage, WDECG

Leane Jones, Secretary, WDECG

Tony Jones

Javier Valiente

Barbara Holland

Philippa Abbott

J. Dyke

John Leech, Councillor

John Fletcher

P. Cooper

Jude Grundy, Treasurer, WDECG

Dianne Sakalas, Manchester City Council

George A. Cordary

Yasmin Brodie, Co-Chair, WDECG

Mario Semplis, WEDCG

Maureen Ward, Southway

**Apologies:**

Mikaela McKie, WDECG

Sankofa Chiamaka

**Minutes from last meeting and matters arising:**

The condensed minutes from the meeting of 05.02.18 were circulated.

Tracy Mortimer will be starting with the Police in the Didsbury area and is keen to get involved with Neighbourhood Watch. Holly has window stickers available if anyone would like one and she will bring them to the next Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.

Dawn Bannatyne is the new Urban Ranger and will be invited to a future meeting.

**Environment:**

Javier reported that there are problems with litter on Rosegarth Avenue, including a lot of McDonald's rubbish. Yasmin reminded the meeting that the West Didsbury Wombles will be doing a litter pick on Saturday 17th March at 2 p.m. (all welcome) and will focus on this area. Javier stated that he and some other residents on this avenue try to address it but it is an issue. Barbara advised that there is a bin liner full of rubbish at the end of Southdene which has been there for several days. **General complaints about flytipping/litter should be directed to: contact@manchester.gov.uk.**

There had been a burnt out motorbike under the bridge (at the end of the fields on the way to Chorlton Water Park). Both Holly had Leane had difficulty in reporting this as MCC thought it to be the responsibility of the River Authority and vice versa. **John** said he would try and clarify this. **Dianne** stated that she has access to Land Registry and can assist help; it often helps if there are any lamp posts nearby with numbers on them to identify who is responsible for certain parts of land.

Javier also commented that there are parking problems on Rosegarth Avenue which are made worse by overgrown privet hedges blocking pavements. Some vehicles have been clamped but this is an ongoing issue. Tony pointed out that Southway tenants are responsible for ensuring that their gardens are in in a safe/reasonable condition (as per their Tenancy Agreement). Maureen advised that Southway do send out letters advising tenants to resolve any problems, but this is difficult to enforce. **Maureen** alsostated that she will ask a Community Service Officer to see if hedges are obstructing the pavement. **Dianne** advised that for private tenants, a City Council Compliance Officer can assess if shrubbery is causing an obstruction, and take necessary action.

In relation to parking, **John** advised that unless cars are on yellow lines, the Council will not take action, and the Police usually only remove cars if they are causing a considerable obstruction, or blocking emergency or disabled access. **Maureen** confirmed that occasionally the best resolution is for neighbours to discuss these issues with each other.

**Barbara** advised that there are compacted leaves on the walkways which are dangerous to walk on. **Tony** reported that drains are frequently blocked from leaves. **John** advised that blocked drains should be addressed after reporting within 12 weeks. He agreed to look into this.

The area in the park where the picnic bench is situated is now an established dumping ground for general litter, fly tipping, stolen property and general disposal of unwanted goods. The West Didsbury Wombles will look at this on the next litter pick, but this is acknowledged as an ongoing issue.

**Roads/Traffic Issues:**

Potholes continue to pose problems, despite being reported. Javier also asked why certain potholes are filled whilst adjacent ones are not, and why certain stretches of road are resurfaced, leaving other damaged areas untouched. **John** explained that there is a 5 year resurfacing plan in place. Generally workers are required to fill adjacent potholes, and tend to do so as they are paid per pothole. Resurfacers are paid for a specific area of road. He advised that it is important to report potholes and uneven/dangerous roads as these are more likely to be addressed. **Holly** agreed to include how to complain/inform these matters on the website.

Princess Parkway is to remain subject to a 30 mph speed limit. Everyone agreed that this is an excellent outcome. **John** advised that no figures have been released from the trial period from the Highways Agency; however it is thought that the previous speed limit had not been enforced.

All present reported confusion and many near misses regarding who has right of way when entering the estate on Mersey Crescent as it meets Craigmore. **John** agreed to consult the Highways Agency and suggested that a Traffic Regulation Order to clearly mark right of way would be pursued.

**Crime:**

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be on March 27th at 7 p.m. At Christchurch on Darley Avenue. **Jude** advised that there is a further meeting on the 28th involving a cluster of local areas. Venue not confirmed as yet.

**Neighbourhood Investment Fund/Financial Planning:**

**Holly** reported on behalf of the committee that funding had been acquired to develop a social/coffee afternoon event for over 50's on the estate. There was a question about how this decision had been reached. **John** confirmed that he had advised the committee of the availability of these funds just before the closing date, therefore due to time constraints, the application had to be made without a full consultation with all the residents on the estate. This will be done in future via a forthcoming survey. **Holly** reminded the meeting that anyone can contact the group, via the website, email address and telephone number, with any comments, concerns or ideas. The committee will also shortly have a PO address, once the Southway Offices are operational.

In relation to the composition of the committee, **Maureen** confirmed that this had been established after a thorough consultation and public meeting in summer of last year. Any resident can be co-opted to join the committee if they so wish.

**Dianne** suggested that once funds have been allocated for a project, it does not always follow that this will be granted the following year, and projects may have to be self-funding.

**Any Other Business:**

The committee hand delivered the recent Newsletter to all addresses on the estate, however in the event that people did not receive one, condensed minutes of the meetings are available on the noticeboard at the end of Darley Avenue, and full minutes available on request, in whichever form is convenient to the residents.