Fordbank Residents Association – Seventeenth Meeting

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**Thursday 17th October 2019**

**Didsbury Sports Ground 7.00pm**

**Present:**

**Ford Lane:** Apostolos,Jackie Butterworth, John and Mary Thomas, Mike and Sarah Purcell, Theresa Croft, Graham Brooke.

**Fordbank Road:** Diane Buckley,Daisy and Laurence, Ann Pritchard, Jean Johnston.

**Dene Road:** Alison Bowyer, Shaun Foster.

**Deneford Road:** Alastar Jackson.

**Granville Gardens:** Rick Taylor.

**Harefield Drive:** John Llewellyn

**Whitehaven Gardens:** Richard Gee.

**Woodford Gardens:** Mike and Joyce Cunningham, Mike Broderick.

***21 resident attendees, plus Chair (TB), Secretary (RED), Treasurer (MT).***

***Invited Guest: Councillor Richard Kilpatrick (RK).***

**Apologies:** Green Member (JW), Youth Member (DB),Trevor Gale, Roger Platford, Moira Sykes and invited guests: PSCO: Iain Tuft and Councillor Greg Stanton (GS).

1. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.**

TB introduced the meeting and discussed the minutes from the previous meeting as the agenda items for this meeting. These were agreed as a point of business and the actions formed the agenda for this meeting. Minutes are available on the website: <http://www.fordbankresidents.org.uk/>.

1. **List of attendees.**

RED distributed list of attendees on spreadsheet for everyone to sign. Usual practice of signing up and adding email addresses. TB led introductions from all who attended and welcome the new attendees.

1. **Update from Treasurer - MT.**
* 2019 subscriptions now due. Only 15 households have paid in 2019.
* £1191 in the account.
* Household subscriptions last from January to December and please forward 2019 to Milly.
* Funds given to Didsbury in Bloom and website maintenance.
* A donation to the potential Christmas Do also discussed.
* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** Please send any subscriptions to Milly at: ricmaxtayl@aol.com or 17 Granville Gardens.
1. **Didsbury In Bloom Update.**

John and Mary Thomas expressed their thanks for all those who helped in Didsbury inBloom this year. Special mention given to Barbara and Joe for all their help over the Summer. Thanks also given to those who watered Ford Lane plants over the Summer.

Planting next week will start in Didsbury Village and on Ford Lane on Monday 28th October.

The damaged grass verge from the Biffa trucks has been discussed and the local Councillors have sourced 29 logs with red reflectors which are 12-18 inches high (approx. 55 cm) to be planted along the edge of the grassy knoll.

Results of Didsbury in Bloom are announced annually at Southport Conference which will be held on 30th October this year. Results will be announced once known. Didsbury in Bloom and Ford Lane have been awarded Gold for the last 5 consecutive years.

They will continue to attend meetings and first Saturday of each month is a clean-up session at Didsbury Library – all invited to attend.

* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** please attend the clean-up sessions at Didsbury Library on first Saturday of each month.
1. **Didsbury Woodland Project Update – TB on behalf of JW.**

This is now a 1km path named as a ‘Health Walk’. The next step will be planting bluebells which have been given from Fletcher Moss Park and volunteers are needed on **Sunday 3rd November at 10.30am;** please bring your own trowel or digger. Insurance will be covered by the Council.

Interserve, who are currently renovating The Christie will support this path by rebuilding the steps down to the sports fields.

JW was thanked for his excellent presentation given to the last meeting of this group.

1. **Update from Chair from Didsbury West Ward Meeting – TB.**

(Minutes also attached).

* **Poppy Path –** back of Didsbury Park (Sandhurst Lane to School Lane) will hold a Memorial Service on Saturday 9th November. All invited.
* **Didsbury Point** – currently a ‘hotspot’ of crime. 2 arrests made following undercover police work. Crime targets now include Victoria Road and Spath Road. You can access local crime statistics here: <https://www.police.uk/greater-manchester/EC25/crime/2019-07/>. Police encourage the use of outside lights and video linked doorbells. There is also a GMP Live Chat on Twitter which is encouraged for people to post any live incidents and of course 101.
* **Southway Housing** – they are building approx. 60 affordable housing units over 3 local sites.
* **Shoplifting in Didsbury Village** – this is on the increase. The bigger national stores share security e.g. Tesco, Coop, Boots, M&S, Aldi and build into their profit margins an amount to cover shoplifting, The local independent stores do not have this luxury or the means to fund security.
1. **Invited Guest: Councillor Richard Kilpatrick (RK)** cllr.r.kilpatrick@manchester.gov.ukor contact@manchester.gov.uk (which is Manchester City Council).
* **Praise was given to Didsbury in Bloom** for work carried out in Didsbury Park, Poppy Path and around the Library.
* **Speeding on Dene Road –** campaigning for funding for signage from NFI funds. No funding for traffic calming in Manchester unless outside a school in Manchester.
* **Didsbury Police Station –** squatters took over the area; now removed. The premises are still owned by Castlefield Estates and trying to sell. Other empty units are also being targeted by the Councillors and looking at solutions moving forward e.g. dividing large units into smaller ones. Units can stay empty for up to a year before the rates increase. Councillors are looking at way business rates are used in Didsbury Village, for example, reduce rates are currently given to charity shops and pubs.
* **Shell Garage –** the licence was rejected for 24/7 alcohol selling but was granted for hot food and drinks.
* **The Crown –** enforcement action is now on by GMP due to the increased noise and drug use in nearby car parks.
* **20 mph signage –** legislation has now changed and there is no need to repeat into an estate – so therefore not being funded.
* **Highfield House –** problems with damp in the towers and discussion is ongoing with Guinness Housing Trust.
* **Resurfacing on Wilmslow Road** – concerns were raised due to a lack of information on the schedule. However, the quality of work seems good.
* **Environmental Agency** – dredging the river base of the River Mersey due to the recent flooding. Flood defences at Didsbury worked, however, failed in other areas.
* **Traffic Lights on Wilmslow Road opposite Didsbury Park** – this needs a new system with it being so close to Beaver Road School e.g. green man button or lollipop person.

***Quick response from RK – Highways stated due to the resurfacing the programmes need to be readjusted. RK has stated it needs to cover the school run times.***

* **Traffic at East Didsbury junction** – this has been assessed at 120% which was used as an argument against the planning application of McDonalds in this area.
* **Fly tipping at Simon’s Bridge Car park** – how can this be stopped?
* **Biffa Lorries** – now they have reduced travelling down Ford Lane are now hurtling down FordBank Road instead. RK informed the meeting that there are currently 5 insurance claims against Biffa.
* **Number of buses in Didsbury** – was raised as a concern.

***Quick Response from RK:***

***Just wanted to update you on some issues shared with me:***

***I have reported the following to the highways service:***

* ***Traffic timings on the pedestrian crossings on Wilmslow Road junction with Dene Road near Didsbury Park***

***I have had receipt of the email and that they will look into the timings and get back to me.***

***I have also reported the following to the neighbourhood team:***

* ***Fly tipping in the car park near Simon's bridge***
* ***Dog foul waste on the bridge itself***
* ***The dog foul dumping in the bins at the sports ground***
* ***The historic bins that have been removed***

***I have also written to Biffa requesting that the refuse team be mindful of residents when driving in the area. The neighbourhood manager is out of the office until the 24th but when he gets back I will share his response.***

***I have also contacted planning about the rumour of a planning application at ~***[***240 Palatine Road***](https://www.google.com/maps/search/240%2BPalatine%2BRoad?entry=gmail&source=g)***. When I get a response I will pass that on too.***

1. **DSG.**
* **Bonfire Night – Saturday 2nd November.** Children in the estate can enter for free. The extra funds will go towards the Didsbury Christmas Lights. Any volunteers will be warmly received. Starts at 5pm and fireworks at 7pm.
* **Dog waste –** this was raised again by DSG, for the incorrect use of Biffa bins for dog waste. A new bin clearly labelled for dog waste or general purpose is needed. Notices to be put up around the areas. Bins also asked for on Simon’s Bridge for the same problem.
1. **FordBank Residents’ Association Website.**

Thank you to Shaun for his continued excellent work for our website.

1. **Christmas Do.**

This should be sometime in December and various venues to be looked at e.g. The Didsbury, DSG. SP to investigate.

1. **AOB.**

The Councillors have shared the **leaf clearance programme** with us: The full programme will commence on October 14th 2019 and will be aiming for completion around week commencing the 06th December 2019. However, as we know from previous years, leaf fall is heavily weather dependent and as a result, some flexibility is needed around start dates. Some additional resources will be available from October 1st, when one Large Mechanical Sweeper (LMS) will begin double shifting to target early leaf fall.



Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**Actions for Committee Members:**

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| Collect 2019 Subscriptions | MT | To circulate minutes  | RED |
| Woodland Support Work | JW | To book the venue for next meeting | RED |
| Christmas Do Planning | SP | To discuss and plan agenda and date for next meeting | TB/RED |