Fordbank Residents Association – Fifteenth Meeting

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**Thursday 27th September 2018**

**Didsbury Sports Ground 7.00pm**

**Present:**

**Ford Lane:** Apostolos Antonacopoulos,Jackie Butterworth, Moira Sykes (Ford Lodge).

**Fordbank Road:** Yan and Tom McNamara, Jean Johnston, Mauren O’Driscoll.

**Dene Road:** Rachel Pattinson.

**Deneford Road:** Angela McLaughlin, Barbara and Joe Griffin.

**Granville Gardens:** Rick Taylor, Siobhan Watson.

**Harefield Drive:** John Llewellyn.

**Woodford Gardens:** Mike Broderick.

**Whitehaven Gardens:** Richard Gee, Mike Clarke.

***20 resident attendees, plus Chair (TB), Secretary (RED), Treasurer (MT), Green Member (JW).***

***Invited Guests: Councillor David Ellison (DE), Councillor John Leech (JL), Councillor Richard Kilpatrick (RK) and Russell Hoyte (DSG).***

**Apologies:** Trevor Gale, Roger Platford, Kate Kinsella, John and Mary Thomas, Mike and Chris Clarke and invited guest: Iain Tuft.

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.

1. **Neighbourhood Watch.**

The volunteer street champions to contact [iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk](mailto:iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk); thanks to Richard Gee for volunteering for Whitehaven Road.

* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS: Please email Iain at** [iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk](mailto:iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk) for any volunteers for street champions.

1. **Crime.**

Please report all crime on 101 or 999 (if in progress) or 0161 856 4973 (direct line) or email Iain at[iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk](mailto:iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk). There have been incidents of people on Atwood Road wearing masks/ski masks and targeting houses/cars.

1. **Joint Presentation from Chair and Secretary on RA priorities for the forthcoming year.**

* Grassy Knoll Clean Up - was held on Saturday 20th June. 25-30 people helped which was very impressive. The old section of Ford Lane was targeted in preparation for Didsbury in Bloom (see point 11). JW expressed his thanks to all for the commitment.
* Didsbury Festival – we raised around £120 which meant £70 profit. There is a Festival fundraising dinner in October.
* Didsbury Woodland project - £7,500 raised by Didsbury Beer Festival, they have erected a fence but will need to find a name board; think if a suitable name; plan the pathway; construct bird boxes; make the horse chestnut tree safe; remove the ivy; preserve the woodland; unblock the culvert. They are asking for volunteers and they are having training at £350 / day from a gardening company. JW to keep us informed of the dates and the Facebook campaign.
* One resident also asked for support in keeping the Community orchard going – she has been tacking the brambles on a regular basis for a number of months. JW to follow this up with the woodland team.
* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** Please email John at [john@waterton.name](mailto:john@waterton.name) if interested in helping.
* Drug Incidents – there were a number for reports from concerned residents on people taking drugs over the summer months along Ford Lane/ over the wall by DSG. Rachel met with Iain Tuft to discuss them.
* Vandalism on the allotment – Bradley Fold has yet again been attacked by youths cutting the fences with wire cutters, setting things of fire, throwing chairs through greenhouses. Photos and CCTV clearly show the faces of the offenders. These have been passed onto the police. MC was interested in people’s opinions of whether the photos should be passed onto the local high schools for help in identifying the culprits. Discussion also centred round whether the photos could be placed on social media. RK – suggested that these incidents were reported to the Antisocial Behaviour Team @Manchester Council and to Sergeant Alan Dean.
* St George’s Parade – this may be an event families could take part in. DB to investigate.

1. **Didsbury Sports Ground.**

* Residents raised concerns over the number of events held at DSG in the summer which resulted in loud music playing for long periods of time and over 4 consecutive days. One private event also involved vehicles carrying fairground attractions which kept down Ford Lane, damaging the grassy knoll and numerous tree branches. Residents questioned if this was the most appropriate road to be travelling on due to the size of the road and pavement. JL stated that Manchester Council Highways have stated that it is safer for large vehicles to travel down Ford Lane rather than turning right at the end of Ford Bank Road.
* DSG was asked for the Biffa truck to slow down when coming to empty the bins.
* It was asked why there were not a number of event aimed at the local children on at DSG around the summer. DSG explained that only events ran by official organisations by the FA/RFU/ECB only otherwise they can be accused of poaching players.
* Concerned was raised about the level of noise for evening events. DSG said the doors are closed at 10pm. It was suggested that they would have a noise cancelling added to the club which would cut out the electricity if the noise reached a certain level.
* RK said the DSG has been very supportive of the local community and the Councillors supported their application for a NIF grant for repairs to the roof.
* Manchester University is looking at the wall and the potential issues with the tall trees and are working with DSG.
* Dog waste was raised. The commercial bins at the DSG cannot facilitate the disposal of dog waste as the contents go to be recycled e.g. glass. Therefore residents are encouraged NOT to use these bins for dog waste. DSG will be constructed and emptying their own dog waste bin due the continued issue this causes for the players on the pitches and the commercial bin company.

1. **Invited Guest: Councillor David Ellison (DE) update on local issues.** [cllr.d.ellison@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.d.ellison@manchester.gov.uk) or [contact@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:contact@manchester.gov.uk) (which is Manchester City Council).

* Beaver Road School – will be opening soon. It was 6 times oversubscribed for places for this September. Planning permission was legal but residents expressed concern that it has been passed without car parking for drop off. It is to be encouraged that people will walk. There will be a community walking bus from the Old Cock. It was suggested that the RA invites Beaver Road Head David Howe to a future meeting. And possibility David Woolley who will be Head of the new Didsbury High School.
* The 3 Councillors were asked by one resident if they will respond to the potential parking issues this school will have on the estate.
* DE has met with Bev Hughes to raise the issue of crime in Didsbury and it has been placed as a priority for the Ward.
* One resident raised that they were concerned about the number of empty units in the Village and too many restaurants and bars; which then have a high turnover. More shops was agreed to be a positive. Ward Officers are working with Didsbury Traders to look at this data and complete a survey. This will also look at rents and rates and present some solutions to this issue.

1. **Invited Guest: Councillor John Leech (JL) update on local issues.** [cllr.j.leech@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.j.leech@manchester.gov.uk)

* Bus Stops have moved on Wilmslow Road due to the new school. Concern has been raised with the one on the way to Didsbury Village being very dark. JL has requested additional lighting and has asked for the residents to pass on any concerns about this to him directly.
* Concern has also been raised for the joint footpath and cycle path routes in the area.
* Didsbury Civic Society has completed a walk around the Village highlighting the issues with pavements. Some have also been identified on Ford Lane.

1. **Invited Guest: Councillor Richard Kilpatrick (RK) update on local issues.** [cllr.richard.kilpatrick@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.richard.kilpatrick@manchester.gov.uk) or 0161 234 3235.

* There was an unfortunate fatal accident with an elderly lady on the pavement on Dene Road. Please pass on any defects to the Council.
* There will be a number of extra ‘20’ repeating signs placed around the estate; especially along WestMorland Road.
* Footfall in the Village is also going to be monitored in light of the number of empty units.
* If crime is not being responded to by the police- copy in the Councillors.
* There is a new Ward Plan now in action.
* There will be a Crime meeting with a senior Police Officer on Tuesday 9th October at 7.30pm at Ivy Church which anyone can attend.

1. **Update from Treasurer: MT.**

* £1028.71 in the account.
* Household subscriptions last from January to December and please forward 2018 to Milly.
* £50 was paid for the cost of the Didsbury Festival stall. £63.49 profit was made.
* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** Please send any subscriptions to Milly at: [ricmaxtayl@aol.com](mailto: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 in Bloom this year. Results will be announced at Southport on October 31st for our Neighbourhood category. Mr and Mrs Thomas will attend. Britain in Bloom result will be held in Belfast in November and Didsbury was one of the 7 competitors; Ford Lane was part of Britain in Bloom portfolio.

1. **AOB.**

* Homelessness in the Village was raised especially around Didsbury Library.
* JW suggested that the RA has a Christmas Do.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**Actions for Committee Members:**

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| Collect 2018 Subscriptions | MT |
| Woodland Support Work | JW |
| Christmas Do Planning | JW/MT |
| To circulate minutes | RED |
| To book the venue for next meeting | RED |
| To discuss and plan agenda and date for next meeting | TB/RED |