Fordbank Residents Association – Sixteenth Meeting/ AGM

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**Thursday 31st January 2019**

**Didsbury Sports Ground 7.00pm**

**Present:**

**Ford Lane:** Jackie Butterworth, John and Mary Thomas, Sarah Purcell.

**Fordbank Road:** Daisy and Laurence, Jean Johnston.

**Dene Road:** Alison Bowyer.

**Deneford Road:** Barbara and Joe Griffin.

**Granville Gardens:** Rick Taylor.

**Whitehaven Gardens:** Richard Gee.

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

***Invited Guests: Councillor David Ellison (DE), Councillor John Leech (JL),***

**Apologies:** Trevor Gale, Roger Platford, Sean Foster, Apostolos Antonacopoulos, Ciara and Pat Cullen, Barbara Goodman and invited guests: PSCO: Iain Tuft and Councillor Richard Kilpatrick (RK) and Russell Hoyte (DSG).

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 thanked those who had braved the weather to attend.

1. **Election of Officers.**

The following positions were elected unopposed:

* Chair – Tony Butterworth
* Secretary – Rachel Dalton-Woods
* Treasurer – Milly Taylor
* Green Member – John Waterton
* Youth Officer – Dan Bromley
* Social Secretary – no member elected. Sarah Purcell has kindly offered to organise the Christmas Do.

Residents expressed gratitude for all the hard work to date.

* *Homewatch Member – this is for members from each road to volunteer and contact Iain Tuft directly*. There may be NIF monies available for signage over the estate.
* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS: Please email Iain at** [iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk](mailto:iain.tuft@gmp.police.uk) for any volunteers for street champions.

TB outlined the RA plans for the year – there will be 3 meetings held over a full year with realistic targets and aims for the RA to pursue for the year. It started when DSG was being rebuilt and has continued to develop since then.

1. **Didsbury Woodland Project Update – JW.**

JW provided an update on the progress of this area. The path is the next stage. It is an asset for FBRA and BRPS. JW to attend a meeting next week. RA happy to support with some monies in the future. DB suggested this could be a youth event too.

JW to keep us informed of any dates/ events we could support.

1. **Didsbury In Bloom Update.**

John and Mary Thomas expressed their thanks for all those who helped in Didsbury inBloom this year. For Britain in Bloom – Truro won and Didsbury collected Second Place. Ford Lane, which is part of Didsbury in Bloom, was awarded outstanding. Formal thanks from the RA was given to those who helped at the clean-up day – 35 members attended- and to those who worked tirelessly during the Summer – Joe and Barbara Griffin and John and Mary Thomas.

They shared with the group the certificates they have achieved – the first one for 5 consecutive years of being awarded ‘Gold’ and second for being outstanding this year.

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.

Concern was raised about damage to the grass verge caused by Biffa and other vehicles. Biffa was found to be the culprit last year due to the video footage on the truck and they paid for the grass to be replaced. Discussion was held on the size of Biffa vehicles used on the lane. Discussion was held about a potential barrier from this happening again e.g. small rail, bollards, planting pots, small square stones, boulders. Residents also expressed concern about the vehicles being parked outside No. 18 Ford Lane which contributes to the problem. It was suggested that those overlooking the grassy knoll should be the lead on this.

* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** those residents at the end of Ford Lane to be involved in planning for the protection of the grassy knoll alongside John and Mary Thomas’s Didsbury in Bloom work.

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

The following were listed as priorities for 2019:

* 3 meetings a year.
* Roads and pavements of the estate.
* Lighting near DSG.
* Supporting of the new Park Run event every Saturday at 9am – DSG open for drinks and breakfast. Over 350 people run each week.
* Didsbury Festival – it has been decided to have a year out unless there is a volunteer to lead on this.
* Youth events – DB to look into craft events, having some raised beds for children to garden, nature trials.
* Inter-generation events also suggested e.g. bingo.
* DSG - dog waste was raised as an ongoing concern. Lighting is still on the agenda.

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

* 2019 subscriptions now due.
* £1138 in the account.
* Household subscriptions last from January to December and please forward 2019 to Milly.
* Builders said they were going to contribute to Didsbury in Bloom after being so impressed by the effort last Summer when working on No. 16 Ford Lane. MT has a discussion with them but unfortunately no monies were forwarded.
* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** Please send any subscriptions to Milly at: [ricmaxtayl@aol.com](mailto:ricmaxtayl@aol.com) or 17 Granville Gardens

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).

* Fordbank estate is fantastic but was built in the 1930s – therefore it is 90 years old and the infrastructure needs looking at and maintaining.
* There have been a number of trips and falls reported so the pavements are being replaced to ensure a smooth surface. Dene Road is a priority for this this due to a fatal accident caused by uneven paving.
* Residents also asked about other areas and DE asked for residents to write to him directly.
* Blocked gullies also discussed.
* Gritting – if the roads are not gritted – please contact Manchester City Council and Councillors.
* Metrolink – needs more investment. Services are now too busy. There is a lack of investment of monies outside of London. The whole service cost the equivalent of one underground London tube station.
* One resident asked if there will be a tram to Stockport. Not likely as Stockport Council deliberately built over the existing rail tracks and therefore the diversion would be very costly.

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

* There is a systematic gullies programme in action in the area – over 2800 have been done. However 800 need further work to be cleared. There is a response time of 12 weeks after a blocked one is reported. However this is quicker when there are a number of complaints.
* Highways – Wilmslow Road from Aldi to Dene Road has not been done. Wilmslow Road to Dene Road was to be completed in 2018 -2019 financial year; this has been delayed until May/June 2019. However, this means that more roads/pavements can be completed in the area up until the end of the financial year. As roads/ pavements are graded between 1 and 5 (5 being the worse) – the council will only look to resurface those in need. Currently no more pavements have been identified to be completed over the next 2 years.
* Residents of the estate are encouraged to contact the Councillors and MCC if they believe their own roads/pavements need resurfacing. TB/RED will write on behalf of the RA too.
* The pothole programme is a concern city wide with some identified holes from 2017 yet to be filled. This is due to a lack of scheduling by the Highways Department. An extra £1.9 million has been to MCC to be used by the end of the financial year for this.
* There is light at the end of the tunnel as a new person has been appointed in charge of the Highways Department.
* **ACTION FOR RESIDENTS:** Please email MCC and the Councillors with concerns of resurfacing on individual roads and pavements.

1. **AOB.**

One resident raised lack of mobile phone signal and where the masts were.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**Actions for Committee Members:**

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