



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday, 19TH August 2021 Didsbury Sports Ground (DSG) at 7 p.m.

Residents present

Ford Lane: Chris Caplin, Lee Woods, Jackie Butterworth, Mike Purcell

Fordbank Road: Jenny Wynne, Laurence Durie, Daisy Smith, Jean Johnston

Dene Road: Philip Thomas, Rachel Pattinson, Sarala Gunawardena, Roger Platford, Shaun Foster

Deneford Road: Barbara Griffin

Committee present

Rachel Dalton-Woods (Chair), Sarah Purcell (Secretary), Tony Butterworth (Senior Residents' Officer, John Waterton (Green Officer).

In attendance

Clive Szmit (Director, DSG), Arthur Crabtree (Director, DSG), Ged Lynch (F&B Executive, DSG) Mike Gray (invited guest), Councillor John Leech.

Apologies for absence

Milly Taylor (Treasurer), John and Mary Thomas, Trevor Gale, Councillor Greg Stanton.

No.	Item
1	Intros/your association
	The chair thanked residents for attending and DSG for accommodating the meeting. She encouraged participation within the association and reminded residents of the existing NIF grant allocated for tidying the grassy knoll.
2	Channels of communication inc. use of the WhatsApp Group
	JW explained the crime-focussed WhatsApp group had become off-topic. He had created a duplicate group for the purpose of generic chat and requested the original be reserved for reporting crime or suspicious behaviour.
3	Subscriptions
	The treasurer had sent apologies and the chair noted that the FBRA account held approx. £1k. Residents agreed to the £5 p.a. per household as a nominal sum and understood the reasons to hold a buffer. Difficulties in receiving subs were discussed.
4	Didsbury in Bloom update
	John and Mary Thomas had sent apologies. They had forwarded thanks to those who continue to water planters and log rolls and to those who had helped clearing winter plants and planting summer ones. Regarding Didsbury in Bloom RHS judges had commented on the diversity of the lane, especially the NHS tribute troughs. Results are due September/October.

5	Update from Councillors
	<p>Councillor John Leech:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flooding The Environment Agency had advised the latest flood was the most serious to date. Each incident had become progressively worse and there are concerns that flood defences might not hold in the future. There is currently an investigation which may take up to two years to determine whether the existing system needs upgrading. 2. Bins Recent waste collection issues were related to staff shortages on account of Covid ‘pings’ or positive cases. More widely there is currently a shortage of all large vehicle drivers. Issues with Biffa not returning bins to their correct location should continue be reported. 3. Potholes Moneys had been allocated for a programme of work for patch repairs. Funds are very limited for full resurfacing works. Residents were encouraged to get in touch for any problem pothole/patch areas. 4. Speeding traffic on Dene Rd The council is allocating funds to minor traffic calming and road safety schemes. Dene Road and Spath Road are under consideration and councillors have been asked to prioritise main issues. Occupants of Dene Road raised concerns about speeding traffic and had recorded the quantity and speed of vehicles along Dene Road over a set timeframe. Discussion followed on both speeding and the safety of the Dene Rd/Fordbank Rd junction. Residents were encouraged to pass their preferences for traffic calming measures to Cllr. Leech who pointed out the significant variation in costs between alternatives. The dangerous pedestrian crossing at Wilmslow Road/Dene Rd was also discussed. Cllr. Leech would look at whether the phasing could be altered to make the crossing more pedestrian friendly. 5. Anti-social behaviour Discussed under update from Didsbury Sports Ground. 6. Commitment to 2038 carbon neutrality Climate change officers are soon to be employed alongside neighbourhood managers with some remit to work with local wards. Each ward will have a NIF allocation for the reduction of carbon emissions. Ordinarily, each community group is entitled to a single NIF application per annum but the introduction of a green NIF may mean a second application of this nature would be considered. Discussions are in place with the Coop re its plastics recycling scheme.
6	Update from Didsbury Sports Ground on sports and social activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GL provided an update on the refurb and investment into the facilities. Directors pointed out the facility serves the local community and is no longer a members only club. The bar is open daily from 12 p.m. The upper-level room is being decorated and will accommodate private functions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CZ summarised activity during lockdown. Following a risk assessment the green playing field immediately in front of the building is reserved for organised sports but all other areas are open to the community. • The antisocial behaviour over lockdown seemed to be subsiding bar one or two incidents. Increased presence at the club seems to be acting as a deterrent. The club was keen to work with residents to improve the area and encouraged them to speak directly to them should there be any specific issues. • The club now offers an array of sporting activities and will produce an activity board and communicate further with residents on sports and social activities. • TB explained the on-going matter of the absence of lighting on the lane from the club towards the river and suggested a joint approach in the near future.
7	A.O.B.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defibrillator training had been carried out on a previous occasion and the same resident would be approached with a view to providing this again. • Michael Gray provided an outline proposal to re-wild the northern part of Simon's Field. He will discuss with councillors and liaise with JW.

ACTIONS

No.	Item	Who
1.	Make arrangements for tidying the grassy knoll via existing NIF	RDW
2.	Add Cllr. John Leech to WhatsApp groups	JW
3.	Add Lee (DSG) to WhatsApp groups	JW
4.	Liaise with Cllr. Leech re linking to Didsbury Traders WhatsApp for crime-related info.	JW
5.	Contact Laurence Durie re possible PayPal account set-up and liaise with treasurer	SP
6.	Inform Cllr. Leech of speeding traffic info and preferred calming measures	Residents of Dene Road
7.	New NIF grant ideas	Committee
8.	Investigate defibrillator training	TB
9.	Arrange Xmas gathering	SP/RDW
10.	Arrange next meeting (January 2021)	SP/RDW

The meeting closed at 8:27 p.m.