**Whalley Range Community Forum**

**Minutes of meeting** Date: 13th July Zoom

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| **Attendees:** |  |
| Carol Packham – WR Youth Opps & Time to Change & Celebrate, trustee | Chris Ricard – WRCF worker |
| Paul Benson Hannam – Friends of Alexandra Park and WRCF Planning Officer, trustee | Bill Williams – WRCF Chair, Victoria Road Residents Association, trustee |
| Ann Knowles WRCF - Rainbows, Guides, Guide Leader, trustee | Kate Richardson - WRCF admin support |
| Jane Ward – Whalley Range Climate Action Group | Malgorzata Kmita – St Edmunds Church |
| Cllr Muqaddasah Bano – Manchester City Council |  |
| Freddi Greenmantle - Age Friendly Whalley Range/Chorlton/Fallowfield, trustee | Jim Donohue – Residents British Muslim Heritage Centre Development Liaison Group |
| **Apologies:** |  |
| Martin Rathfelder – Kingsbrook Residents, trustee | Mary Watson - WRCF, Age Friendly Whalley Range/Chorlton/Fallowfield, trustee |
| Cllr Angeliki Stogia – Manchester City Council | Halima, British Muslim Heritage Centre |

**Minutes of last meeting (May 2023).** Last minutes agreed with amendment to item 3c – please see attached.

1. **Welcome/Introductions/Apologies**
2. **Matters arising:**

The work on the brochure continues will be available soon.

Leg Club launching 30th August 2023 and first meeting 6th September 2023 11.45am – 1.45pm it is a social group, transport will be arranged, nurses available to chat, no clinical work will be done in this group.

1. **Updates: -** 
   1. Celebrate festival: positive feedback received, Cllr Bano expressed her thanks to everyone involved, team and volunteers and the participation of residents and school children. Attenders enjoyed the Open Voice choir. Carol reported that fourteen people who attend Time to Change volunteered. Everyone is looking forward to next year when Celebrate will either be at JNR8 or Manley Park depending on funding.
   2. Impact of the cost of living crisis: Support group at JNR8 every Friday 10am. Now called Community Hub. This group will continue during the summer from 10am – 12pm. There is a lot of work involved in terms of foodbank referrals and benefits support and advice. Foodbank vouchers policy has recently changed to six vouchers issued per six months, as a consequence Chris and Kate are encouraging people to use food pantries rather than foodbanks. Chris and Kate are still issuing well being packs. Meeting expressed thanks to Chris for all her hard work.

Chris and Bill attended a meeting at the British Muslim Heritage Centre regarding forming an anti-poverty community. Barlow Moor Community Association host a meeting every Friday to establish a cost of living community, they are applying for funds for benefit advisors.

* 1. BMHC projects/BMHC Residents Liaison Group: arrangements for sharing minutes and agendas was formalised on 21st June. It is hoped that the designers (Generation) and BMHC will have more detailed plans available in October 2023. The Liaison Group are proposing a three stage consultation process; initially to the liaison steering group; then to the wider resident’s what’s app group; finally to a public forum before submitting a consultation response. Jim asked about how to build a wider membership. Chris suggested having stalls at local community events, for example, Victoria Road Street Party. Carol suggested person who is currently undertaking community planting may want to be involved. Kate suggested putting membership form on website along with minutes and agendas. Jim welcomed these suggestions.

WRCF are encouraging BMHC to send a representative to WRCF meetings, we have received an apology from them for this meeting.

* 1. Whalley Range Community Forum report. Chris shared her report. Some groups are now covered by core funding. The Boost Resilience five week courses are now funded for two years after completion attenders are invited to join the larger positive living group. Currently seeking funding for Tai Chi and Over 50’s Music Group.

Over 50’s Music Group performed at Celebrate and have been invited to do a gig in St Helen’s for charity.

Chris has attended welcome event for groups being funded from the infrastructure fund, met former IT teacher who will start running classes for us again.

Dementia Action Group meet regularly at JNR8 and are putting together a strategy.

WRCF have applied to be a co-op local cause again, will be used to develop new groups.

* 1. Whalley Range Community Forum/Age Friendly WR & Chorlton: will be meeting on Monday 17th July 2023, local councillors from Chorlton are attending and will be updating group about Chorlton precinct development plans.
  2. Friends of Alexandra Park: Hoping to have three car boot sales in August, awaiting licences. Will promote when licences confirmed. Have had a good response from volunteers. There is a new raised bed outside the lodge.
  3. Whalley Range Climate Action group: Jane reported on the following activities:

Social event for Friends of Chibombo. Chibombo is a women’s project in Africa planting trees to reforest and planting food. Raised £500.00 for a new water project.

Draft climate plan circulated by Manchester City Council – responses have been made.

Clean Air Project – Afzal Khan MP invited group to show Clean Air film at House of Commons – cross party attendance. Currently developing Clean Air hub involving schools, churches, GPs, sports clubs and community organisation meeting help at Ashville GP surgery to start this.

Walk/Ride Whalley Range – mainly working on school street – happy with progress. There will be an event outside Manley Park school on 14th July.

* 1. Whalley Rangers: committee expressed thanks to volunteers for their help in putting up and taking down gazebos for Celebrate festival.
  2. Carlton Club: not present.
  3. Nello James Centre: works being done outside building Cllr Stogia is leading on this. **ACTION: to ask Cllr Stogia for an update about this.**
  4. Kingsbrook Residents: Funday was a success both WRCF and Clean Air Campaign had stalls.

1. **Reports.** 
   1. Police: written report received and has been circulated. Useful discussion about what action residents should take if they go on holiday. Concern expressed about the number of PCSOs available. **ACTION: Chris/Kate to research advice about home safety and circulate. Chris to speak to inspector to get an update about PCSOs**.
   2. Councillors: written report from Cllr Stogia received.

We are working with the police to tackle some ongoing ASB issues in the South side of the ward, as well as continuously raising speeding with them.

Can you also remind attendees of the Council's Cost of living advice line - 0800 023 2692

Many local residents are struggling with the increases in food and energy bills and are struggling financially, help is available.

This free telephone line offers support with:

Benefits and help with rent

Advice about debt and paying bills

Food support – help to find community food provision nearby

Help to get online - support to access the internet, laptops, phones and data.

In addition, a small budget has been made available for food provision locally - local organisations need to contact Allan to get information on how to apply for it.

Finally, at yesterdays' full Council Manchester City Council has made a commitment to be a place where people facing persecution in their home country can find welcome and refuge. More info here: <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/9302/manchester_becomes_a_local_authority_of_sanctuary>

Chris thanks Cllr Bano for supporting residents with cost of living issues.

**ACTION: Chris will contact Allan Mandindi about how to apply for food provision budget and circulate information**

* 1. Planning

Nello James application has now been published.

LGBT+ extra care housing: Paul has attended initial meeting, group have had a walk around to see what the local area is like, he will keep WRCF up to date about progress.

1. **Information share:**

St Margarets Church have a summer fair on 22nd July 2023 the Open Voice choir will be singing

1. **Date of next meeting:** 14th September 2023 – Jim gave his apologies for this meeting.