**Whalley Range Community Forum**

**Minutes of meeting** Date: 14th September 2023 Zoom

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

1. **Welcome/Introductions/Apologies**
2. **Minutes of last meeting (July 2023) - Agreed**

**Matters arising:**

1. The work on the on line map brochure not yet finished – should be done for next meeting
2. Leg club has started but not yet many participants
3. Celebrate report available – very thorough. Decision made to carry on planning for next year but we will need more volunteers. **ACTION: agreed to convene a Celebrate meeting at end of September.**
4. Still need more information about PCSOs and home security. **ACTION: Agreed to get update for next meeting.**
5. Food provision budget. WRCF recommended South Central Foodbank and Reach Out to the Community for this funding.
6. **Updates:** 
   1. **Impact of the cost of living crisis:** people are attending JNR8 regularly for help and advice, especially universal credit, food bank vouchers and bus pass applications. WRCF have free clothes and toiletries, More people attending who have no recourse to public funds.

Meeting on 15th September 2023 about developing an anti-poverty strategy for Whalley Range.

* 1. **BMHC Projects/BMHC Residents Liaison Group.** Not present.
  2. **Whalley Range Community Forum/Age Friendly Whalley Range, Chorlton & Fallowfield.** Have been feeding into Age Friendly Manchester Board discussion about care homes during covid.

Age friendly activities are continuing, though no special funding.

New benches will be installed soon.

**WRCF workers both submitted written reports (see attached).** Kate’s neighbour Ryan helped Kate paint classroom, meeting thanked Ryan for his hard work.

Centre much tidier.

Co-op application to be decided in October.

Scam awareness speaker invited to community hub on Friday 15th September.

Asian menopause workshop this week.

* 1. **Friends of Alexandra Park**. Malgorzata attended heritage meeting.

Award ceremony for photography in next few weeks. Calendars available soon.

Have had successful car boot sales over summer.

17 lime trees and 2 cherry trees to be planted.

Age friendly benches to be installed.

* 1. **Whalley Range Clean Air/Climate Action group**. There is now a city wide group. Working with council on climate action plan.

Mapping food growing places, community gardens etc in Whalley Range.

Clean air project continues.

Partnership with Chabombo project in Zambia is contiuning.

Working with local schools.

Meeting at JNR8 on Saturday 16th September.

* 1. **Walk/Ride Whalley Range.** School streets have started again, feedback from pilot positive, emissions down and children happy.

Critical mass children’s event this Sunday.

New course available sustainability and you at St Margaret’s Centre 25th September.

* 1. **Whalley Rangers.** Not present. Litter picks planned.
  2. **Carlton Club.** Not present. Carol has met with Jan Mugg a new committee member. Neighbourhood meetings will be organised soon where neighbours can discuss issues about noise etc.

Ward co-ordinators have arranged meeting.

New general manager is currently being appointed.

* 1. **Nello James centre.** No updates.

1. **Reports.** 
   1. **Police.** Not present. Discussion about recent severe anti-social behaviour in Cromwell Avenue. Residents are getting updates from PCSOs. Fire service have provided new alarms for those affected. Have asked Cllr Aftab for support.
   2. **Councillors:** report provided by Cllr Stogia via zoom chat. There have been reports about anti-social behaviour at weddings at BMHC. Two deposits have been forfeited to My Lahore (the events booking company) and donated to the BMHC gardening project. Local councillors are pursuing this. Plan for new mast has been rejected. Cllr Stogia is compiling a list of issues to raise with the new CEO when in post.

Following up on Airbnb issues on Victoria Road.

Dealing with anti-social behaviour issues including irresponsible parking, speeding and nitrous oxide gas use.

Getting complaints about Biffa and waste collection issues.

Concerned about mosque extension on Clarendon Road as plans remove current parking spaces so worried about traffic and parking in that area they need to come up with a sensible plan to address this or application may be rejected.

Council supporting people through cost of living crisis via helpline.

Continuing to push for “bottom up” council climate action plan, and at ward level.

* 1. **Planning.** Proposed extension to mosque on Clarendon Road causing concern.
  2. **Ward Co-ordination.** Not present. At the last ward co-ordination meeting the Russell Road Extra Care Housing Scheme was discussed, contract awarded to Great Places Housing Association. Aiming to have consultation event at local venue.

Active streets event organised outside JNR8.

Allan Mandindi pro-active and helpful will keep inviting to meetings.

1. **Information Share**
   1. Kingsbrook residents trying to improve relations with cricket club – hoping for more social events.
   2. WRYOA have been given follow on funding for two years, dependent on volunteers.
   3. Victoria Road residents are working on a community garden.
   4. New course available “Sustainability and You” at St Margaret’s Centre 25th September aimed at ESL speakers.
2. **Any Other Business**

Nothing raised

1. **Date of next meeting**

9th November 2023. Malgazorta gave her apologies for this meeting. **ACTION: Chris/Kate to look for venue to meet in person for this meeting.**