



# **WHALLEY RANGE COMMUNITY FORUM**

## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019-2024**

### **Introduction**

The Whalley Range Community Forum has a commitment to regularly reviewing and creating a development plan, based on the changing priorities of our diverse community. The plan identifies what we have achieved, the benefit the Forum brings as well as identifying areas for change and improvement.

In September 2019 we carried out a facilitated, discussion based, development plan day attended by 15 people, trustees, plus representatives of local groups, supplemented by questionnaire responses from 26 people who could not attend the event. From the outcome of the days discussions, compared to the 2013 development plan it is apparent that many suggestions have been implemented (e.g. for activities) and the role of the Forum in community cohesion, networking and communication continues to be key.

Our new priorities reflect the current awareness of the climate emergency, the impact it is having on our communities and the need to be resilient, sustainable and proactive

### **Background**

The Forum stems from the Whalley Range Amenities Group, a group of local residents who came together in 1991, to draw up a management plan for Whalley Range (W/R). The plan was used by the City Council as the basis for the establishment of the W/R conservation area and its requirements.

Following on from this the remit of the group was widened and the Forum was established in 1995, and became representative of local groups and residents.

The first Development Plan for the Forum was created in 1999, followed by a 2002 Development Plan for W/R, and also as part of the South Central Community Network. The Forum produced a Health Profile and Development Plan in 2004.

As part of the Community First programme a Development Plan and priorities were produced in 2013.

The Forum has been actively involved annually in planning at a ward level, and working with partners carrying out their development plans, e.g. W/R Youth Opportunities Association (2018).



Participants at the management plan discussion 2019

In April 2018 we were granted three years funding from Manchester City Council Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector Grants for the core running costs of the Forum. This required that we

‘Ensure there is an up to date business/development/forward plan, relevant to the size of your organisation’

## **Priorities from the 2013 Development Plan**

### **Resident's priorities**

- Dedicated community centre/hub
- Increased SEN support
- Increased provision of diversionary activities to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour and offending/reoffending
- Increased community safety initiatives, reduced anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder
- Intergenerational activities
- Increased physical/sporting activities, events and equipment
- Workshops/classes for: - self-esteem, confidence building; - careers advice and guidance, employability; - ESOL/English, ICT - parenting - broad health awareness - healthy living and eating - environmental awareness

### **Priorities have been established under the overarching themes of social justice, inclusion and cohesion.**

- Work with all stakeholders to promote broad health and wellbeing.

Indicative activities:

Support domestic abuse, forced marriage and hate crime initiatives and campaigns

Support initiatives to improve road safety on residential streets

Support crime reduction initiatives

- Support intergenerational groups and events to promote community inclusion and cohesion across our diverse local community.

Indicative activities:

Support community events and festivals

Support Valuing Older People (renamed Age Friendly Manchester in 2014) and partner organisations to facilitate improved provision for older residents

- Champion local environmental awareness and community engagement:

Support local initiatives to improve and continuously develop local environmental performance, whilst promoting green events and activities.

Indicative activities:

Support the restoration of Parks in the area

Support environmental improvements ward wide, targeting hot spots

Increase recycling levels

Support green initiatives in any new developments

### **-Promote local capacity building in the community sector:**

Promote and uphold partnerships and stakeholders to work together whilst exploring new opportunities for sustainable funding, development and regeneration.

Indicative activities:

Assist in the restoration and development of community centres/hubs

Work towards the future sustainability of community groups, clubs and facilities

Work towards the provision of intergenerational community spaces and facilities.

## The Forum Now.

### What have we achieved and what are our current strengths?

(Quotes, in italics taken from the questionnaires and Development Day 2019)

#### Supporting individuals

- *People in crisis can visit JNR8 to report Hate Crimes, receive a food voucher, receive other support this makes a big difference to peoples' lives.*
- *Bringing people together: Friendship*

#### Supporting local groups

- *It has helped small local groups to get established, raise funds.*
- *It acts as a support to a lot of local smaller groups, promoted grassroots empowerment*
- *Forum has a huge amount of knowledge, experience and expertise which is available to local groups.*
- *We have valued the insurance cover for events at Woodlawn Court*
- *Forum provides support by being a conduit for smaller groups and acquisitions that would not be able otherwise to apply for funding and provide services.*

#### Atmosphere / People involved with WRCF

- *Trusted, Respected, Experienced,*
- *Friendly, helpful people*
- *Generates a feeling of a friendly and inclusive local community*
- *Encourages compassionate local care and support.*

### **Making a difference to Whalley Range**

- *Really appreciate the forum is there and the difference it makes to Whalley Range*
- *Impact, change: Responding to need, Campaigning*
- *I think it's wonderful having JNR8*
- *I think Celebrate is a really important annual event*
- *Promotes pride in Whalley Range*

### **Promoting inclusion**

- *Forum endeavours to be inclusive and provide and cater for the whole community*
- *The Forum has successfully coordinated and championed age friendly activities and campaigns, across our ward and Chorlton e.g. dementia awareness.*
- *It seems to be a fairly flat structure i.e. not too much hierarchy, which helps it to be open to new influences / needs and ways for doing things.*
- *Seems most likely to succeed in including people who don't generally express what they need/want or participate.*
- *Forum is democratically run and open to all that people from all cultures and ethnic groups can participate.*
- *Very inclusive in terms of its members, committee members, trustees and who can attend its meetings.*

### **Providing Facilities and activities**

- *Celebrate-annual community festival is brilliant*
- *Good local facilities and a useful website*
- *Lots of choice: Good variety of activities*
- *The kitchen will be a huge bonus, allowing a lot of new activities and reaching out to even more of the community*
- *JNR8 is an excellent community centre*
- *Generates facilities and supportive whatever people what to do... very rare and important*
- *Responds to need: New ideas are always welcome*

### **Providing Information**

- *Great place to find out about activities e.g. through Newsletter , meetings, Website, WR Map*
- *I find the newsletter and other information sharing very helpful and of course the joint effort over Celebrate*





Group suggestions for priorities and how to achieve them

## Five Year Plan and strategy

Priority	Short term	Ongoing
Increase membership	Have meetings in different venues, talk with host groups about their and our activities	Increase visibility of the Forum and its activities e.g. publicity.  Review effectiveness/composition of the committee/trustees
Understand our community	Maintain and expand our directory Create a diversity map Carry out outreach with community groups	Raise funds to carry out this work. E.g. for additional workers and resources
Review and utilise new ward boundaries	Include people from new parts of ward	Maintain identity of W/R
Increase the range of activities and support for	Continue a range of classes, drop ins, and	Be responsive and supportive to community

individuals, groups and community activities	activities to reduce social isolation and bring groups together e.g. Celebrate, socials, utilising kitchen, and facilitating small groups, Facilitate intergenerational activities.	ideas, flexible and democratic
Build resilience to change	Support local self help activities e.g. local economy/markets/growing bike repairs  Check planning applications and developments Lobby for better public transport locally	Encourage networking and partnerships
Increase involvement with Health and social care activities	Support mental health activities and reduce factors leading to mental ill health ( e.g. food poverty, hate crime) Lobby housing providers	Continue involvement at a neighbourhood level
Stronger Representation/inclusion ( e.g. all ages and ethnicities )	Check all activities are accessible. Encourage intergenerational and age friendly activities.	Continue to champion Age Friendly activities
Improve sustainability and adaptability	Apply the Forum/MCC climate emergency statement and strategy and support local groups tackling climate emergency e.g. WRCAG. Aim to be zero carbon and tackle issues such as air pollution	Act as an information and campaigning group
Improve financial independence	Reduce spending, find a range of sources of funding, encourage local self help.	

[illegible]

**JNR8 Youth & Community Centre,**

## Whalley Range, M16 0BG

**Registered Charity Number: 1171658**

[www.whalleyrange.org](http://www.whalleyrange.org)