



# **WHALLEY RANGE COMMUNITY FORUM**

## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019-2025**

### **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 day's 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 organisation 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).

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’

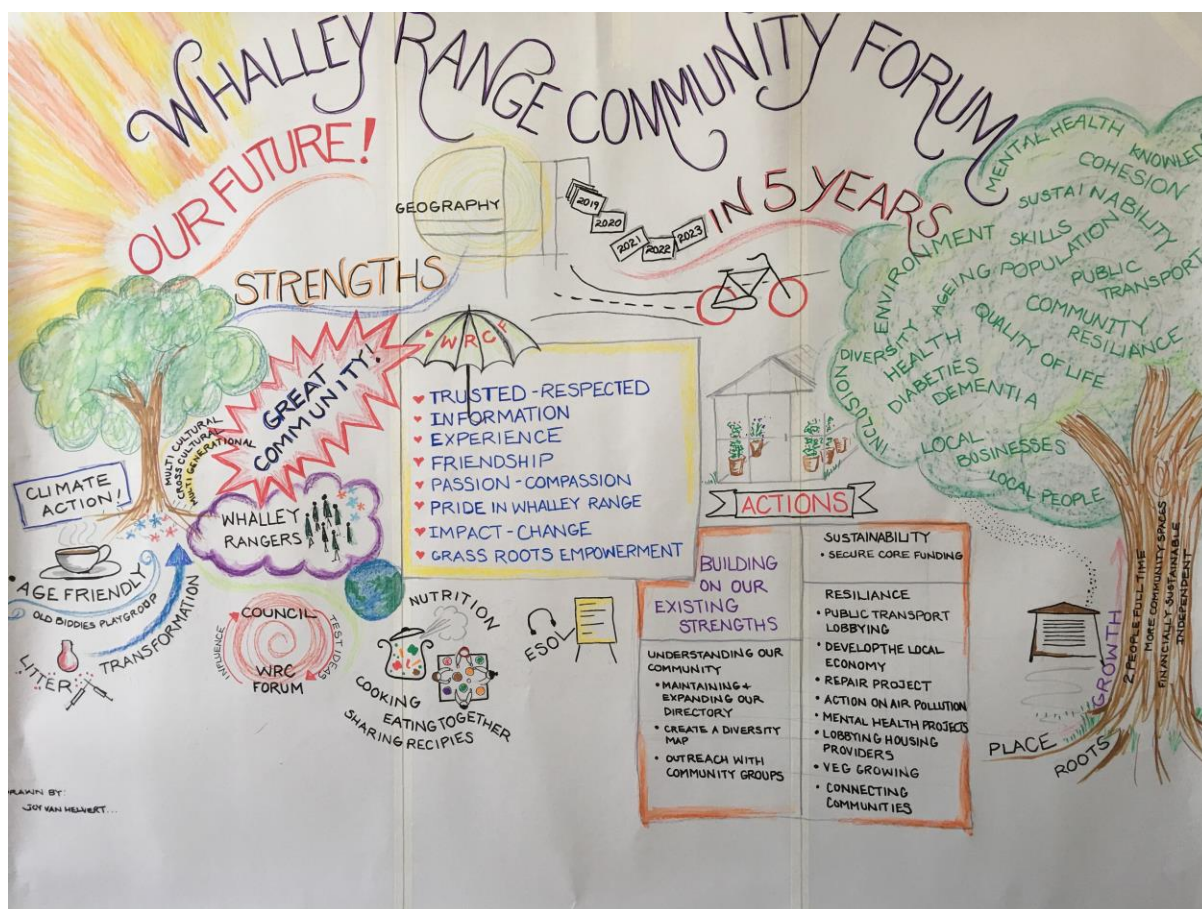
**As a result of the group discussions on the development day we developed the following plan and strategy.**

## **Five Year Plan and strategy**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Short term</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
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
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 individuals, groups, and community activities	Continue a range of classes, drop ins, and activities to reduce social isolation and bring groups together e.g., Celebrate, socials, utilising kitchen, and facilitating small groups,. Facilitate intergenerational activities.	Be responsive and supportive to community 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	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)	Continue involvement at a neighbourhood level
Stronger Representation/inclusion (e.g., all ages and ethnicities)	Check all activities are accessible. Encourage intergenerational 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.	

## The Development Day discussions summarised.



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