

Introduction

The Forum originated in 1991 from a group of residents, the Whalley Range Amenities Group, who came together to draw up a management plan for Whalley Range (W/R) (used for the establishment of the W/R conservation area).

The remit of the group widened, and the Forum was established in 1995. The initial meetings had representatives from organisations including schools, GMB training college, Nello James Centre, residents' groups and statutory organisations.

Its purpose was to be a voice for Whalley Range particularly in relation to the delivery of services and it had a distinctive approach as a Forum (general meetings focussing on discussion and information sharing). Priority themes were worked on by subgroups (e.g. in relation to Empty Properties, Health, Police and Young People, Trees, Developers).

Over time Whalley Range and the Forum have changed.

From working without a base, in 1999 we moved into the JNR8 youth centre, and now the Forum workers run JNR8, a thriving youth and community hub and the provision of a range of adult courses and activities.

Changing Government priorities, world and national events has also impacted the focus of our work, e.g. Covid and the Cost-of-living Crisis.

In addition, the role and powers of statutory organisations has changed and the Forum, rather than being primarily a way of identifying what was needed, became a deliverer of services.

Although we have received the major part of our funding from City Council programmes, over the years we have also benefited from Manchester NHS Local Care Organisation, Central Government, Lottery and many small grants programmes (e.g. from local Housing Associations).

Our involvement in city wide partnerships led to the establishment of multi ward networks e.g. the South-Central Community Network (W/R, Moss side, Hulme, Fallowfield) (2002)(Central Government funded).

Community First (Supported by the Office for Civil Society) (2013/17) identified Whalley Range as being one of the most deprived areas in the country and via the establishment of a voluntary community run panel was tasked to identify local priorities, set criteria, administer and monitor grants and was able to provide matched funding to a range of local projects. This programme used participatory approaches and had a large emphasis on involving, recognising and training volunteers.

2019/2025 Development Plan

In September 2019 we carried out a facilitated, discussion-based day using participatory evaluation methods.

The meeting was attended by 15 people, committee members, plus representatives of local groups, (plus 26 questionnaire responses).

Compared to the 2013 development plan many suggestions had been implemented (e.g. activities) and the role of the Forum in community cohesion, networking and communication continued to be key. Our new priorities reflected awareness of the climate emergency, the impact it is having on our communities and the need to be resilient, sustainable and proactive.

The progress of the development plan implementation has been reviewed at each AGM with additional actions added.

<https://www.whalleyrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/WRCF-Development-Plan-2019-2024-final.pdf>

The emergence of priorities for the 2025/30 development plan.

The Forum has carried out three meetings, one celebrating our 30 years, one trustees meeting and a development day which have contributed to the ongoing identification of priorities. Issues and actions have emerged through the planned range of Re:JNR8 envisioning/discussion activities. Alongside this was the submission and successful award of our OMVCS grant.

The application required the identification of how the grant would meet some of our priorities over 3 years.

We also Celebrated 30 years of the Forum, a good opportunity for reflection, review and development.



Re:JNR8 What next for Whalley Range and the Forum? (29/11/2025)

One of the Forums contributions to the development plan was the Re:JNR8 day using a range of participatory methods involving 30 people, (10 new to the Forum (4 African Caribbean (AC), 1 African (A), 2 Pakistani (P), origins) from a diverse range of 21 groups to identify themed priorities and how to achieve them, particularly the role of Forum at community wide level (e.g. Celebrate) and as a youth and community hub (JNR8).

https://www.whalleyrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Re_JNR8-process-1.docx

https://www.whalleyrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/RE_JNR8-themes-1.docx



A total of 61 different people (5 (A/C) 4 (A) 7 (P) 3, (I)) (33 who had never attended before, 30 of whom were women) representing 33 Whalley Range community groups /organisations (16 had never participated in Forum events before) took part in the 30 years celebration, the Re:JNR8 day and Forum general meetings in November and January 26. They identified what the requirements were for the community Forum to enable Whalley Range to thrive. These have formed the basis of the development plans actions.

WRCF AGM March 25th, 2026. Development plan 2025/ 2030 Re:JNR8 review

Confirm 5-year priorities, and actions.

WRCF Development Plan 2025/2030			
Priority	Specific Targets	How	When
OMVCS Priority 1 Happy and Healthy	JNR8 as youth and community hub to reduce social isolation and improve mental and physical health.	Continue provision of range of activities, classes hosting of groups, e.g. Age Friendly W/R and Chorlton, Time to Change, CAG Use informal education/prevention strategies, developing awareness, skills, and confidence e.g. increasing healthy eating and cookery classes; walking and wheeling activities. Facilitate a range of groups (e.g. Mental health and wellbeing) (value of cooking, sharing food) and community wide events. Regular user group meetings, and subsequent improvement actions.	Achieved Ongoing
	Improvement to JNR8 building as a resource and co-run space.	Publicity, recruitment, training, supervision. Seek Funding to support staff/resources.	Ongoing Ongoing
	Volunteer programme established for Forum (Celebrate, and JNR8 activities).	Utilise UN year of international volunteering for focus (e.g. as theme of Celebrate) Run Volunteering fair at JNR8 for local organisations and groups	Focus year 1 and ongoing. Achieved
OMVCS Priority 3 Diversity and Inclusion	Developing community cohesion through a range of community-led events	Community led Celebrate festival as year-round vehicle for cross community/interfaith working and developing partnerships. Use Forum website for publicising year-round events. Create directory of community spaces. Age Friendly network events e.g. benches celebration.	Achieved 2025/6 Ongoing
	Deliver a range of inclusive activities to meet the needs of particular communities	Eg.Asian women's menopause group, Celebrating International women/men's days. Glaucoma screening for A/C residents at high risk	Ongoing
	Re:JNR8 approach leading to increasing inclusion, rep. and discussion of 'hidden' themes	Apply year-round model for identifying WR needs and actions. Improve effectiveness of Forum through /dialogue/discussion/networking. e.g. via Age Friendly network Address health inequalities (eg.by promoting screening etc.) Review themes identified at Re:JNR8 events	Achieved Year 1 2025/6 And ongoing

<p>OMVCS Priority 4 Participate and engage communities.</p>	<p>Increase participation, self-help approach drawing on assets.</p> <p>Develop JNR8 as a community resource for emerging groups and capacity building partnerships.</p> <p>Develop partnerships and productive relationships with statutory services e.g. Education, Health, Police, Local /GM Authority.</p>	<p>Increase number and composition of people attending Forum meetings and as trustees. Celebrate community festival working with local partners to increase community cohesion. Use participatory evaluation methods for groups to give voice and set realistic and required actions.</p> <p>Increase volunteering and self-help opportunities encouraging confidence and resilience.</p> <p>Support the establishment of self -supporting networks, e.g. in relation to homelessness and housing stress (by facilitating first meeting of agencies/residents etc.)</p> <p>Forum meetings to be a place for information sharing, dialogue, and debate. Be active participants in ward/neighbourhood/city wide meetings, sharing issues identified at Forum meetings and working on strategies e.g. in relation to conservation area. Explore options through Live Well.</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Achieved / Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>26 onwards</p>
<p>OMVCS Mcr priority groups</p>	<p>Carers</p> <p>Homelessness</p>	<p>Establish Self-help carers support network/meetings.</p> <p>Forum meeting re homelessness, as a specific W/R issue March '26. Help information share, network, multi agency events, Campaigning</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>2026 and ongoing</p>
<p>Governance</p>	<p>Constitution reviewed in light of changes to structure / processes</p>	<p>Following AGM 26 and new trustees. Review aims and decision making, membership and meetings.</p>	<p>Year one and two priority 25/26</p>
<p>Communication</p>	<p>Expand role as communication axis</p>	<p>Dialogue and discussion applied at Forum meetings. improve website Encourage reinvigoration Mutual aid network street WhatsApp groups</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Decision making</p>	<p>Continue to review new structures.</p>	<p>Implementation of Re:JNR8 cycle; networking, review and idea Follow up work on thematic priorities Identified e.g. environment (conservation area leaflet, cross community working (Celebrate) Apply new trustees model e.g. succession planning. Apply cooperative partnerships e.g. re funding.</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p>

		Implement and review organisational strategy	ongoing
Zero Carbon	Encourage reuse /swapping	Community members to reduce waste and purchasing by repurposing /repairing clothes/books/ bikes/phones etc. via community hub, and mutual aid groups.	Ongoing
	Increase green spaces/ growing areas @ JNR8 and across ward	in conjunction with partners e.g. CAG and Clean air campaign, e.g. BMHC, Doctors, local parks, schools' grounds	Ongoing
	Promote value of clean air, and exercise (e.g. walking and cycling)	Work with local primary schools to create work for displays. Celebrate and clean air days. Undertake free bike repair / maintenance workshops with Bike Hive	Achieved Ongoing
Improve Financial Independence Resilience	Identified as priority in 2019/25 plan. Successful MCC grants etc. Not identified in 2025 Re:JNR8 but must remain a priority	Continue to draw on a diverse range of sources of funding, and partners e.g. NHS. Lottery, in addition to MCC, OMVCS etc. Continue to reduce spending. Increase self-help /activities e.g. development of volunteering. Seek a range of sources of funding for additional and replacement completion of OMVCS funding. E.g. Re-establish University partnerships? explore Live Well funding to support Celebrate/Re:JNR8	Achieved Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing

A major upheaval and much distress was caused by the unexpected death of our long-standing Chair, and link to many within our community, **Bill Fatai Williams (29/12/2025)**. The loss of Bill highlighted the importance of having trustees like Bill, who understood and took part in a range of activities at JNR8. In the community he excelled at listening to individuals and groups concerns and suggestions and thrived on networking.

Whalley Range Community Forum

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