

Community First Panel Meeting, 6pm Thursday March 14th
JNR8 Youth & Community Centre

Minutes of meeting

Attendees: Carol Packham, Freddi Greenmantle, Marianna Vareli, Anita Greenhill, Dominique Tessier, Katy Safe, Cllr Angeliki Stogia, Bill Williams, Chris Ricard

Apologies: Evelyn Asante-Mensah (Resident/Whalley Range Methodist Church)
Claire Cowell (Resident/Development Education Project)

1. Introductions

2. Community First – What is it?

CP: Gave everyone an overview Community Development Foundation and the Community First Neighbourhood Matched Funding.

More details can be found on Manchester Community Central website:

Community First is an £80m government-funded initiative that will run for four years, until March 2015. The programme will help communities come together to identify their strengths and local priorities in order to plan for their future and become more resilient. It will fund both new and existing community groups. Community First consists of two elements:

- a £30m Neighbourhood Matched Fund for some of the most deprived areas in the country and
- a national £50m Endowment Match Challenge

For information on how the wards were selected to receive Community First funding, [click here](#).

For further information about Community First, visit:

www.cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/community-first.

BW: Explained the role of the volunteer Whalley Range Community First Panel -

<http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/neighbourhood-matched-fund-panel-information>

- and Panel Partner and listed the Priorities (The Panel are required to demonstrate up to 5 Ward priorities) identified by consulting with residents (see attached for resident/group feedback) when the Panel formed:

- 1. Promoting Employability (Work with partners to support employment events and capacity building of unemployed residents)**
- 2. Health & Wellbeing (Work with partner agencies and local groups / residents to promote well-being and healthier practices)**
- 3. Promoting Community Cohesion (Support local groups and events to promote understanding and cohesion amongst diverse local communities)**
- 4. Capacity Building in 3rd Sector Organisations (Including exploring new avenues for funding and partnership working)**
- 5. Promoting Community Involvement (Support local events / activities to promote community involvement (all age groups))**

Initially there were 8 Panel members representing different groups representing several areas/existing local groups (e.g. Youth, Health/Sustainability, Parks, Community and Residents groups, Older Residents, Women and Younger Women's issues) all local residents - as this is a requirement of the group: Yasmine Dar, Bill Williams, Bilal Nazir, Carol Packham, Chris Ricard, Yousef Hageg, Mary Watson (Local Councillor) and Chris Sedman.

Due to work commitments Yasmine, Bilal, Chris sedman and Yousef have stepped down from the Panel; Cllr Mary Watson has stepped down and Angeliki Stogia has volunteered to fill this space.

The Panel is required to have a first and second contact to receive and share emails and CDF news to the Panel members.

CR, the WRCF worker/voluntary Panel member offered to be the first contact and **AS** the second contact. As there is no money available to pay for administration of the CF project it makes sense for **CR** to be the first contact as she has been promoting the funding, attending events, supporting residents and designing leaflets and the new website. Some of the work can be tagged onto the Forum work – but is very time-

consuming. Volunteers need to take on specific roles to equally share out the work, including putting together the Community First Plan, chairing/taking minutes at meetings, updating the website, promotion etc. The suggestion at the earlier meetings were that the Panel could change/alternate its members over the 4 years to ensure representation from different areas of the Ward.

There is a small amount of money available as expenses, which is taken out of the allocated funding for Whalley Range. This is £145.00 and to date covered a meeting room donation, refreshments and translation of leaflets.

3. Community First Plan: Developing a Neighbourhood Plan. (by March 31st 2013)

It is a requirement of CDF that Panels create a Plan based on identified priorities and demonstrating community consultation and adherence to the priorities when recommending groups for funding

KS Suggested the Community First Plan could end up duplicating existing plans (i.e. Ward Plan) and as the Panel we need to be clear that this is not just another piece of work: the Ward Plan can be used for part of the Plan and some sort of consultation process needs to take place.

One of the Community First funded projects is production of a door-to-door issue of News & Events: it will be useful to include a questionnaire for residents to fill in and return to JNR8.

BW then asked for volunteers for the Panel and to contribute to work on the Plan.

The following residents put their names forward as volunteer Panel members:

Katy Safe, Freddi Greenmantle, Anita Greenhill (Dominique Tessier?)

An invitation was sent out to local residents to join the Panel and to participate in the research for the Community First Plan and several residents responded – 4 of whom attended this meeting and 2 who were unable to make this meeting but would like to get involved.

The group agreed that we could hold a reserve list of Panel members

Previously recommended/funded projects: It was agreed that all the projects recommended to date have met the CF priorities.

AG: Have any of the priorities not yet been met? AG suggested that we could focus on projects that have an intergenerational focus as this appears to be the only aspect of the current priorities that needs to be met: the 5th priority was quite vague:

(Promoting Community Involvement - Support local events / activities to promote community involvement - all age groups)

AS: A Ward plan priority is around recycling/benefits of recycling/Climate Change: It was agreed that an additional priority should be added around Environmental Awareness – unclear whether this could be incorporated into an existing priority or if the priorities need to be updated.

CP: suggested this is a Ward priority could be funded through other/MCC money

Community First could be a good way of kickstarting projects and groups then could be supported to access other funding to sustain new ideas/projects.

It was also raised by **CP** whether it might be useful to limit the funding available to groups from between £250-£2500 to a maximum of £1000. This would enable more projects to apply (albeit for a smaller amount) The funding available in the next round is £8000; a few of the projects have tended to request the maximum amount available - but if we try to promote the funding across the wider community the £1000 max would mean more projects could apply.

People present at the meeting agreed to read through the CDF/CF information linked in the initial meeting invitation and send their thoughts/recommendation in terms of the role of CF/consultation for the Plan

CR to produce initial document

(see attached Plan template from CDF: very basic –I've filled in a bit of info...)

Date of next meeting Thursday 21st March (other interested residents to be invited)