

Chorlton High School Community Hub Minutes

Wednesday 11th November 2015

Attendance	Apologies
Katherine Moulder (CHS School Business Manager) Christine Taggart (CHS Community & Marketing Officer) Kieron McGlasson (Sow the City) Shelley Hodges (Trussell Trust) Davy Iredale (West Didsbury & Chorlton FC) Carol Thompson (Chorlton Traders) Joanna Midgley (Local Councillor) Alison Broadhurst (Home Instead)	Amanda Shilton Godwin (Local Councillor) Tanya Watts (Southway Housing) Dave Rawson (Local Councillor)

Community Hub Overview

Katherine Moulder welcomed everyone to our first Community Hub meeting. She provided a background on where the Community Hub concept has come from. We became a Co-operative Academy in January 2013. A key part of being a Co-operative Academy is a commitment to the Co-operative Values and stakeholder engagement (staff, students, parents and the community). By becoming a Co-operative Academy we ensure that: our school serves the needs of our communities by staying locally run; there is a long term commitment to good values through a co-operative ethos; there is a long term strategic commitment to engage all our key stakeholders.

Christine Taggart provided an overview of the community projects we have run at Chorlton High School including: environmental projects; our community Christmas party; fundraising; support the Chorlton Book Festival; work with Sow the City; partnership with Arden Court; and the Junior Digital Champion project. We have lots of projects coming up this year including: on-going community garden project, 'Be a Santa to Senior' campaign, community Christmas party, Hedgerow planting with Southway Housing, Arden Court visits, Blitz survivors project and planting bulbs in Chorlton Park.

Feedback from the consultation we ran last year with community members was that they wanted to develop a better working relationship with school, wanted to discover more events and groups who work with the school and maintain a relationship with the school. We hope these Community Hub groups will help facilitate these and allow us to build strong local partnerships.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and provided some background on how they have worked with Chorlton High School already and how they would like to work with us in future.

- Joanna is keen to raise a more positive image of Chorlton High School in the local community, in particular within Chorlton Park.
- Davy talked about his background in the voluntary sector and work as a School Governor. He is keen to develop environmental links with the school and other local organisations.
- Kieron is currently supporting our community garden project in Chorlton Park through Sow the City. He is also a local resident and keen to raise the image of the school in the local community. Our community garden is a good opportunity to develop community links and raise the profile of the school in Chorlton Park.
- Shelley is part of a local branch of the Trussell Trust Foodbank. Chorlton High School acts as a referrer. She is keen to look into running basic cookery courses at the school and get students volunteering.
- Alison is working with CHS over the coming term to deliver the 'Be Santa to a Senior' campaign. CHS will be supporting the campaign and encouraging students and staff to donate presents for elderly members of the local community.

Local issues

Some issues Kieron is keen to tackle are speeding the local area, promoting alternative modes of sustainable transport, reducing litter in the areas surrounding the school and promoting recycling to

students. There are no litter bins on the surrounding streets of the school (except in the park) and this is felt to be contributing to the litter. It is unlikely that this will be resolved by the Council due to budget constraints.

Chorlton High School has done some work with the School Council around reducing litter in school and creating litter awareness campaigns. Christine and Katherine discussed that this is something we can look into again – students can think about how litter can be reduced in the local community and how this can be promoted to their peers.

Action: Christine to ensure the local community litter agenda/civic pride is included on the agendas for the next round of School Council meetings taking place next week. Also to review whether this can be included in whole school messages/assemblies later in the year and linking to a 'civic pride' agenda.

Action: Joanna to feedback if there are any changes to the litter bin situation near to the school.

Environmental projects

Davy is keen to incorporate more greenery around his football grounds perimeter fencing to help it blend in better to the surrounding area. He would be keen to involve students in helping to plant trees and Christine confirmed we would be keen to support this, and Kieron also said they would likely be able to provide some support. Funding would be needed to support the project to buy the plants although there may be limited funds available through the club. Kieron suggested the best time to plant fruit trees would be October-February. Carol suggested looking into the Pocket Garden Initiative and whether funding is still available for projects from them. Carol also mentioned there are grafting sessions available from the Northern Fruit Group which might be worth looking into.

Action: Davey to look into the possibility of funding and keep the school updated

Action: Carol to forward on the contact at Northern Fruit Group

Intergenerational projects

Alison is keen to promote intergenerational work with the school, in particular an on-going project if possible. She mentioned the 'Bring Joy Foundation' who provide grants for one-off or on-going projects which aim to help make a difference to older people's lives. This might be a nice way to fund a regular project which links with the older members of our local community. Christine is keen to continue with the Digital Champion project which was run last year with Southway Housing. This might be a possible on-going project. Is there possibility for the school to visit local care homes and run sessions in house as well as at school – digital inclusion roadshow? Drop in session at school once a half term? Alison is able to run Dementia Friendly training sessions and would be keen to deliver these in school if interested. Dementia Friendly training is delivered in the local community – a group of students could be trained and then assist in delivering sessions locally.

Action: Christine to consider proposal for an on-going project which could be funded by the Bring Joy Foundation and discuss with Alison how this can be progressed.

Community garden

Katherine asked Carol how the Chorlton community garden next to the Library is going and how they are financially supporting it long-term. They received Green City funding from Manchester Airport to set up the project but Chorlton Traders now fund on-going maintenance of it through a contact with Chorlton Nursery. Local Scout group support the garden and volunteer regularly. The library keeps a sign up list for volunteers.

AOB

Joanna raised that the Friends of Chorlton Park are looking into a Winter Fayre in Chorlton Park – would the school be able to provide music support?

Action: Christine to liaise between Joanna and the Music Department to see if we can support this

The group suggested potential community members to link with: faith groups, Chorlton Central Church

(Mike Walsh), St Celements (Dave), Chorlton Methodist Church (Ken Stokes), Manchester Mental Health Trust (John Scampion), Civic Society, Friends of Chorlton Meadows (Dave), CPR training (Jenny Slee)

Action: Christine to follow up with suggested contacts to aim to grow membership

Action: All to have in mind recommending to local members to sign up to become a co-operative member. Community groups or individuals can become a member and receive regular updates and information from Christine which will hopefully be useful even if people can't commit to attending the hub meetings.

The suggestion was made of the potential to tap into the local community more for Year 10 work experience.

Action: Christine to contact the community members at the appropriate time in the work experience process.

Davy handed out some complimentary tickets for West Didsbury and Chorlton AFC matches. Alison took some to give out at local care homes and Christine will give out some to Arden Court when school visits next week.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 2nd March 2016, 2-3pm, Chorlton High School