**Manchester Water Safety Partnership**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2020 – 11.00am**

Venue: via Microsoft Teams video conferencing

Present: David Wilson (Chair) – GMFRS

Louise Williams – Minutes

Adrian Brocklehurst – MCC

Fraser Swift – MCC

Gareth Worthington – Cityco

Apologies: Mike Wardle

Chris Hill – GMP

Zac Fraser – GMP

Mark Ferris

Helen Hall

Kellie Gillaspy

Lesley Allen – GMFRS

Daniel Greenhalgh

Adrian Hopkins

Stephen Ballard

Oliver Collins

1. Apologies
2. Review of Incidents (since January 2020)

Since the last meeting in January 2020, there has only been 2 incidents (details below);

* 17th Feb 2020, Edgerton Street, Mcr – male jumped off a road bridge into the canal below. Male had recently been released from hospital and had a broken leg at the time. Possibly related to mental health issues and possible drug use. Male is currently safe and making a recovery.
* 1st Feb 2020, Canal Street, Mcr – Gareth Worthington has video of incident. – Saved due to rapid intervention of door staff and assisted with rescue by fire service.

1. COVID-19 Lockdown

DW discussed main concerns around when the COVID-19 Lockdown is removed, as there will need to be a rapid response plan put in place by the Emergency Services, MCC etc. For example, the fire service may bring their Water Incident Unit into the City Centre for the day/evening on when the lockdown is removed.

DW asked for thoughts from the Partnership on what other things we can do, but the difficultly will be not knowing when the lockdown will be removed or how much notice we will receive from the Government on a potential date.

GW confirmed that most of the stock, cash etc. in the pubs and clubs are off sites so they would all need to restock which would take some time to do although they will try to re-open as quickly as possible.

DW suggested that it may be worth contacting Village Angels and the local businesses near the canal to make sure they are all familiar as to where their Water Rescue kits are located and familiarise themselves on how to use them. Also to see if Village Angels could increase the number of patrols for a short period due to the likelihood of a significant number of people drinking in the city centre.

**Action:** DW to contact Village Angels to discuss the concerns and to ask if they would be able to find extra volunteers for the nights the lockdown is lifted. DW to also contact Zac Fraser to see what they will do from a public safety point of view.

DW asked AB if there could be an option to close the canal walkways when the lockdown is lifted but recognised that these we public right of ways.

AB advised he would speak to his colleagues but would assume there would be a large cost associated to it.

1. Update on Terms of Reference

DW sent out the updated Terms of Reference from the Canals and Rivers Trust but as yet has not received any replies and asked if the group could look at the TOR and offer any feedback.

1. AOB

AB discussed that G4S wanted to lock off the Undercroft during the day as well as the night and mentioned this to the Canals & Rivers Trust and the Engineering team. Their thoughts are that this would not be a good idea. At the moment, there are no MCC or Canals & Rivers Trust staff visiting that area any more. Currently the only people going out to lock or unlock the gate are G4S staff. There is no guarantee that the area is still not being used for recreational activities. Canal & River had concerns about locking it down as boaters still use that area.

DW informed the group that Mark Ferris had asked if anyone knew of any recent incidents that had caused the reach pole on Canal Street to be broken. DW confirmed that GMFRS had not been to any incidents there but will check with Zac to see if GMP had attended any.

GW informed the group that Canal Street is very quiet at the moment but the homeless community does appear to be ‘hanging around’.

DW asked AB which hotels the homeless community are currently being housed in and AB confirmed there are 6 hotels that are being used at the moment. GW is also working with other agencies to arrange deliveries such as milk, food etc. but this is proving quite difficult under the current circumstances.

AB is working at the moment to get the Fire Risk Assessments and Evacuation Plans for these venues.

**Action:** AB to send over the list of hotels with the number of homeless that are staying in each along with the Fire Risk Assessments to the group.

FS informed the group about a consultation on the Model Licensing Conditions and added *the premises shall have a minimum 20m rescue throwline available on the premises for emergency use. All on-duty staff (including security) shall be knowledgeable of its location and the manufacturer’s instructions for use*.

FS asked the group to email him any feedback on the wording of that condition or if anyone had any ideas for additional conditions that we could have available. The consultation is due to end on the 17th April 2020 but this will most likely be extended.