**Manchester Water Safety Partnership**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2020 – 10.00am**

Venue: via Zoom video conferencing

Present: David Wilson (Chair) – (DW) GMFRS

Lesley Allen – (LA) GMFRS

Adrian Hopkins – (AH) MCC

Anthony Mitchell – (AM) MCC

Justin Mundin – (JM) MCC

Fraser Swift – (FS) MCC

Andy Wilson – (AW) MCC

Chris Hill – (CH) GMP

Alex King – (AK) Cityco

Gareth Worthington – (GW) Cityco

Michael Wardle – (MW) RLSS

Mark Ferris – (MF) CRT

Alison Hopkins (ALH) – Minutes

Apologies: Daniel Greenhalgh – CRT

Helen Hall – CRT

Tony Howard – MCC (Comms Group)

Kellie Gillaspy - GMCA

Adrian Brocklehurst – MCC

Peter Parkinson – Peel Holdings

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Daniel Greenhalgh, Helen Hall, Tony Howard, Adrian Brocklehurst and Peter Parkinson.

1. Previous Minutes

The previous meeting took place on 1st April via Microsoft Teams but unfortunately not all participants could access this. DW gave a brief update from these minutes and reported that the Undercroft had been closed during the day but they are looking to open this in a week or so. These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

1. Review of Incidents

DW shared the incidents on screen and advised that this year we have had 4 incidents and since the last meeting, there have been two. The first one was in the River Irwell on the 28.4.20 where a man was being chased by a group of people and jumped into the river to escape. The second was on Sunday evening when 4 youths who were on scooters, pushed a young lad who was walking home into the Ashton Canal. In both incidents they managed to get out uninjured. On a whole there has been a reduction in incidents this year.

1. Actions to mitigate water risk with current activities and after lifting of Coronavirus restrictions

DW asked for any thoughts as how we could do this as more people enter the City Centre.

AW suggested a small campaign was needed to remind people of the water safety messages as they are coming back into the City Centre bearing in mind the biggest risk factor of people being intoxicated may not necessarily apply. AK advised that she’d had a chat with CRT and they reported they had seen a significant increase in tow path usage at the initial part of lockdown and people need to take care in those areas if they are not used to them. AH said that quite a few bars have started selling off sales and subsequently may attract groups of people congregating and drinking near the canals. CH advised that he had issues over the weekend with licenced premises who were allowed to sell alcohol as long as the customers were not on their adjacent premises, i.e., beer garden. They are now looking at policy at how GMP/MCC licencing are going to react as they feel this could get worse. CH asked AH about students returning to Manchester. AH advised that as far as students were concerned, there would be a staggered entry back to Universities from 21st September with some online lectures still taking place. CH agreed that a campaign would be really useful, either over the summer or once the students have come back.

DW concluded that a targeted campaign was needed from now onwards and he will link with Comms. JM mentioned Albert Schloss opening up pop up events and asked if we can do anything jointly with the venue to make people aware of the dangers. DW asked if we are to have some Comms around business what is the best way to do this. GW suggested sending something out to the venues, using social media and posters and getting public rescue equipment out there. DW suggested producing more or redistributing the Don’t Drink and Drown banners but felt they were more orientated to winter time. DW will speak with the Comms team regarding Tweets and other forms of social media that may link to summer and the current/anticipated risks. AK advised she has emailed CRT to ask what are they producing and would send round when she receives a response. LA said she had some ‘Dying for a dip’ posters but this is targeting those who are intending on getting in the water for a swim, LA said she had some tweets and messages ready but she will see what other material she has available an maybe come up with another design.

**Action: LA to distribute the social media safety messages she currently has available to the partnership.**

**Action: Partnership members to share these messages on water safety via their social media networks.**

**Action: Further social media messages to be devised by the comms team and shared by all partners.**

1. Update on Planning Applications

AM advised that there had been a number of applications which we have been consulted on and gave 2 examples for Store Street and Water Street and will forward all comments received to the applicants for them to address before sending back for consideration again. AM suggested asking applicants to include at validation stage in their application, information on water safety measures they propose. AM will ask for a water safety management strategy document to be produced and asked as a partnership, is there a possibility of drawing up a standard document to be used as an aide-memoire. DW said he has a basic fire risk assessment template which he could be adapted to water safety; he will send onto AM.

**Action: DW to create water safety risk assessment for new build applications and send to AM**

1. Annual report

JM advised that the Boards meet at the end of this week, the WSP Report is on the agenda, however unless we were raising issues, the report would be circulated for info and didn’t anticipate any discussion unless there was something necessary. DW asked if this report can be circulated and he would send this to the Mayor’s office. AH advised that the Student Strategy Partnership and the Student Safety Group feed into this, and advised that they have a template for the report which he will share.

**Action: AH to share CSP report template with JM**

1. Terms of reference

DW advised that he has sent through a draft from the CRT and highlighted the importance for everyone to read through. DW raised an issue with regards to GDPR compliance for nominated members as this does not include individuals. AK advised she can ask a colleague to look over this. DW asked if everyone can agree the terms of reference so this can be signed off. AH raised an issue with the differences between objectives and functions in relation to Objective 6 of the document. DW advised he would feed this back to Daniel Greenhalgh from CRT. DW raised an another issue with data completeness in relation to incidents, DW suggested when we share it out as a group to take out names and addresses and just use gender and age – this will comply with the principles of GDPR.

DW pointed out that in the Terms of Reference there was a requirement that every April a Chair and Vice Chair would be elected/re-elected, but at the moment there isn’t a Vice Chair. DW asked if anyone would want to be the Chair or Vice or suggest who you would want in these positions.

AH suggested David Wilson to carry on as Chair but have someone from CRT as Vice Chair. DW will speak to Daniel Greenhalgh from CRT regarding this. MF joined the meeting at this point and DW mentioned that it had been suggested that the CRT would like to take on the role of Vice Chair. MF advised he would have to come back to the group on this. DW stated that, it would probably be better to ask the partnership for suggestions by email.

**Action: ALH to send out an email asking for suggestions**

1. Any Other Business

FS asked if the partnership would like any standard conditions for licences around the waterways, i.e. Canal Street in relation to seating/chairs for outdoor drinking, due to Coronavirus. AK suggested that all staff are fully trained rescue staff, they all have first aid training, understand their location and are able to use throw lines.

JM asked through the Institute of Licensing is there are way of checking what other Local Authorities have in terms of licensing conditions. FS advise he will ask around.

GW reported that near the Village bars, the cobbles are getting pulled up by the trees which could be a trip hazard. AW said his team will deal with this issue.

1. Date and Time of Next Meeting

This is to be confirmed but maybe sometime in July.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 11 am**