**CHESTER INTEGRATED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP**

**10 JULY 2023**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Lucy Black – Retirement Villages Group (LB)

Alastair Strauss – Retirement Villages Group (AS)

Ginny Cordy-Redden – Retirement Villages Group (GCR)

Rebecca Eatwell – Font Communications (RE) - Chair

Eddie Campion – Elliott Group (EC)

Glen Deacon - Elliott Group (GD)

Richard Dixon – Local business (RD)

Cllr Steve Collings - Cheshire West & Chester Council (SC)

Peter Tonge - Christleton Parish Council (JB)

Amanda Miller - Great Boughton Parish Council (AM)

Philip Hearfield - Local resident (PH)

Gillian Harrand - Local resident (GH)

**Apologies:**

John Beckitt - Christleton Parish Council (JB)

Guy Flintoft - Retirement Villages Group (GF)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item**  | **Action**  |
| 1. **Welcome and apologies**

RE welcomed attendees and asked them all to introduce themselves. Apologies noted from John Beckitt, Christleton Parish Council – Peter Tonge is attending in his place – and Guy Flintoft, Retirement Villages Group. |  |
| 1. **Minutes and actions**

The minutes were agreed, save for removing the action for AM/Sc relating to apprenticesips.Actions:* Apprenticeships – GD advised that 12 apprentices have been employed on the site to date. Elliott Group also have someone undertaking work experience. GD said that they have been engaging with local colleges and confirmed that they are happy for anyone to come to site and hand in their details to the security gate if they are interested in apprenticeships/work experience. They can also email GD directly. LB suggested adding this to the Chester microsite.
* JB provided details of the local historian who had been helpful in identifying potential names for the retirement community.
* Parking details will be covered later in the agenda under item 5.
* All to continue to send ideas of community groups etc that Retirement Villages Group (RVG) can engage with.
 | **RE to add to microsite** |
| 1. **Construction Update**

GD provided an update on construction.* Piling has now completed. GD apologised for the unavoidable noise during piling works but said that they managed to complete this in 7 weeks which was quicker than originally planned.
* Structural works have now started. Precast offsite construction methods are being used which will reduce traffic, dust and noise on site and also saved 10 weeks on the programme. GH asked where the structures are built. GD explained that the walls are made in Wales and the floors in Ireland.
* GD outlined community engagement activity including providing safety PPE for Boughton Heath Academy and Christleton Primary schools; Easter Colouring competition with Boughton Heath Academy; ground breaking event; and work experience for transition year students. The team also welcomed the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity to the site as part of their #MakeitVisible tour and is planning to build a store at Boughton Heath Academy.
* SC congratulated Elliott Group for their proactive approach to community engagement and managing complaints and for the use of concrete structures.
 |  |
| 1. **Marketing research and development block/street names**

LB explained that as the Chester retirement community is RVG’s first in the north of England that they have been conducting research with local people. This has included focus groups and surveys and has been designed to understand what local people think about retirement communities, what they value and what are the barriers. This has shown that people value the lifestyle elements of retirement communities.LB said that this research is influencing the marketing approach and that she will run concepts past the CLG before they are launched.The research has led RVG to include a management fee (where everything is included) rather that a service charge as this is felt to be more open and transparent for residents.GH said that she’d been speaking to residents of other retirement communities in the local area and had some feedback. AS asked GH to send this feedback over. AS explained that the name of the overall community has been agreed as The Wyldewoods. He thanked the members for the other suggestions put forward but explained that these couldn’t be used for a variety of reasons including the need to be unique for address purposes. However, some of the suggested names have been incorporated into the community for example the Bistro, Pavilion and garden areas.He then explained that RVG was looking for feedback on the proposed name options for the blocks and streets at the community. Each member was handed a sheet and asked to vote on their favourites by the end of the week. | **GH to send feedback** |
| 1. **Transport and connectivity**

GCR ran through a presentation on transport and connectivity, including access arrangements, anticipated trip movements, sustainable transport measures and parking arrangements.PT asked about the potential impact on air quality and stated that existing levels were already poor. GCR said that air quality will have been assessed as part of the planning application. PT asked whether RVG could support air quality monitoring equipment on the A41. PT suggested that it’s hard to get to the canal tow path and asked whether a zebra crossing could be installed. RD suggested that it would only be a 200m walk to use the existing crossings.GH asked whether the adjacent Park and Ride could be used for visitor parking as it’s never full. SC suggested that an arrangement had been put in place at another Park and Ride in the borough (Sealand Road) where you could use the car park without getting on the bus. | **GCR to look into air quality** **GCR to look into park and ride** |
| 1. **Community engagement**

RE provided an update on recent community engagement activities including:* Ground breaking ceremony with Christleton Primary School and Boughton Heath Academy and burying of time capsule
* Poems from local schools displayed on hoardings
* Community newsletter sent to over 4000 local addresses
* Flower planter competition – all CLG members were asked to share the details with their networks
 | **All to share planter competition details** |
| 1. **Topics for future meetings**

RE asked the members what topics they would like to cover at future meetings. It was suggested that the next meeting should cover the amenity spaces at the community. | **RE to add to the agenda** |
| 1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in September. RE to circulate meeting date.  | **RE to circulate meeting date** |
| 1. **AOB**

None. |  |