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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

### Beeston Forum General Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

#### Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speaker- It was the intention to host Guest Speakers dealing with the Elland Road Park and Ride proposals, but at the time of drafting this no speaker has agreed to attend
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013
5. Correspondence
6. Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme
7. Report of Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013
8. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Attendance:-Christine Thornton (in the chair), J. Adamson, Mr. R. Adamson, Mr. R. Almond, Mr. R. Bell., Mr. W. Birch, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. E. Carlisle, Mr. R. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. J. Fenton, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. M. Griffin, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, Mr. R. Hunter, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. D. Kenny, Mr. A. Kirby, Mrs. C. Kirk, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, D. McGough, A. McGrath, Miss. E. Newton, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. A. Pointon, Mrs. C. Stevens, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. N. Zaman

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance
2. Apologies for absence were received from Kathleen Fenton, Steve Francis and Councillor Adam Ogilvie
3. Guest Speaker. Christine Thornton welcomed the Guest Speaker, Dennis Holmes, Deputy Director of Adult Social Care, Leeds City Council

3.1 Dennis Holmes commenced his remarks by saying that he had been reminded by Christine Thornton that the last time he had attended the Forum, he had been accompanied by Sandie Keane and Michelle Tynan. He commenced his remarks by referring to Suffolk Court (formerly known as Harry Booth House), for which Leeds City Council had secured investment funding from NHS Leeds to renovate the building. Dennis Holmes acknowledged that he continues to refer to the building as Harry Booth House. It is now known as South Leeds Intermediate Care Centre, which he acknowledged is not a good name. He added that this will be the first of three centres to be opened in partnership with Leeds Community Health Care. The building will be opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The construction phase went well, and was completed quickly. Dennis Holmes pointed out that at the instigation of NHS Leeds, it had been the intention to open the building on 1<sup>st</sup> April, but there were a couple of mishaps on the site which meant that the contractors were unable to finish the building by this time. A full staff team is in place

and it is being trained on the premises. There are 30 intermediate nursing care beds and 10 residential nursing care beds. It is intended that the new facility will accommodate St James's or LGI patients who are fit enough to be discharged from hospital but not well enough to go home. The staff at the new centre will be drawn from Leeds Community Health Care and Leeds City Council. It is the first unit of its kind in the city and one of the first to use local authority and NHS staff. It is a sign of things to come. Dennis Holmes pointed out that his department would want to monitor the effectiveness of the new centre and inform plans for two similar centres; one in the east of Leeds; the other in the West of Leeds.

Dennis Holmes then referred to a number of other developments. He noted that local authority social workers are being integrated with district nurses and associated therapists around GP practices. He noted that this started in Rothwell and is now carried out in ten different locations. He is not certain which practice in the area teams are collaborating around. It is intended that one professional will co ordinate care for a group of individuals (a district nurse or social worker). Leeds Community Health Care have teams of nurses. It is the community wing of intermediate care and these teams will themselves become much more integrated, to provide a seamless experience for people needing care. Integration will move a long way over the next three to five years. We are currently dealing with co-location, collaboration and integrated systems. We also need to consider the housing needs of older people, not just now but in five to ten years time. Dennis Holmes said that his department will work with ALMOs and the Planning Department with the aim of influencing where new buildings are erected. He said that there is too little dialogue between the Social Care Department, council officers and planners. For example, a planning application for a new home could result in the new home being close to an existing home. We need homes spread out over the entire city and to deal with people with the capital to build new homes.

Dennis Holmes added that Leeds City Council expects to have its funding reduced by £52 million in the current financial year. after £92 million was taken away in the previous financial year. Adult Social Care will need to do its bit to make efficiencies. In contrast, the NHS is not having its funding reduced; indeed NHS spending will grow by 2% in Leeds, so Leeds City Council is keen to work with the NHS so as to obtain a bigger bang for its buck.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Matters dealt with included the increasing tendency for care homes to be in the private, rather than the public sector, the incidence and treatment of alzheimers disease and demeture, the disruption resulting from old people being moved , and the blacklisting of care homes

4. Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013. It was noted that Mark Parry's initial was wrong and that those tendering apologies (Bill Birch, Councillor David Congreve, Pauline Johnson and John Peckham) had been omitted from the minutes. Subject to these issues, the minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising- Rosemary Casserley referred to a meeting in March about the issue of car parking permits. She asked what had happened at the meeting. Councillor David Congreve said that the meeting in question is a ward members' briefing about Park and Ride and this meeting has not yet taken place. John Hodgson said that the Leeds City Council budget meeting had agreed the principle of charging for Parking permits. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that parking permits are for the whole of the city, not just for Elland Road. She added that the council are discussing the possibility of charging for 24 hour a day seven days a week parking permits (as on the Heath Estate); if the parking permits are just enforced on match days, there will be no payment. Residents will need the permits (which establish their status as residents) to enable them to park outside their house. /no decision has been made about charging , but the council budget needs to be reduced by £50 million and this money needs to be clawed back. Bill Birch asked whether there is a debate about 24 hours a day seven days a week parking permits in this area. A member of the audience asked what would happen if there is no space adjacent to a homeowners house. Angela Gabriel said that the homeowner would be allocated space elsewhere. Pauline Johnson asked what the situation would be if someone has more than one vehicle. Angela Gabriel said that there would be a permit for each vehicle registered to the house; also a permit for visitors, for whom there would be no charge. No one would be able to park in the street. David Congreve added that residents in a residents only parking area can park freely, which is an advantage. Such schemes are often put in place as it is difficult for residents to park. The council is, he added , debating an administrative charge. Angela Gabriel noted that she would not be able to park on the Heath Estate and would have to use a car park. Residents of the Heath Estate had complained about non residents parking

in their area. David Congreve said that nothing has changed from the time of the last meeting.

6. There was no correspondence

7. Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme- Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that she has had a briefing with Council officers who had intended to install the Park and Ride scheme close to the statue of Billy Bremner. It is now intended that the facility will be close to the proposed Ice Rink. She added that the councillors are objecting to the scheme as it is wrong in principle regardless of the location. She had asked council officers to bring their proposals to the Forum. She noted that traffic moving along Elland Road towards the Ring Road has to pass traffic lights at a roundabout close to Macdonalds. She noted that this roundabout is busy most of the time and was an accident blackspot. A member of the audience said that there are too many traffic lights in Beeston. Christine Thornton asked whether this means that the council will take Park and Ride forward. Angela Gabriel said that is the council's intention, but there needs to be a formal consultation process which would involve council officers attending a meeting of the Forum. A document will go into the Executive Board. She added that all three Beeston and Holbeck Councillors are opposed to the Park and Ride proposals. David Congreve said that all comments need to be raised with Highways. Andrew Pointon asked whether there is any provision in terms of numbers and places. Angela Gabriel said that we should wait for the comments from council officers. Bill Birch said that there is a problem with air quality in this area, and the forum needs to ask the council to make proper base line readings. Angela Gabriel said that this had already been done, and she had asked the relevant council officers to bring these to the Forum. Bill Birch suggested that these should be sent to the Forum early so that Forum members can look at them and ask appropriate questions. John Hodgson said that the figures had already been put out. He said that the road would be blocked time and again with traffic from the new police station and the park and ride scheme. David Congreve noted that there had been a number of meetings with Council Officers. The Forum is raising issues which the councillors are raising time and time again. Christine Thornton asked whether these issues have been raised with Councillor Richard Lewis. Angela Gabriel asked what the benefit would be for Beeston. John Hodgson noted that a park and ride scheme should have been installed at Tingley or Gildersome, and that Councillor Richard Lewis had described the Elland Road proposals as a win win situation. Angela Gabriel responded by saying 'I am on your side' Roy Casserley asked whether a feasibility study has been carried out, in particular, to investigate whether people will travel on the buses from the park and ride facility. Angela Gabriel said that the parking space will still be there and that anyone driving past the site will see no difference. However, the car parking spaces will be of better quality. Greg Turton noted that Councillor Adam Ogilvie had abstained in a vote on the Park and Ride Scheme at the Leeds City Council Executive Board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and had not explained this. He is on record as having abstained on the vote. David Congreve insisted that all the three councillors, including Adam Ogilvie, are opposed to the scheme. Bill Birch said that most people who are against things would vote against them. John Hodgson noted that he had heard Angela Gabriel speak about the matter at the Civic Hall and Councillor Richard Lewis speaking at the Forum. He said that the three Beeston and Holbeck Councillors and Hilary Benn do not count for much when there are over 60 Labour Councillors in Leeds and Councillor Richard Lewis saying that this is a win win situation. He noted that Councillor Keith Wakefield had said that if a similar facility is proposed in his area, he would complain unless there is something in it for the residents. Christine Thornton noted that the Committee had decided to invite Councillors and council officers concerned with the Park and Ride Scheme to the May Forum meeting.

8. Report of Committee Meeting- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 – Christine Thornton noted that there had been a discussion about the former Ice Pak factory on Barkly Road. The meeting had also discussed the Elland Road Park and ride proposals and had resolved to invite speakers dealing with this to the May Forum meeting. She added that Greg Turton had raised the issue of a possible neighbourhood plan for Beeston. If forum members are interested, we could make a start.

9. Possible Neighbourhood Plan- Greg Turton noted that there are a few large issues currently affecting Beeston, and that sometimes we are a spectator. However, since the Localism Bill was introduced in 2011, there is the opportunity for any area to construct a neighbourhood plan. Such a plan would refer to issues such as skills, housing, industry and parks. We would need the cooperation of local councillors and we would need to form a neighbourhood forum which would include residents, employers, business leaders, councillors and representatives of the voluntary services. This would come together to make a plan which must broadly follow the Community Development Plan (formerly the UDP). Councils will support areas which wish to do this, but they would not

pick up some of the costs. Groups could however apply for funding. Christine Thornton said that there would need to be some initial brainstorming involving ideas which could be set out on 3 to 4 sides of A4 paper. The first stage would be to seek a meeting with councillors. A member of the audience asked whether this would be done in conjunction with the Beeston Forum. Christine Thornton said that we could start a neighbourhood plan. Greg Turton said that the plan could be sponsored by the Beeston Forum which could put into place a steering committee to produce a plan. There would need to be a referendum about the plan, which would require 50% approval. This would be a plan produced by the community to shape its future development. Angela Gabriel pointed out that the government has a number of pilot schemes but that Holbeck is the only urban plan with sponsorship and; having received a £20000 grant. A few neighbourhoods in the city are doing this themselves. Planning Officers would help but the community must do it. Bill Birch wondered whether we should vote to go ahead with this or investigate it. Angela Gabriel said that we could ask Dennis Kitchen, who is involved with the Holbeck scheme to come along, and we could also ask Ian Mackay, a Leeds City Council planning officer who is involved in these matters.

10. Co-option of Noor Zaman to the Committee. Christine Thornton noted that Noor Zaman had expressed an interest in joining the committee to which he had been co-opted at the last Committee meeting. However, the Forum Constitution requires that the co-option is ratified by the Forum. Noor Zaman explained that he has lived in Beeston for 27 years and is a vice Chair of the local Labour Party and a Vice President of the Kashmiri Welfare Association. The co-option to the committee was ratified.

## 11. Any Other Business

11.1 Robert Winfield apologised for the fact that as a result of a recent illness which compelled him to take a break from all but the most urgent spare time activities and the need to clear a consequential backlog of spare time activities, he had not been able to make the minutes of the last Committee meeting available to committee members. He stressed that it is his intention in future to have the committee minutes available by the following Forum meeting.

11.2 John Peckham raised the issue of road accidents on Dewsbury Road, particularly at the junction with Westland Road. He noted that there had been an accident there a few weeks ago in which a car had flattened a post to which a crossing button box had been attached. The Highways Department reinstated this in four days. John Peckham said that he is noticing broken glass at this location with increasing frequency, and the community never gets any feedback as to what is happening. John Peckham added that the situation worries him as he uses the crossing every day. He asked whom we can approach and can we have feedback. David Congreve suggested approaching the police and the Highways Department. Christine Thornton described this as a strange crossing and said that she does not like it. Greg Turton raised the junction at Dewsbury Road social club and noted that the timing of the traffic lights is tight. This had been brought to the attention of the Highways Department which assured him that everything was alright. It was agreed to contact the Highways Department and the Police about this matter.

11.3 John Hodgson noted that he had seen a drawing which seems to be the plan for the new Community Centre on the site of the Ice Pak factory. He noted that Aspiring Communities, which owns the site had never shown these plans when they had visited the Forum; he noted that the plans envisage a complete prayer room at the top of the building. He asked whether it is a commercial firm going in and whether they will do the mosque second rather than first to prove that they are multicultural. David Congreve said that we are nowhere near the stage at which the owners will submit a planning application. John Hodgson noted that the site is not secure and that there had been complaints about break ins. Sometimes, a council will order the erection of a fence around the building in order to prevent children getting in. Angela Gabriel noted that the factory belongs to Aspiring Communities and is nothing to do with the council. John Hodgson recalled that Leeds City Council had demolished Jubilee House; Angela Gabriel noted that this is because the building was found to be structurally unsafe. John Hodgson said that the planning department is not replying to letters from members of the Community. David Congreve said that the complaints system can be used if there is no response. Angela Gabriel said that local residents cannot object to plans when no planning application has been submitted. David Congreve pointed out that Aspiring Communities would be required to make a pre application presentation to the plans panel. Officers are still asking for information about the intentions of Aspiring Communities; he added that the drawing to which John Hodgson referred is indicative and could change before a planning application is submitted. He added that he would want to get to the bottom of the situation but we can do nothing until a planning application is submitted. Angela Gabriel noted that no one has ever questioned the refurbishment work carried out by St John Ambulance on its building in the area.