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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

### Beeston Forum General Meeting - 14th May 2015

#### Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers - South Leeds Life
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 2nd April 2015
5. Police Report
6. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan
7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 16th April 2015
8. Correspondence
9. Beeston Village Community Centre
10. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 2nd April 2015

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) , Mr A. Ahmad, Mr G. Almass, Mr. R. Bell, D. Belton, Mrs. J. Belton, M. Bostan Esq., Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mrs. J. Bush, R. Casserley, Mrs. B. Cole, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor. A. Gabriel, Mrs. S. Gawthorpe, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, S. Hussan, Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, Mr P. Lewis, Mrs. L. Lewis, Mr. J. Morton, Mrs. M. Munro, Miss. E. Newton, Councillor A.Ogilvie, Mrs. P. Straatman, Mr. S. Sturman, Mr. G. Wainwright, H. Windross and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting. She noted that it is good to start the meeting in daylight but noted that we would be going home in the dark
2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, Councillor David Congreve, John Fenton, John Hook, Mark Parry, Rev Lindsey Pearson and Greg Turton. Additionally, it had been intended that a representative of Unity Housing would address the meeting in relation to the proposals for the building of houses on land at Parkwood Road but no representative was able to be present
3. Guest Speaker- Dennis Holmes, Deputy Director, Adult Social Care.

3.1 Dennis Holmes thanked the Forum for inviting him to his Annual appearance at the Forum. He noted that he had worked with Christine Thornton in the past. Dennis Holmes noted that he had worked at Hunslet Hall and recollected that this was fourteen years ago. It was nice to return to a former stamping ground. He recalled that his first speech to the Forum had dealt with the consultation with the former Harry Booth House, which is now the South Leeds Independence Centre which has now been open for two years. In that time, it has been possible to track the beneficiaries from Intermediate care services. He noted that discussions about care services will take place between Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Health Care with a view to the integration of care services. There are practical examples of doing things well when the Council and health providers work together. He added that those who have practical experience of rehabilitation at the South Leeds Independence Centre will appreciate the quality of care and the quality of staff. The objective is to keep people as independent as possible, or close to homes in communities. Dennis Holmes noted that Adult Social Care now operates in a new legislative framework, under an Act of Parliament which came into force on 1st April. Further changes in 2016 will affect how Adult Social Care is conducted. In the past, Adult Social Care had been reactive; people who had care needs were assessed by social workers. The new Act of Parliament emphasises that social care is everyone's business. The Council and the whole of the community is interested in promoting people's abilities, health and well being. The ability to keep independent is emphasised. There is also a new emphasis on the rights of carers. In the past, there had been a right to be assessed, but there was no right to receive care as a result of the assessment. Now, there is activity to promote services, which Dennis Holmes described as a massive step forward. The Care Act is important. People might not notice changes immediately, but there will be changes over the next 2 to 4 years. Over the next 2 to 3 years, there will be working across the Council in relation to housing and city development. When housing needs are identified over the next 20 years, steps will be taken to ensure that the council can invest in developing housing suitable for the elderly and the disabled. There is a shortage of such housing in parts of the City. He noted that there is traditionally sheltered housing, as well as extra care housing, which is sheltered housing with additional features, together with nursing care facilities. In addition general housing is adapted to meet the needs of people as they grow older. Dennis Holmes said that it is intended to develop initiatives in parts of the city which are tailored to the needs of older people. The Council will work together, rather than there being a situation in which individual directorates work separately. There will also be closer working with the NHS, as with South Leeds Independence Centre, in which people work together in one place. Social workers are co located in thirteen neighbourhoods with district nursing colleagues, and they are working much more collectively around GP practices. Dennis Holmes noted that most people are in contact with their GPs whether they have social care needs or not. This leads to much better shared information about needs and communities. The aim is to divert people away from acute hospital care to care in the communities. The evidence of the last 18 months is promising and it is hoped that there will be more impact over the next three years. It is also a seamless experience, rather than a disjointed approach in which social care is here and health is there.

Dennis Holmes said that it would be completely remiss of him not to make some remarks about the financial situation of the Council. There has been a reduction in the amount of central government funding under the coalition government; however, the ruling group has been very supportive of adult social care. The department has managed with a flat cash budget over the past two years. The budget will be £195.5 million, compared with this year's budget of £197 million; representing a reduction of £1.5 million for next year. There are plans for managing with this budget without reducing the level of care to people to whom Leeds City Council owe an obligation. However, it is tough to manage within this budget and this will lead to tough decisions. There is an ageing population within Leeds as in the rest of the UK. More people will have social care needs. We must plan for the future to continue to offer support. Later on this year, the learning disabilities service, which provides care and support for 1000 people will be spun out of the control of the Council. This will become a social enterprise in the

form of a staff owned mutual, which will be free to generate its own income and business. This will be a great opportunity for the workers , who will be able to get business elsewhere in the North of England. The element of public service will be retained but there will be the ethos of an independent organisation. It is hoped that this will be a model for the remainder of the public sector.

Dennis Holmes referred to the changes within Adult Social Care. He noted that he had previously appeared as a guest speaker at the Forum with Sandie Keane, who has now retired . Cath Roff who is currently the Director of Adult Social Services in the City of Derby has been recruited to succeed her and takes up her position on 13th April.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst the issues raised were the impact of outsourcing on staff and the quality of care and charges for Adult Social Care

4. Councillor Angela Gabriel referred to the confusion which had resulted from the fact that two clipboards were being passed around the meeting ; one with the standard attendance sheet; the other for individuals who wish to join the Neighbourhood Forum to sign. Christine Thornton explained the functions of the Neighbourhood Forum and noted that although anyone could attend its meetings, voting rights are confined to members.

5.Christine Thornton introduced the second guest speaker; James Kilroy of City Council who would be giving an overview of proposed developments on the Parkwood Estate.

5.1 James Kilroy noted that he works for the newly formed Housing Growth Team of Leeds City Council. This has one aim; to improve and increase housing growth. This seeks to promote private housing developments , and there is also a new council housing growth programme (council houses are being built for the first time since the 1980s). There will be a growth in affordable housing ; for example the proposed scheme on the Parkwood Estate. Leeds City Council has identified a number of sites for development by private housing , council housing and affordable housing. In relation to the Parkwood Estate , it was noted that the site has been cleared of maisonettes . The site has been marketed following the approval of the Executive Board to a number of firms who have been asked about their interest in developing the site for affordable housing . Unity Housing were identified as the preferred developer for this site . Unity has submitted a planning application for 18 houses with two or three bedrooms . It is intended that an affordable rent, greater than that which would be charged by the council , but less than the rent which would be charged by a private landlord. Jams Kilroy noted that the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum objected to the disposal of the land . James Kilroy acknowledged that this is understandable considering that there had been no consultation; a situation for which he apologised. He noted that Leeds City Council generally consults with local ward councillors and community groups.

James Kilroy noted that Parkwood Road is a Radburn design estate built in the 1970s. There is no car parking. It is intended to work with Unity to avoid a repetition of this . James Kilroy noted that it is intended that all the houses will be let to people from the Leeds Housing Register. Leeds City Council will have 100% nomination rights on first allocation and 75% on subsequent allocations. Unity have already undertaken a significant amount of housing development in Leeds notably at Beeston Hill and Holbeck ; Brown Lane East, Hird Street (near the medical centre) and the Beverleys. They already have significant stocks of housing in South Leeds; they are not new boys. He is confident that they will do a good job in line with the requirements of the Council.

5.3 James Kilroy noted that work on the new houses is due to start , but the sale of the land cannot proceed until the objections lodged by the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum are lifted. If the disposal of the land is approved tomorrow, builders would be on site tomorrow and the properties would take one year to build.

5.4 Richard Bell proposed the removal of the objection to the disposal of the land . James Kilroy noted that Leeds City Council has resolved to build 70000 homes and there is therefore a need to identify sites. He added that the Executive Board approved proposals in February to allow officers to initiate a public consultation which will take place during the autumn. Once the public consultation is announced, Leeds City Council will invite suggestions in relation to site allocations. A colleague will then visit the Neighbourhood Forum to go through relevant plans and timescales. It is intended to deal with issues such as the land at the railway line, Stank Hall Barn and the issue of horses grazing on land adjacent to Parkwood Road. Stuart Casserley noted that the railway cutting had been 'back filled'. The proposal by Richard Bell to withdraw the Forum's objection to the disposal of the land was put to the vote; there were 24 votes in favour of the proposal, none against and one abstention. James Kilroy noted that further up Parkwood Road, there is a disused garage site. This is an eyesore and the issue had been raised by local councillors. He noted that Leeds City Council would seek approval to market the land for affordable housing (the Council owns the property) . He envisaged that Leeds City Council's preferred candidate for development will come back to the Forum. It is hoped that we will get this out in April or May. Christine Thornton said that if any proposals are not viable, the Forum would need to know, if the proposals are viable the Forum must be consulted. James Kilroy said that he would let the Forum know about the situation in June or July .

6. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 5th March 2015 were agreed as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

7. Report of Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. Robert Winfield explained that he would make the report in the absence of Mark Parry and Greg Turton, he would make the report. A meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee had taken place on 24th March; this had been dominated by a presentation by James Kilroy, dealing with the proposed housing development at Parkwood Road, similar to that which had just been given to the Forum. However, the most important event was the trip to Wolverhampton .which had taken place on Saturday 21st March. Robert Winfield noted that he, in common with all those who attended , had found the trip useful and enjoyable. Robert Winfield noted that there were many similarities between Heathfield, the area visited, and Beeston, but also a number of noticeable differences , for example Heathfield has half the population of Beeston, it is closer to the City Centre than Beeston, and it includes High rise development, whereas Beeston has no high rise development whatsoever. It was noted that a number of colleagues who had made the trip noted that it was impossible to point to anything which has happened as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was however noted that even though the plan has passed through the referendum stage and is now in force, the plan is still at an early stage. Robert Winfield noted that the AGM of the Neighbourhood Forum will take place at Beeston Village Community Centre at 7.30p.m on Tuesday 19th May. Robert Winfield added that those present at the meeting are more than welcome to join the various task groups. He noted that the task groups deal with Environment, Community, Retail and Business Development, Heritage, Housing , Opportunities for young people, and integration . He also reminded those present that they can join the Neighbourhood Forum by completing the form which was being passed around the meeting with their name and address. Robert Winfield noted that in his view, any residents organisation is more effective when more people are involved; the Neighbourhood Forum is no exception.

8. Report of Committee meeting held on 19th March 2015. Christine Thornton reported that the meeting had discussed Neighbourhood Forum , the recent visit to the Forum by a number of Arts

Students working on a project dealing with the history of the building which is now Beeston Village Community Centre , and a letter dealing with the measurement of pollution in the area.

9. Correspondence. Robert Winfield noted that following a decision of the Committee, he had written to Leeds City Council to draw their attention to the fact that an expression of support for the Aspiring Communities Planning Application had been sent from the address of Noor Zaman in the name of a person who does not in fact live there. A further letter had been sent when it was found that a further expression of support had been sent from a false address. Leeds City Council responded, saying that although they do not investigate the authenticity of representations in relation to planning applications, they do remove representations from Public Access , if they are found to be false , as has happened in these instances. A member of the audience pointed out that he is aware of a number of representations from false addresses. Questions were also raised from the audience as to how Robert Winfield discovered that the expressions of support were false. Robert Winfield pointed out that Noor Zaman had noticed the representation which is ostensibly from his address whilst browsing the public access website, whilst his recollection is that the representation from a false address was supposedly from 368 Beeston Road, which is far higher than the highest actual street number on Dewsbury Road. Robert Winfield noted that he had been informed by the planning department in a telephone conversation that the reason for the delay in determining the planning application is that Leeds City Council were having difficulty getting satisfactory answers from Aspiring Communities as to what the proposed building would be used for if it is constructed.

10. Possible Co-options to the Committee.. It was noted that there are a number of unfilled positions on the Committee and that any interest in filling them would be welcomed.

11. Any Other Business-

11.1 Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that the Inner South Leeds Community Committee had produced brochures, one copy of which had been placed on every seat at the meeting , describing activities for young people in the area served by the Committee. She noted that people have said that there are not enough activities for children, but she noted that the brochure is full of activities including a youth club at Beeston Village Community Centre.

11.2 Councillor Adam Ogilvie noted that there had been significant concerns about the environment , litter and dog fouling. He noted that the councillors are purchasing signs, one of which he showed to the meeting reminding people not to drop litter or allow their dogs to engage in dog fouling. 100 such signs were being acquired for display in prominent positions within the ward; the councillors would welcome ideas as to where the signs should be displayed. A number of grit bins and bins for dog mess were also being acquired.. Adam Ogilvie also urged residents to e mail the councillors if they know of a dog owner who allows his or her dog to foul .. It was noted that someone had recently been fined £75 plus costs.

11.3 Robert Winfield noted that Forum's facebook group had been somewhat inactive, but there had recently been a significant increase in the number of members , albeit to a level which is still small. Robert Winfield hoped that the group would continue to attract members who would use the group to put forward their views about matters relating to Beeston .

11.4 It was agreed that there would be a stall at the forthcoming Beeston Festival , incorporating a table and two chairs

11.5 A member of the audience noted that when walking on Firth Grove on the previous Sunday, she encountered a very erratic driver. She recorded the number plate of the driver's car, after which the

driver returned to 'eyeball' her. Adam Ogilvie suggested that appropriate remedies include phoning 101 or reporting the matter anonymously to crimestoppers.

11.6 A member of the audience noted that there were people working on the site on Old Lane owned by Tesco for which they had been refused planning permission for a store. Robert Winfield said that he would be happy to write to Tesco to find out what is going on . .

11.7 It was noted that the horses which formerly grazed on land between Parkwood Road and Dewsbury Road have gone