

Chair: Christine Thornton, 40 Cross Flatts Avenue, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 7BG. Tel 0113 270 0875

Secretary: Mr Robert Winfield, 7 Allenby Gardens, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 5RW. Tel 0777 379 7820

E mail robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com Forum Website- www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk

find us on Facebook at 'Beeston Community Forum'



BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 10th May 2018 Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Ratification of new Neighbourhood Forum members
4. Guest Speaker, Angus Kinnear, Managing Director, Leeds United FC
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 5th April 2018
6. Police Report
7. Discussion about the Neighbourhood Forum including the presentation of the report of views expressed at the Neighbourhood Planning event on Saturday 3 March 2018
8. Report of the Committee meeting held on 19th April 2018
9. Correspondence
10. Possible Co-option of Committee members

Members are reminded that the next Forum meeting will take place on Thursday 14th June in order to avoid a clash with the international football match taking place at Elland Road Football Ground on Thursday 7th June

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 5th April 2018

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mrs. S. Akhtar, Mr. G. Almass, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. M. Broadbent, Mrs. J. Bush, Mrs. D. Clark, Mr. M. Clayton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. M. Day, Councillor. A. Gabriel, Mrs. N. Hussain, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. P. Jones, Mrs. D. Mc Guigan, Ms. S. Ottley-Hughes, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. A. Scopes and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton thanked the members present for their attendance and noted that Spring has finally sprung, but possibly only for today. She noted that she had forgotten to bring the agenda for the current meeting, so had just written down an improvised agenda

2. Apologies for absence were received from Richard Bell, Colin Hendrick Ward, Ken Hewson, Ash Mahmood,

Myra Munro, Councillor Adam Ogilvie, and Rev Lindsey Pearson . Abbie Miladinovic of Leeds City Council also presented her apologies for absence after the meeting .

3. As the intended meeting of the Forum on 1st March was cancelled, the minutes being presented for approval were those for the previous meeting ; on 1st February. Councillor Angel Gabriel noted that she had presented her apologies, but these had not been recorded in the minutes. Subject to this matter, the minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting .

4. Matters arising .

4.1 Christine Thornton noted that it had been intended to invite Stewart Robinson of International Fun Fairs and Martin Wright of Leeds City Council to the meeting on 1st March to hear any comments about the Valentine Fair at Elland Road . Subsequently , the committee had taken the view that it would not be appropriate to invite them to the present meeting, as there is a fairly full agenda , and comments about the Valentine Fair in recent years have almost always been favourable . Christine Thornton asked whether there are any comments. Andrew Scopes noted that he went there and had a good time with his three children, who went on the childrens' rides. They had come out of school with vouchers and a pair of scissors! Gohar Almass Khan also praised the fair. It was also noted that money off vouchers were widely available in shops, libraries etc. Christine Thornton asked whether there had been any complaints . No complaints were raised . The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield to communicate these remarks to Stewart Robinson and Martin Wright

4.2 Christine Thornton wondered whether there have been any further developments in relation to the construction of the new Beeston Village Community Centre. Robert Winfield noted that he had recently had a telephone conversation with Toshali Bhatia of Health for All (Leeds) , who noted that the building of the new community centre had not yet started. As a result of the capital grant from the National Lottery being less than originally expected, a number of changes had to be made to the design of the building . Toshali Bhatia explained that there is a sticking point on one such change between the National Lottery and Leeds City Council. Robert Winfield noted that this almost certainly means that all our meetings during 2018 would take place at our current , temporary venue

4.3 Christine Thornton referred to the controversy which had arisen in relation to Ash Mahmood's election to the Committee , which had taken place at the February meeting , at which he had given the address of 114 Barkly Road on the attendance sheet for the meeting. Christine Thornton noted that this is the address of the former Passmore building , which is currently boarded up and thus clearly not a residential address . Christine Thornton noted that Ash Mahmood had said that he now lives at 10 Cross Flatts Place and had attended the following committee meeting, at which he had given an undertaking that he would apologise to the next Forum meeting for the situation which had developed . It was noted that he also agreed that the vote to elect him to the committee would be taken again. The meeting agreed that in view of Ash Mahmood having presented apologies for absence from the current meeting , these matters would be held over to the following Forum meeting .

4.4 Christine Thornton wondered whether there had been a response from Angus Kinnear of Leeds United FC in relation to the issue surrounding the brightness of lighting at Elland Road which had been raised at a recent Forum meeting . Robert Winfield noted that Angus Kinnear would be appearing at the next meeting of the Forum . Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that the councillors had recently held a meeting with another official of Leeds United FC who had told them that on the day when the lights had caused the issue which had been raised , there was a mist in the air which had made the lights appear to be far brighter . It was noted that the purpose of the lights is to make the grass grow more quickly. Only a small section of the pitch is treated with this lighting at one time; not the whole pitch .

5. Report of Committee meetings held on 15th February 2018 and 22nd March 2018 . Christine Thornton noted that the Committee meeting on 15th February had largely been taken up with planning for the Neighbourhood Forum event on 3rd March, and the following Committee meeting had discussed the results of the event . Councillor Angela Gabriel wondered whether the Community Committee staff had facilitated the event on 3rd March . Christine Thornton pointed out that no Community Committee staff had attended the event . Angela

Gabriel asked whether the staff had done anything at all. Christine Thornton confirmed that they did nothing.

6. Guest Speakers. Christine Thornton introduced the guest speakers , Dawn Clark and Susan Ottley- Hughes of Friends of Stank Hall Barn

6.1 It was noted that Dawn Clark and Susan Ottley-Hughes are co-Chairs of Friends of Stank Hall Barn , which is located at the top of Dewsbury Road opposite the White Rose Centre. Friends of Stank Hall Barn had been founded in 2013 by South Leeds Life , when a big meeting of around 100 people had taken place in which those attending the meeting had asked questions about what I going on and who owns the premises. It had taken three years for the Friends of Stank Hall Barn to get on site . In the meantime, Friends of Stank Hall Barn carried out a significant amount of research to determine what people want to see and to formulate a business plan. The organisation is now on site with a community growth scheme. The group had obtained a licence to renew this scheme for three years on the Monday before the scheme. Leeds City Council allows the site to be opened six times per year. The house and the site have just been put up for sale , and Friends of Stank Hall Barn have put in an expression of interest to buy this

6.2 The meeting opened to questions and comments from the floor . The guest speakers were asked what is on the site . Susan Ottley Hughes noted that the house dates from 1280 whilst the barn was erected in 1480 after the Wars of the Roses. This was a Royal hunting lodge for the old King. When this was out of royal hands , this was sold to the De Beestons. The barn is beautiful and its last use was a farm in the mid 1970s or probably early 1980s. The barn was refurbished in 1988 and has been empty since around 2000 . Dawn Clark noted that in the three years when Friends of Stank Hall Barn could do nothing due to the legalities , they carried out a considerable amount of research at the archive office and found out lot about Beeston, including that there had been a giant Roman Villa on Town Street. In 1731 a large amount of Roman treasure had been found close to the site of Beeston Village Community Centre . All the good treasure had gone to the De Beestons . The clump on Windmill Hill was a watch tower over a Roman Road . It was a medieval timber fort . When Beeston Hall was built, it was a watch to the Manor House. Dawn Clark noted that there is fund of heritage money for heritage projects . She stressed that any new building in Beeston should lead to an archaeological search. The whole of Beeston has lots of archaeology beneath it . The old church had an anchorage beneath it between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. We need money, people and an interest because it is rare for three centuries of continuous anchorite occupation . Dawn Clark suggested that we could involve local schools . She noted that Stank Hall is an early medieval site. Visitors to the site may pick up but are not allowed to dig. A number of carvings from the wall dating from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries have been picked up . It was noted that there was a mining disaster in Beeston in the mid 19th Century . Houses jumped up and down due to the explosion and were then demolished and replaced . One end bell of the Old Hall fell off . A lot of heritage material was cleared. Much of this went into private ownership but a lot was left.

6.3 Dawn Clark referred to the Friends of Stank Hall Barn free food grow scheme . It was noted that some people working zero hours contracts have difficulty in making ends meet . People can give food. There is a 'secret squirrel scheme' for people who do not wish it to be known that they are dependent on free food . It was noted that the site could not open again without a contract . There is a need to obtain compost and get seedlings going. Friends of Stank Hall are looking for more volunteers ,including people who take a tray of seedlings or a spare place in their greenhouse. Dawn Clark noted that archaeological digs had been carried out on the site in around 1940. It was noted that consent was required from the Secretary of State to grow things in the garden

6.4 Dawn Clark noted that there had been an act of vandalism last year. Those responsible had been caught on film, and are known, but this does not help with repairs

6.5 Dawn Clark noted that Friends of Stank Hall Barn is working with schools looking at heritage . The new school in Middleton has asked for help in designing a garden . The organisation has a policy of total inclusivity

6.6 A member of the audience asked about the backgrounds of the guest speakers . Susan Ottley Hughes noted

that she has been involved with history and archaeology for around 30 years and also runs a social enterprise supporting local crafts . She also works with people on TV dealing with historical issues . Dawn Clark is also involved with other projects

6.7 Christine Thornton noted that the Friends of Stank Hall Barn are hoping to buy the premises and asked whether their activities could continue if they do not succeed in buying the premises . Susan Ottley Hughes said that this depends on who actually buys the site . She noted that this is the oldest house in Leeds . Dawn Clark added that Historic England have been hugely helpful. It was noted that the site was originally connected to Rothwell Castle. The building is older than Historic England had originally thought . Kings hunting places are considered important . It was noted that the King would typically move around with 300 to 400 people who would wreck the place. The King would typically tour the country holding law courts and looking at problems. Most castles had a hunting lodge attached . However, the King would occasionally peel off with around 30 to 40 people for around four days . It was not possible for a person to go to church with the King because it was believed that anyone standing next to the King would explode as the King is so close to God. It was noted that around 1640 to 1650 , Beeston's anchorage was in full use . It was noted that a 12th century Chapel doorway is there. The outside is covered in corkings . Someone recalled that his father had been involved in building the Parkwood Estate. Someone said that they had found the front part of a mediaeval chapel. The site was concreted over and a house built upon it. The chimney on the end of Old Hall is a Garderobe dating from the 13th century and is very rare. At the bottom of Churwell Hill, there used to be an important mediaeval hospital . The King had moved a hunting park and went to war with the Knights Templar half way up Churwell Hill . Nuns went to the site of Cottingley Hall and Spital Spring Hall. The Hunting Lodge spread from Cottingley to Churwell Hill

6.8 Mark Parry asked whether anyone is writing up the history of Stank Hall Barn. Susan Ottley Hughes said that it is the intention to write up the history . Robert Winfield asked whether Friends of Stank Hall Barn is working with the Beeston Local History Society . It was noted that there is such a working relationship, and it is also the intention to produce a book about the site for sale. It was noted that there has always been a fork in Dewsbury Road after Tommy Wass's . This has been known as the Kings Ditch.

6.9 Christine Thornton asked when the next open day is , whilst a member of the audience acknowledged that she was unable to work out how to get to Stank Hall Barn. Susan Ottley Hughes said that she would be happy to arrange a visit by the Forum to the site adding that 'it is your heritage' . Gohar Almass Khan said that it had been brilliant to find out a place of such historical importance and it might bring a positive connection to Beeston. Dawn Clark noted that Friends of Stank Hall Barn has obtained support from US academics . The site had featured at the International Mediaeval Congress of Leeds University. A number of US academics will be visiting the site . There is thus level of interest in Beeston together with some potential money.

6.10 A member of the audience asked the speakers what they want on the site. Dawn Clark said that it is hoped that there will be jobs and affordable homes in a refigurement of New Hall and Old Hall . She added that it is difficult for young people to stay in Beeston. She noted that young people visit the site and the object is to get them interested . Gohar Almass asked how the community can help . Dawn Clark said that the community can get involved , and they need more hands on deck. We need to get people out, referenced and working. The more people who help with filling rose beds the better . Susan Ottley Hughes said that if anyone is throwing away wood or a paving slab, they would need it . She noted that vandals had stolen over £1000 worth of recently donated wood last year . Dawn Clark added that residents can also help by taking away a tray of seedlings and giving back plants. She added that she is keen to get more free food growing in Beeston. She is on the Board of an organisation providing free food. She would like to see people growing and giving food away.

6.11 Christine Thornton noted that the Beeston Forum had lobbied to bring Stank Hall Barn into Beeston and Holbeck Ward. Susan Ottley Hughes Pointed out that four or five Lord Mayors had lived there

7. Police Report. It was noted that no representative of the police was present . However, Robert Winfield gave a brief report of a meeting which had taken place on 28th February 2018 at Elland Road Police Station between Sgt. Emma Lisle , Christine Thornton, Robert Winfield and Steve Francis . It was noted that the representatives

of the Forum had raised the 'Gangbo' on a number of individuals who had committed offences relating to the Beeston family feud , and its perceived lack of enforcement , the issue of the Holbeck prostitution managed zone , drug dealing , and youths racing around Cross Flatts Park on motorised bikes . Robert Winfield noted that Sgt. Lisle had promised that any reports of breaches of the gangbo will be followed up in future. Christine Thornton described Sgt Lisle as 'very pleasant'

8. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

8.1 Neighbourhood Planning Event - 3rd March . Christine Thornton noted that she was expecting Abbie Miladinovic to bring along the information from the charts which formed a part of the event. Christine Thornton noted that those attending the event were encouraged to indicate (by ticking a space on a flipchart) whether they agree with the mission statement and a number of objectives , and whether they agree that each objective has high, low or medium priority. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. The event had been attended by 34 people including committee members . Christine Thornton noted that not many people had answered no to the questions . Pam Jones noted that people had turned out despite the weather. Christine Thornton noted that compared with similar consultation events which had taken place several years ago, the event had been a runaway success. Robert Winfield noted that at the suggestion of Rev Lindsey Pearson, the displays had been left in situ until the following morning so that members of the Church congregation could state their views. On this basis , the attendance had apparently increased to 37, although no one else had signed in . Christine Thornton noted that there was an opportunity for those attending the event to make comments . Such comments included that there are too many takeaways , too many private landlords and too much rubbish . She noted that it is reassuring that all these things are still on the agenda. Pam Jones noted that there had been better publicity, but the weather had been against us .

8.2 Robert Winfield noted that the Annual General Meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum will take place at the next Forum meeting on 10th May . He noted that when he had succeeded Greg Turton as the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Forum, he had neither aspired nor expected to hold the position. He continued to take the view that the Neighbourhood Forum needs a Chairman who is able to devote more time to the position than he can. Accordingly, he would be delighted to step down from the position should a person with the necessary time and skills express a wish to take on the role.

9. Correspondence. Robert Winfield noted that he had received an e mail from Highways England explaining that the next round of consultation in relation to their proposals for the M621 will take place early next year . On this basis , it would appear as though it would be appropriate to invite representatives of Highways England to the Forum meeting in February 2019 . However, as the present Committee must seek re election at the AGM in December , the matter must be decided by the Forum . It was agreed to invite Highways England to the February 2019 meeting. In addition, Councillor Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council had expressed an interest in attending the October Forum meeting. However, Robert Winfield noted that this creates difficulties as representatives of First Leeds and Metro would be attending the November Forum meeting , whilst October had been earmarked for a longer discussion of Neighbourhood Planning . If Judith Blake were to attend the same meeting, this would result in an excessive amount of business . The committee discussed one possible solution, which would involve Judith Blake attending in October, the longer discussion about Neighbourhood Planning taking place in November and the attendance of First Leeds and Metro being deferred until March 2019 . As before, this would require the consent of the Forum . Robert Winfield felt that the Forum might take the view that this would represent an excessive delay in First Leeds (whose representatives have not attended the Forum for some considerable time) and Metro attending the Forum. Pauline Johnson felt that Metro and First Leeds should appear before March 2019 . Pam Jones felt that there is a need to get on with the Neighbourhood Plan . Robert Winfield felt that it would not be beyond the ability of the Committee to work out a solution to this problem. It was agreed to refer the matter back to the Committee . Bill Birch said that he thought that the Highways England consultation was over . Robert Winfield pointed out that there will be a second round of Consultation about Highways England's preferred option. Bill Birch noted that Highways England had said that they would write , but they had not done so . The consultation is thus fundamentally flawed. Eddie Leatham noted that each option involves the closure of Junction 2a at Domestic Street . Pam Jones noted that Highways

England had carried out extensive consultation in Holbeck , but until their appearance at a meeting of the Forum none in Beeston. Highways England had been surprised at the extent of objections at the Forum. There are fears of rat running and congestion. Mark Day felt that the junction would be dangerous. Pam Jones noted that the problem had become worse and worse . Highways England's preferred option would solve the problem there but move the problem elsewhere . Eddie Leatham said that a lot of people would leave the motorway at Tunstall Road , which would take the traffic onto Dewsbury Road . Christine Thornton said that this discussion highlights why we need Highways England to come and attend the Forum

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Robert Winfield reported on the latest meeting of the Committee dealing with the Aspiring Communities development . Robert Winfield noted that he had, by default represented both the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum as neither Christine Thornton nor Steve Francis was able to attend . He noted that the meeting dealt with aspects of the plans and that it had been agreed that there would be no further meeting until there had been agreement in connection with the planning conditions . Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that this was the second meeting of the Committee , which includes two representatives from each interested organisation or facebook group . The last meeting had been attended by a planning officer , and Aspiring Communities' architect . There had been a good debate. It had been useful to have people speaking to each other rather than posting on facebook .

10.2 Robert Winfield noted that this would be the last Forum meeting at which Adam Ogilvie (who had presented his apologies for absence from the meeting) and David Congreve (who had left the meeting for personal reasons) would be Councillors. He felt that the Forum should express its thanks to them for their services as Councillors and for attending the Forum on a regular basis. It was resolved that Robert Winfield would write to them to thank them appropriately. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that coming to Forum meetings is the highlight of their month

10.3 Robert Winfield noted that the Forum was founded on 18th February 1999 and that the twentieth anniversary of the Forum therefore takes place early next year . It was agreed to mark the occasion appropriately

10.4 Dawn Clark hoped that it would be possible to sort out a visit by the Forum to Stank Hall Barn. One possibility would be a mediaeval visit which would involve music and food and take those attending back to the fourteenth century. Susan Ottley Hughes noted that the Friends of Stank Hall Barn meets monthly at the Broadway

10.5 Robert Winfield noted that the Forum meetings for the next two months will take place on the second Thursday of the month ; in May due to the Leeds City Council elections on Thursday 3rd May and in June to avoid a clash with the international football match at Elland Road on Thursday 7th June

10.6 Robert Winfield noted that buses from Dewsbury Road into Leeds City Centre are currently being diverted along Crown Point Bridge and Eastgate as a result of roadworks on Leeds Bridge. He noted that on the last occasion when buses were diverted , this route had been necessary as Vicar Lane became a one way street due to roadworks in connection with the building of the Victoria Centre. However, as Vicar Lane is not restricted on this occasion, he saw no reason why buses could not be diverted along Sovereign Street and then along to Vicar Lane. This would cause less disruption to the route . Christine Thornton asked why the diverted buses cannot stop on Eastgate rather than Leeds Minster. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we write to Metro and First Leeds about the matter.