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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 12th May 2016

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 7th April 2016
4. Police Report
5. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan
6. Report of the Committee meeting held on 21st April 2016
7. Correspondence
8. Beeston Festival - 4th June 2016
9. To consider and if thought fit pass a resolution to authorise Christine Thornton to transfer her powers and duties as Chairman of the Forum to Arthur Kirby on dates in July 2016 to be determined by the Committee
10. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7th April 2016

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), M. Broadbent, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Mr. A. Cooper, B. Draper, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. J. Hook, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Mrs M. Munro, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks – Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting on what she noted was not a very good evening. She observed that Spring had sprung, but we would not know it.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, Dennis Bottomley, Councillor David Congreve, John Cunningham and Ken Hewson
3. Guest Speaker- John Cummins, Groundwork
- 3.1 John Cummins noted that the Love Beeston, Clean Beeston project, about which he had been invited to speak, actually takes place in City and Hunslet Ward, specifically the area around Tempest Road, Rowland Road and Lady Pit Lane. He had been asked to initiate this project by Leeds city Council's Parks and Countryside Department. He noted that problems had been caused by the location of takeaway shops. At that time, South Leeds Alliance were trying to get a project started to keep streets clean and to keep primary school children involved. However, it was decided that going out and picking litter every day will not solve the problems. Instead the project aims to instil a sense of community pride by trying to stop people dumping litter. However, there is a high turnover of people in the area and little community pride. Residents aspire to live elsewhere and do not identify with their present location.

However, the population is now stabilising and more is happening. However, Poles are taking the place of other ethnic minorities. There have been problems with people leaving cans and bottles in the park. The project initially concentrated on a few streets notably the Harlechs. These are dead end streets. The aim is to get locals and residents involved by encouraging them to look after frontages. There were a number of street sessions in which plants, planters and hanging baskets were given away. If all streets were neat and tidy there would be no problem.

John Cummins noted that there was a high profiler project which involved tidying up Holy Spirit Church on Tempest Road. Volunteers from five companies painted railings and the doors of the building but the church itself is no longer in use. There is an aspiration to use the building for the community but John Cummins noted that he is not involved in this.

John Cummins recalled that he lived in a back to back in Woodhouse. The street was fantastic and clean. In the present project, he tried to build up a partnership of local groups, organisations and residents. He noted that there is a lovely mosaic (Special Autism Services) outside the Autism Services shop on Dewsbury Road. The person who made this mosaic was asked to make a mosaic for the project. They produced a sign saying 'Love Beeston, Clean Beeston, which was erected on a planter at the junction between Rowland Road and Dewsbury Road. Although the sign was put up 18 months ago, it still looks good. People with long term health problems were being asked to work on the allotment to provide another level of support. Once a week, hotspots are sought so that street cleaning teams can get involved. People from the City College and the Princes Trust are involved in projects including the creation of a mural on a building at Lady Pit Lane, work on allotments and work at the Holy Spirit Church. A flyer with a questionnaire was put out on the Harlechs and the Bromptons. John Cummins noted that funding has been applied for to enable the project to spend more time in the area. He wants to be able to go through 2 or 3 different schools, and religious organisations in order to reach families, rather than leafleting, with the result that the leaflets are often put in a bin. It is hoped to produce champions who would look at the frontage outside their own house, which could then lead to other things. This would not be one thing at a time, but one thing and draw in other things. John Cummins said that he would leave leaflets for the Green for Go project at the meeting. He noted that he had originally been asked to attend by Steve Francis who is being kept informed of what is going on. Some streets look bad but the area as a whole looks a lot better. The project will have a stall at the Beeston Festival, which will aim to sign people up with pledges to take part.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Christine Thornton wondered whether there are any plans to work on this side of the park, where she noted there were a few grot spots. John Cummins said that he would do so if he could but there is no funding available. He noted that he is, however working in Holbeck with Holbeck in Bloom. Local schools are involved.

3.3 Rosemary Casserley noted that there is a ginnel close to her home, running from Southleigh Road to Westland Road, which the council had recently cleaned, but people were dropping litter and dog faeces. She wondered whether she might be able to do anything other than picking up the litter. John Cummins wondered whether she had spoken to street cleaning. Rosemary Casserley noted that she had done so several times. John Cummins said that one possibility would be to draft a leaflet and put it through local letterboxes, but would that get any response? However, the leaflet could identify many people who do not like litter and are willing to look after the environment. Just a few spoil it. Pauline Johnson felt that the problem is that many of the people dropping litter do not live here. They go to the takeaway and dump litter in empty houses. John Cummins noted that there is a current project with the Hamara Centre, which has funding to work with youth workers at the Hamara, who have approached local takeaways with a view to keeping their premises tidy and encouraging the responsible disposal of waste. However, local churches were filled with tons of rubbish until netting had been put in place to stop this. There is a need to work together with neighbours. Rosemary Casserley wondered whether it is worth putting a bin there. John Cummins said that bins are not always the solution as they cost the council money to install and to empty. He added that Dave Fisher, who is based at the Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre could be able to offer assistance. Christine Thornton noted that his telephone number was published in the minutes of a previous Forum meeting. Councillor Adam Ogilvie noted that Yvonne Crowther had written to every household on the Cardinal Estate about dog fouling. John Cummins noted that a residents association can be a vehicle to use. He noted that his own area was fine, then there was a huge amount of dog faeces on the park. The whole of his village was then leafleted. Christine Thornton noted that such an exercise is easier in villages. John Cummins noted that Love Beeston Clean Beeston is about enforcement. If people are seen throwing rubbish, they are approached by officers who have some powers. We must plug away at some issues. There are at least a couple of dog wardens in the city and they will come out and prosecute owners whose dogs are fouling. Christine Thornton noted that dogs are taken into Middleton Woods. Rosemary Casserley notes that she walks a lot through the woods. Christine Thornton pointed out that there is more dog faeces in her area. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that Dave Fisher's telephone number is 0113 247 5513 and his e mail address is david.fisher@leeds.gov.uk

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 3rd March 2016. Robert Winfield drew the attention of the members present to his note pointing out that it is clear that not all members who had attended the Forum meeting had signed the attendance sheet and it is likely that such individuals had not been recorded in the minutes as having attended the meeting. Sandra Burton noted that Dennis Bottomley had attended the meeting but that his name is not recorded in the minutes as having attended the meeting. Subject to this matter, the minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Mick Mason, Deceased. Christine Thornton referred to paragraph 12.1 of the minutes which referred to the illness of Mick Mason. She noted that it had been agreed to send a get well card. Mary Mason thanked her for the card, and asked Christine Thornton to pass on her thanks to the Forum for this. Sadly, Mick Mason died on 20th March. His funeral will take place at 1.40p.m on 12th April at Cottingley Crematorium, followed by a wake at the Peacock Pub. The family has stated that anyone who knew Mick Mason will be welcome to attend the funeral. The meeting then observed a period of silence in memory of Mick Mason.

5.2 Proposed Extension of Residents Car Parking Zone around Elland Road . Robert Winfield recalled that he had written a letter to Leeds City Council expressing concerns about a number of aspects of the proposal. He read a reply from Bobby Viridi from Leeds City Council's Highways Department .

Bobby Viridi said that he fully appreciates the concerns associated with parking permit schemes and the resultant transference of parking . He also understands our concerns about how match day parking could impact on the wider area. He added that it is always difficult when trying to identify which streets to include in a permit parking scheme, they can never please everyone , and sometimes they may have to make a decision which is not always favourable. He added that prior to the consultation the Highways Department met with Beeston and Holbeck councillors a number of times and they played an integral role in identifying and agreeing the boundary and which streets to include in the scheme . He added that there are a number of businesses which are in the proposed permit zone . He appreciates that this places an onus on them to purchase parking permits. He added that the associated charge is a council policy which applies to all businesses . If a business owner is also a resident at that address , a parking permit can be issued as a resident rather than as a business and would be free of charge. It is also worth noting that if off street parking is available , a parking permit is not required. A business can acquire up to three business permits which are transferable . If , on occasions, the number of visitors exceeds this, Parking Services would need to be made aware , so parking arrangements can be agreed to accommodate the additional parking . Bobby Viridi added that unfortunately, there is little his department can do regarding the business permit charge and whilst the permit scheme does pose some issues, the Council's parking services will try to accommodate the additional parking so that it is not detrimental to business operations . Any vehicle registered to a property would be entitled to a parking permit. Only one visitor permit is issued per property . If more than one visitor is expected, for example for a family gathering , Parking Services would need to be made aware in advance and provisions would be made . Parking permits for residents are issued free of charge . Leeds City Council Parking Services will enforce the parking restrictions.

Bobby Viridi added that it must be put into context as to what impact the scheme will have on residents and businesses . The proposed match day permit scheme will operate only on match days and for a few hours whilst the match is on and only when Leeds is playing at home. He added that he notes our concerns and acknowledged that there are still issues to be resolved . He is at present conducting a consultation exercise and noting all comments for and against the scheme . Once he has analysed all the comments , he will be in a position to determine what course of action is the most appropriate and will be keeping the local councillors updated with progress.

5.3 Robert Winfield noted that he had copied the e mail which he had just read to members of the Forum Committee . Bill Birch (who was unable to be present at the meeting) e mailed a detailed response which Robert Winfield then read to the meeting. He expressed concerns about a number of issues.

1. The letter appears to be centred on an issue which we had not raised; that is, how the zone will affect businesses
2. The letter makes no mention of the lack of true consultation of those affected, that is, those both inside the permit zone, and those outside the zone but adjacent to it
3. the letter does not answer the Forum's request to send an officer to a future Forum meeting to outline the reasoning for the zone as it is presently proposed
4. the letter notes that the officers have met with Beeston and Holbeck Councillors a number of times and that they played an integral role in identifying and agreeing the boundary and which streets to include in the scheme . Bill Birch added that it is therefore a little strange that they have not sought to inform Beeston Forum that these meetings were taking place nor sought to consult the Forum to gauge the likely residents feelings about this matter
5. Bill Birch added that he is concerned that the officer is getting very close to acting outside his democratic remit. He states 'Once I have analysed all the comments received I will be in a position to determine what course of action is most appropriate. Bill Birch said that his understanding is that his remit is not to determine but to advise , and it is for the elected councillors to take the officers advice or reject this as they see fit.

Bill Birch added that at the recent Forum meeting, one of the Beeston Councillors stated that football fans wanted to park in the streets of Beeston because they were not prepared to pay the car parking fees. He added that he did not challenge this statement at the time as he had no facts to base a judgement either way. However, Bill Birch added that on a recent Saturday at 4p.m during Leeds United's home game he did a tour of the car parks. The car parks either side of Wesley Street were full . The private car park opposite the ground was full . The Fullerton Park car park was full. Thus in his opinion based on his observations, the statement made by the Beeston Councillor is without foundation and thus lacks credibility. .

5.4 A discussion took place about these e mails. Councillor Angela Gabriel suggested that Bill Birch should be careful what he says and noted that the councillors had a meeting with someone else from Highways (not Bobby Viridi) at which they asked for another letter to be sent to local residents as the original letter did not make clear that this was a consultation. There had been a very low response to the original letter as people had assumed that it was a fete accomplis , rather than a consultation. Angela Gabriel added that it is incorrect to assert that the councillors had agreed to the boundary as presently proposed. The councillors had wanted the area to extend as far as Dewsbury Road. She added that the scheme also affects Holbeck and Wortley. The council had said that the area should extend to Theodore Street , then extend the area further if there is evidence that the scheme is not working. Funding is available for this . Adam Cooper recalled that when the Forum hosted a speaker dealing with the arrangements for the Rugby World Cup matches , he noted that arrangements had been made for car parking, by making arrangements with companies which have large car parks . Adam Cooper added that there are a number of huge factories with huge car parks which are half empty on Saturdays . He

added that permits will not fix the problem but move it elsewhere. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that she was not present at the meeting to which Adam Cooper referred. Adam Cooper said that if the arrangement for the Rugby World Cup had worked, why is it not an option for Leeds United FC. Christine Thornton asked whether there was any chance that residents adjacent to the proposed zone could receive a letter setting out the consultation. Angela Gabriel noted that there had been no complaints about the proposals from Holbeck; just from Beeston. The other areas which are part of the scheme are not in the ward which she represents on Leeds City Council. She added that most of the people who had expressed an opinion on the Save our Beeston facebook page had expressed support for the scheme. She had received no phone calls complaining about the scheme. Adam Cooper noted that he lives just one street away from the proposed area. He walks down every day. Elland Road is not at full capacity, but 10000 to 15000 short of capacity. The problem must be looked at. Angela Gabriel recalled that she had been at the Save our Beeston meeting when people had been told to park and walk; she added that that is what the councillors were being told by officers. This has nothing to do with Leeds United FC. Stuart Casserley wondered why supporters travelling the ground are not encouraged to use public transport, rather than cars. Angela Gabriel said that this had been tried. Rosemary Casserley said that she parks on the streets for Rugby matches which take place on only a few weeks. She wondered whether we should welcome football supporters to Beeston, which is a brilliant place. Christine Thornton noted that the whole issue is that people in Beeston find things difficult on match days. She noted that she cannot get up the street when drivers of vehicles are going home after match days. Angela Gabriel said that she is worried about the absence of any reference to a second letter in Bobby Viridi's e mail. She noted that people in Holbeck suffer from people parking and walking into Leeds City Centre.

5.5 It was agreed that Robert Winfield would press the issue of a Council Officer attending a future meeting of the Forum to discuss the issue. Christine Thornton wondered whether it might be possible for representatives of the Forum to attend a daytime meeting, should the attendance of officers during the daytime be impractical. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we could host a council officer dealing with this matter at our meeting on 12th May notwithstanding the Forum's previous resolution that there will be a longer discussion about the Neighbourhood Forum at this meeting.

6. Police Report- Robert Winfield accepted responsibility for the accidental omission of this item from the agenda.

6.1 PCSO Deborah Kirkley noted that she is now a Hunslet based officer. She noted that PCSOs are now split over five teams with one PCSO per area. Thus, PCSOs are spread thinly. She apologised for running late and noted that she had brought a number of newsletters to the meeting. Some of these had however been damaged to a certain extent as a result of the rain. She addressed the crime figures for the period from 5th March to 6th April. There had been two burglary dwellings, for which two people had been arrested and charged. There was one burglary other (that is to say, theft from a shed, garage or similar building). Lines of enquiries are continuing. There have been eleven thefts from vehicles, with lines of enquiry continuing. These have involved the theft of number plates, and the breaking into and the taking of items from motor vehicles. PCSO Kirkley urged people not to leave loose change, coats or bags in cars. She added that there has been one theft of a motor vehicle, no robberies, no thefts from persons and no crimes involving interference with motor vehicles (such as removing a hub cap or tying a door handle).

6.2 John Hook wondered what the law is in connection with people using a mobile phone in a stationary car. PCSO Kirkley said that the use of a mobile phone by the driver of a stationary car is legal if the car engine is not running, but a driver would be braking the law if using a mobile phone when the car is merely stopped at traffic lights. It would be legal if the engine is turned off, even if the key is in the ignition. John Hook asked what the situation would be if the engine is running in a stationary car on a cold day. Christine Thornton noted that the offence of using a mobile phone whilst driving is not monitored. She had seen drivers on motorways speaking on mobile phones. PCSO Kirkley said that some officers would pull drivers up for this, but that officers are spread too thinly. Colin Hendrick Ward wondered what the position would be if someone rode in a car from Middleton to Tommy Wass's with the engine off! Angela Gabriel noted that there are the same number of PCSOs in Beeston and Holbeck and City and Hunslet wards; there has been no reduction, whilst some outer areas have lost PCSOs. She wondered why the police are saying one thing whilst councillors are being told another. PCSO Kirkley noted that the PCSOs are split over five teams. There had been eight PCSOs in the past, some of them are left. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that there should still be eight PCSOs. PCSO Kirkley noted that some of the PCSOs are on maternity leave.

6.3 Christine Thornton raised the issue of speeding traffic in 20 mph limits. She noted that there is a 20mph limit in her street but that many cars drive at 50 mph. Minor roads typically have a 20mph speed limit. PCSO Kirkley noted that she had pulled a driver travelling at 30mph in a 20 mph zone. The driver believed that the speed limit was 30 mph, but was corrected on this point by PCSO Kirkley. Christine Thornton noted that the speed limit is 40mph on Dewsbury Road, 30mph on Beeston Road and 20 mph on side roads. These are clearly signed and marked on the road. PCSO Kirkley noted that the main offenders around schools are parents and taxis. Christine Thornton noted that there is much speeding in side streets. John Peckham expressed concerns about the enforcement of speed limits and the use of mobile phones by drivers. No one seems to be prosecuted. PCSO Kirkley said that offenders must be seen by a police officer. If there is a road traffic accident, the phone can be seized; calls can be tracked. If it is found that the driver was on the phone, he would be prosecuted. John Peckham noted that this would not be of much comfort to the victim.

6.4 Arthur Kirby wondered whether PCSO Kirkley knows anything about drones. PCSO Kirkley said that she would need to look this up, but felt that they are probably legal. Stuart Casserley wondered whether there are any regulations, possibly connected with those governing low flying aircraft. PCSO Kirkley acknowledged that she could not answer this point. Christine Thornton noted that the flight path to Leeds Bradford Airport goes over Cross Flatts Park and there is normally a plane at 1 am. Adam Cooper pointed out that drones are legal but that anyone using a drone professionally requires a licence. Drones will not interfere with planes, because

they fly at 200ft whilst planes fly at 5000ft .

6.5 Pauline Johnson wondered whether motorised bikes for children are illegal. She had actually seen some in Cross Flatts Park on Easter Sunday. PCSO Kirkley said that the police would not allow mopeds at speeds. She would look at this issue as she is not familiar with the relevant rules.

7. Beeston Neighbourhood Plan. Robert Winfield noted that a committee meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum had taken place on Tuesday 5th May. Most of the meeting had been taken up with arrangements for the Neighbourhood Forum AGM which will take place at Beeston Village Community Centre on Thursday 26th May. Robert Winfield noted that every effort will be made to ensure that the number of Neighbourhood Forum members attending the meeting will exceed the quorum of 20. Robert Winfield noted that the last three meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum had been inquorate . He urged Neighbourhood Forum members who were present to make every effort to attend the AGM; additionally Forum members who are not already members of the Neighbourhood Forum are welcome to join and attend the AGM. There would be a proposal to amend the Forum Constitution to reduce the quorum for meetings from 20 to 10 in order to address the issue of inquoracy, but the amendment can only be considered by a meeting attended by the existing quorum of members. Dealing with the issue of takeaways, the Forum had resolved to object to a proposed new takeaway close to Tommy Wass's on the basis that there is already an excessive number of takeaways in the area. Arthur Kirby pointed out that the Forum had also resolved to object to another proposed takeaway on Beeston Road and the conversion of a house on Atha Street to bedsits.

8. Report of Committee meeting held on 10th March 2016. Christine Thornton noted that the Committee had decided to seek clarity about aspects of the process for determining the Aspiring Communities planning application, specifically, the difference between an inquiry and a hearing . There was also a discussion about the proposed extension to the area covered by the residents car parking scheme around Elland Road

9. Correspondence- Robert Winfield noted that he had written to the six MEPs for the Yorkshire and Humber Region asking them whether they would be interested in a debate about the forthcoming EU referendum , either at the scheduled Forum meeting on 2nd June, or at some other time . he had received an e mail from Sam Launder the assistant to Amjad Bashir MEP , explaining that Mr Bashir's diary is full until the referendum on 23rd June, but that he would be happy to help the Beeston Community Forum in other ways. Robert Winfield noted that the Electoral Commission would designate the official campaigns for the Leave and Remain sides in the EU referendum on 14th April. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that he write to the two organisations thus designated, asking them to provide speakers for a debate

10. Any Other Business- Christine Thornton referred to the proposal to change the tattoo parlour on Beeston Ring Road into a takeaway. It was agreed to object to the planning application which, it was noted , is reference 16/01599/FU . The building is located at 7 Ring Road. Angela Gabriel noted that the councillors have already objected. Colin Henrick Ward wondered whether we know who the applicant is