

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

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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 12th November 2015

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

2. Apologies for absence

3. Guest Speakers

i) Jon Tubby , Leeds City Council

ii) Reuben Horner and Michelle Myers , Morrison Utility Services.

Please note that Councillor Judith Blake, who had originally been intended to be the guest speaker, is no longer able to attend

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 1st October 2015

5. Police Report

6. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan

7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 15th October 2015

8. Aspiring Communities Planning Application

9. Beeston Village Community Centre

10. Correspondence

11. Any Other Business

Members of the Forum are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Forum will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2015 (7.30p.m, Beeston Village Community Centre) . Officers and Members of the Committee wishing to continue in office are required to seek re – election. Officers and Committee members must be residents of Beeston (as defined by the Constitution of the Beeston Community Forum), and must be proposed and seconded by residents of Beeston. Anyone who is interested in seeking election to the Committee is welcome to speak to any Committee member.

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 1st October 2015

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Bell, Mrs. S. Best, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. D. Brooke, C. Brummitt, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mrs S. Gawthorpe, Mr. J. Hook, Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, Mr. E. Leatham, L. Lewis, P. Lewis, D. McGough, Mr. J. Morton, Mrs. M. Munro, Mr. M. Parry, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. A. Scopes, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks-Christine Thornton thanked those present for the meeting. She noted that there had been a number of changes to the guest speakers for the meeting. Jon Tubby of Leeds City Council, who had been due to attend the meeting in order to make a presentation about pollution in the area would no longer be able to attend. Councillor James Lewis, who had been invited to attend the meeting in his capacity as Chairman of Metro, had ceased to hold this position; his successor Councillor Keith Wakefield was unable to be present at the meeting, so Philip Joyce was attending the meeting on behalf of Metro.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Gohar Almass, Dennis Bottomley, Adam Cooper, Councillor David Congreve, Mary Dinsdale and Councillor Adam Ogilvie. Additionally, the absence from the meeting of Councillors James Lewis and Keith Wakefield had been noted

3. Guest Speaker- Philip Joyce, Metro

3.1 Christine Thornton introduced Philip Joyce who noted that he had been part of the project group which had set up, designed and introduced the Park and Ride facility at Elland Road. He understood that some concerns had been aired about the facility and he hoped that these would be allayed. In particular, there had been no increase in congestion and rat running. He acknowledged that the facility had been slow to take off. The average weekday use had been 377 cars during the week between 1st June and 6th June and 432 cars per day during the week from 21st to 26th September. He noted that the site had been an eyesore, but now looks better. He acknowledged that when the site was built, they were unsure as to whether it would be a success. The site has space for 800 cars, but only space sufficient for 400 cars had been laid out with fancy brick. The remaining 400 spaces are an overspill site, which is still a muddy patch. It is intended to bring the overspill site up to the same standard as the remainder of the site. Work will commence after the conclusion of the Valentine Fair at the end of February 2016. New passenger waiting will be put in, and there will also be flushed toilets in place of the present chemical toilets. Philip Joyce was grateful to the local councillors and the community for the consultation before the opening of the facility. He added that there had been lots of plaudits for the facility. People coming into Leeds find it easier. People will not travel to Leeds without adequate parking facilities. He noted that the scheme is not quite in profit, and noted that similar arrangements are not normally in profit for several years. He hoped that the facility will pay its way shortly. Philip Joyce noted that there was a fox on the site recently but this had apparently moved on.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Rosemary Casserley asked whether the Valentine Fair would still be able to use land at Elland Road next year. She also asked whether there would be provision for caravans and motor homes to park and ride. Stuart Casserley said that they would want to park in the Park and Ride, then go home. Philip Joyce said that this would be a decision for Leeds City Council Leisure Services. With regard to the use of the facility by caravans and motor homes, he would not wish to turn the facility into a caravan site but there would be no ban on such vehicles.

3.3 Stuart Casserley asked why the bus associated with the Park and Ride facility does not run past the station, rather than the actual route, which is along Boar Lane. Philip Joyce noted that only three vehicles operate the bus service, which runs to a tight schedule. Thus, we need a route which keeps the bus on time. Park and Ride users are not regular bus users and want punctuality. If the route goes in front of the railway station, it would need to run along King Street, Infirmary Street and City Square. The schedule is too tight to permit this. He noted that the service, on its present route stops outside Sainsburys on Boar Lane which is two minutes walk from the station. It is also possible for passengers to wait for the City Bus which stops at the bus stops outside the station. He noted that the service is designed to serve shopping centres, as such it stops near the Trinity Centre, rather than the railway station. However, he acknowledged that Metro would like something which offers a link to the Civic quarter (Leeds General Infirmary, the University, etc.). The present situation is not ideal but the best that can be done. They would be looking to extend the service if there is a commercial case for doing so.

3.4 Bill Birch noted Philip Joyce's acknowledgment that the facility is not profitable even though this attracts 420 cars per day. He asked when taxpayers would get the £2 million capital investment back. Philip Joyce noted that there are a number of overheads, including operating the service, salaries and business rates. Philip Joyce noted that the facility might have been a white elephant but Metro had done the modelling and looked at expectations. This would be one of the first such facilities in the north of England, and they did not want empty buses. They had listened to user groups. Bill Birch noted that there are three buses running return trips on a 20 minute headway. He asked how many passengers per bus does this represent. Sue Best pointed out that many buses run empty. Philip Joyce noted that 2000 cars use the site since it was opened. Many people using cars are single users. Philip Joyce expected that car parking facilities in Leeds City Centre would be turned over for building offices as the economy picks up. Many such car parks are on short licences. He added that he would like to see an increase in the number of people using the Park and Ride facility for shopping and leisure. Sue Best, who noted that she lives at Cottingley noted that she stood at Elland Road and saw that buses are often empty. Philip Joyce acknowledged that there would be times when the buses are empty. He noted that he once boarded a no 1 bus at the Arches and was the only passenger travelling upstairs. The 86 bus came past with half a dozen passengers. Sue Best noted that the driver had been complaining about the situation. Philip Joyce noted that there are campaigns to get people to use the Park and Ride for leisure, but this will take time.

3.5 Richard Bell noted that the Park and Ride is used by 420 cars per day. He asked how this figure is assessed , and how many passenger journeys does this equate to. Phillip Joyce noted that there are two security men on the site who are responsible for security and who also ensure that the site is kept clean. They undertake random counts throughout the day. Richard Bell asked for confirmation that the figures are an estimate with no instrumentation involved. He noted that with six journeys per hour, there are 3000 potential passenger journeys. Against this background, he asked whether people are parking their cars at the facility and doing other things without using the bus service . Philip Joyce said that he would try to obtain the number of passenger journeys. Pauline Johnson noted that she had frequently seen buses empty , or carrying only one or two passengers. She had only ever seen more passengers in the evening peak. Against this background, she asked whether it is always necessary to run a double deck bus. Philip Joyce noted that we need to account for possible growth in the use of the park and ride facility. The anticipated life span of a double deck bus is 10 years. He added that the difference in costs between a double decker bus, a single decker bus, and even a mini bus is very small, because most of the costs involved are staff costs . Pauline Johnson asked who pays. She feared that fares would be increased on other services so that other passengers would be paying for the facility indirectly. Philip Joyce noted that the service is provided by First. Andrew Scopes said that his experience of the Park and Ride facility is positive. He had walked to his home in the Redhalls from the site, and noted that this is considerably cheaper than other travel options. He noted that he regularly uses the facility in early mornings and late evenings. If he did not use the facility regularly, it would be more difficult to use. He noted that people in his office are talking about Park and Ride. He noted , however that the Park and Ride does not function on Saturdays which are also Elland Road match days, and asked how people can manage an everyday commute when the Park and Ride does not operate every day. Philip Joyce noted that passengers using the facility must check whether Leeds United FC are playing at home. Details of the days on which Leeds United FC are playing at home are displayed on the waiting shelter at the Park and Ride facility. He accepted that the facility should operate six days per week but he accepted that we must live with what we have got .

3.6 Bill Birch said that the park and Ride facility is a lose lose situation for local residents. If the Park and Ride facility is not successful , taxpayers will have spent £2 million on what will have turned out to be a white elephant. He added that in his view, the facility is in the wrong place, being too close to the City Centre. He compared the facility to the situation in York, where similar facilities are located some distance away from the City Centre. If, on the other hand the facility is successful, it would result in traffic being snarled up in Beeston. He felt that the Park an Ride facility should have been built at Tingley. Summarising the situation , he said that if it fails, we pay money, if it succeeds , we get the pollution. This, he said, happens in Beeston

3.7 Richard Bell noted that he uses the Park and Ride facility. He noted that he gets into his car and drives to Elland Road and the costs are one third of the cost of a normal bus journey . Philip Joyce said that Park and Ride is not a failure but he expressed a willingness to take the points which had been made on board.

3.8 The meeting agreed to a suggestion from Robert Winfield that he read two letters dealing with transport issues , in order to give Philip Joyce the opportunity to make comments. The first letter is from Councillor James Lewis (when still Chairman of Metro) to Hilary Benn MP about the possibility of rail stations at Elland Road and the White Rose Centre. He noted that West Yorkshire's rail strategy , Railplan 7 (2012) seeks to improve connectivity through more frequent services and improved journey times, as well as improved train and track capacity to support economic growth, enhance people's quality of life and progress through a low carbon transport system. He noted that Metro have just completed a new station study looking at 62 potential stations across the Leeds City Region that are likely to have a good business case for implementing new stations in the next 5 to 10 years. The study looked at constructability, operational feasibility and potential demand, firstly through a high level assessment of all 62 locations and then in more detail at a smaller number identified as potentially having an affordable deliverable value for money business case. James Lewis added that based on current evidence, White Rose and Elland Road were not identified as potentially having a good business case with significant constraints across multiple criteria including factors such as the need to make very costly changes to track and signalling and conflicts with a high level of existing services close to Leeds City Centre. However, all the study sites could be assessed again in the future if external factors change over time for example new housing and new train services. Further details about the study can be found at www.westyorks-a.gov.uk/news/articles/new-stations-study. Four potential sites; East Leeds Rail Corridor, Elland, Haxby and Crosshills are to be investigated further because they currently demonstrate the potential for a good business case

3.9 Robert Winfield read a second letter ; from Hilary Benn to Rosemary Casserley explaining that he has been in touch with the Leeds City Council Highways Department and it appears that they did not appear to have received any correspondence about this matter in January. They are looking at the issue and will send him a response

3.10 Christine Thornton wondered whether there is any chance that Philip Joyce could take these issues back. Philip Joyce wondered whether Robert Winfield could e mail the letters to him. Robert Winfield said that he could send . He added that there are three new railway stations opening in West Yorkshire; Low Moor, Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge

3.11 Other issues raised included the installation of monitors showing details of imminent bus departures at the White Rose Centre Bus Station, the possible reinstatement of a bus service between Beeston and Cottingley, and access by rail to Leeds Bradford Airport

4. Police Report.

4.1 This was given by PC Jeffries, who gave the crime figures in the area as follows. There had been 21 Burglary Dwellings in September (five down on the figure from August), 13 Burglary Other (3 up on August) , 14 thefts from vehicles (1 down), 5 thefts of vehicles (2 down)

4.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Stuart Casserley related an incident in which , when he was turning off the Ring Road into Gipsy Lane , a car had overtaken him. He noted that the only way to do this is by driving on the

wrong side of the island which is poor, indeed, dangerous driving. PC Jeffries acknowledged that there had been some trouble with speeding cars in Beeston. He noted that it is the practice of the police to issue a Section 59 notice to the driver, which also covers the vehicle. If a driver is caught speeding again within 12 months, the vehicle can be seized.

4.3 PC Jeffries understood that there had been discussions about the violent rape in Beeston at previous meetings. He noted that the suspect has been remanded in custody and is awaiting trial. He also noted that there has been instances of speeding in Old Lane and the Cross Flatts Area. He noted that the Section 59 warning, which he described earlier, covers this situation. He also noted that the Speed Identification Device, which is described in the newsletter, copies of which had been given to Forum members at the meeting. Has also been in use. Christine Thornton pointed out that this has been instigated by members of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. PC Jeffries asked whether this had been a worthwhile day. Christine Thornton hoped that Acting Insp. Arrowsuch can arrange further similar sessions in the 20 mph zone in the Cross Flatts Area

4.4 Sandra Burton noted that video vans had appeared opposite the Broadway practically every day. PC Jeffries noted that there have been a number of ongoing incidents, including the ramming of buildings by vehicles, and noted that the video vans are a deterrent. PC Jeffries noted that arrests had been made, and charges had been brought against one individual, for criminal damage and arson. This situation is ongoing but he cannot go into further detail. There had been a number of incidents. Christine Thornton noted that this is part of a family feud.

4.5 Richard Bell noted that he is required to send a document back to the DVLA which identifies his car as belonging to him. There had recently been an issue with vehicles parked in his street. He had informed the police, who had told him that they were unable to identify the owner of the vehicles. PC Jeffries noted that vehicles are sold on to the trade and do not get registered on. Richard Bell said that this should ring alarm bells with the police, who should show regular occurrences of vehicles. PC Jeffries said that the police do not know where vehicles are sold on from, but vehicles sold by back street garages are not registered immediately. He added that the police can seize vehicles which are not insured. Richard Bell wondered how a person can obtain car insurance if a vehicle is not registered. A member of the audience referred to the incidents in which cars had been rammed and vehicles set on fire. She wondered whether there would be feedback to the victims about developments such as arrests. She noted that she had been a victim of this situation and noted that she had received no feedback at all. Steve Francis noted that the police presence in the Cross Flatts area had increased markedly. He added that it is nice to see people around even in cars. PC Jeffries said that there would be more resources, and noted that there has been an agreement with the Police's mounted Department that they will be here in the next few weeks, particularly in view of the dark nights.

4.6 A member of the audience asked whether crime figures are properly investigated, and asked whether people have been arrested. PC Jeffries noted that Burglary Other and thefts from and of vehicles are investigated by his department which will increase from 6 to 10 officers.

4.7 Stuart Casserley asked whether PCSOs have been moved off the beat. PC Jeffries said that they are still up and about. However, Stuart Casserley said that he does not see PCSOs like he used to, and noted that he understood that the intention is for them to walk around, get to know people and gather intelligence. PC Jeffries noted that there are four or five PCSOs on each of three teams, including one early and one late, so that there are 8 to 10 PCSOs out every day.

4.8 Steve Francis wondered how the policing had gone at the recent Rugby World Cup matches. PC Jeffries said that this had gone very well; he does not recall too many offences recorded. It had been an enjoyable atmosphere.

5. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 6th August 2015 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. Robert Winfield raised a matter arising. He referred to paragraph 11.5 of the minutes dealing with the misunderstanding which had arisen as to whether Adam Cooper would be representing the Forum at the Plans Panel meeting on 6th August at which the Aspiring Communities planning application would have been considered. He recalled that he had told the meeting that if he had unintentionally misled Adam Cooper into believing that he would be representing the Forum at the plans panel meeting, he would have no alternative but to apologise. He noted that immediately after the meeting, he had checked the facebook messages which he had exchanged with Adam Cooper, and had also allowed Christine Thornton to have sight of the messages. He noted that the messages had read as follows:-

Adam Cooper to Robert Winfield 'Evening Robert. Just wanted to see if you have seen the planning report on Icepak. Also wondering if the Forum would be looking to speak at the Plans Panel meeting'

Robert Winfield's reply 'Adam. As I think you are aware, I am on holiday on the Isle of Man until the evening of Mon 3 Aug. I have received an invitation to the plans panel meeting. I feel personally that the Forum should be represented at the meeting. I will almost certainly be working'

Robert Winfield had taken the view that he had done nothing wrong, and noted that he was grateful for Christine Thornton having expressed the view that he had done nothing wrong.

6. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 3rd September 2015 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. Sean Sturman raised a matter arising from Paragraph 7 of the minutes. He pointed out that he had spoken to Adam Cooper in good faith in the belief that Adam Cooper would be speaking on behalf of the Beeston Forum. Sean Sturman noted that he is Secretary of the Save Our Beeston Campaign and had understood that there would be one person speaking for both groups. He suggested that something has gone wrong, and noted that as things stand, when the Aspiring Communities planning application is considered by the

Plans Panel , the Save Our Beeston Group would have 1 ½ minutes , unless the Save Our Beeston Campaign and the Beeston Forum gets together . He noted that the Save Our Beeston campaign has a facebook group with nearly 3000 people who are putting a lot of things forward . He said that the Save Our Beeston campaign and the Beeston Forum seriously need to work together . However, as it stands, the Save Our Beeston campaign is being treated as a non entity. Christine Thornton pointed out that this meeting is of the Beeston Community Forum, not the Save Our Beeston Campaign. Sean Sturman said he totally agrees with this. Christine Thornton pointed out that the matter had been discussed as a result of the mixup which had occurred . Sean Sturman, however noted that the Beeston Forum had determined that it would have the full three minute allocation to objectors to the planning application. Christine Thornton noted that this decision had been taken on the understanding that only one person would be able to use the allocated three minutes, but Councillor David Congreve had then said that as many people as can be fitted in to the three minutes would be able to speak. However Sean Sturman noted that the Save Our Beeston Campaign had gathered around 2500 objections to the planning application; as the Secretary of Save Our Beeston , he is 100% behind the Beeston Community Forum, but he said that we need a little bit more praise for what Save Our Beeston has done. Richard Bell noted that there had been a discussion by the Beeston Forum committee, as a result of which it had been resolved to split up the three minutes. He added that three minutes is a long time , and that he doubted whether a submission would last longer than 1 minute or 1 minute 20 seconds. Christine Thornton said that the Beeston Forum would make a presentation at the Plans Panel meeting and leave it to any other group to make a similar presentation. Greg Turton noted that the situation has changed. Robert Winfield sought clarification from Sean Sturman as to whether he is questioning the accuracy of the minutes or raising a matter arising. Sean Sturman confirmed that he is raising a matter arising. It was noted that he was not present at the meeting on 3rd September. Bill Birch recalled that when Mark Parry read the Beeston Forum's objection to the planning application at the pre planning meeting, he had found it difficult to fill the allocated three minutes. He felt that there would be enough time for everyone who wishes to speak to do so. He added that there is every opportunity to coordinate and ensure that there is enough space for objectors to make all the points which they wish to make in three minutes. Greg Turton noted that the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum would not be commenting at the Plans Panel meeting as it has not completed its work. The meeting unanimously agreed to a proposal that there should be liaison between all objecting groups, as discussed.

7. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum –

7.1 Finance -Greg Turton reported that the Neighbourhood Forum had held a Committee meeting on 28th September 2015. With regard to finance, the Neighbourhood Forum's grant application has been approved ; however Leeds City Council has apparently not received the money. Bill Birch had been told that the Neighbourhood Forum had got the grant. He had done some chasing up . The Department of Communities and Local Government had said that they have no bank account details for Leeds City Council . Leeds City Council had apparently given the bank details, but the DCLG's response is apparently that this is not a real bank account . Bill Birch had sent an e mail asking whether the money had arrived and received no reply. He repeated the process and was told that they could not find the money. He then contacted Groundwork , who are responsible for the administration of the grant. He had been told that Leeds City Council could not find the money and were asking when it would be sent . This is a bureaucratic nightmare. Greg Turton recalled that a similar thing had happened last year. Leeds City Council had received the money in the middle of May even though the period of the grant started on 4th April. Bill Birch had asked Groundwork whether they have sent the money; if not when will they send it, if so, where had they sent the money to. Greg Turton noted that he may seek the help of Ian Mackay, of Leeds City Council. It beggars belief that the Council and the Government are talking to each other and have exchanged e mails but do not know what is happening. Greg Turton noted that the Neighbourhood Forum is also applying for MICE money and a grant from the community fund

7.2 Development Issues- Greg Turton hoped to get a statement from Leeds City Council about resources following a meeting with Council Officers on 28th April. The statement had been received one week ago, and was all the Neighbourhood Forum had asked for. It is hoped that this will be the start of things.

7.3 The Planning Consultant. Greg Turton noted that there had been a little slippage in dealings with Shaun Hanson due to his holidays. It is hoped that he will be involved in November and December

7.4 The Vision Statement will be passed to the Neighbourhood Planning Team on Leeds City Council after being approved by the Neighbourhood Forum.

7.5 It was noted that a number of members of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee had still to complete the skills audit.

7.6 The committee had discussed the potential for slanderous remarks made on the Neighbourhood Forum's facebook page and facebook group to give rise to a legal liability. It was noted that the facebook group has two administrators . The issue had been discussed by the Neighbourhood Forum Committee as a result of which Robert Winfield had drawn up a set of rules with which posts on facebook must comply. It was , however felt that the rules require simplification .

7.7 Planning Issues- It was noted that the Neighbourhood Forum had written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in relation to the delay in the determination of the Aspiring Communities planning application . Greg Turton said that he felt that this situation is an obstacle to the task of establishing a neighbourhood plan, particularly in relation to the Environment Task Group and the Housing and Regeneration task group. Greg Turton noted that we are still waiting for a response to the letter, which was sent by recorded delivery . It is intended to use the Royal Mail website to check that the letter was actually delivered. A chasing letter, enclosing a copy of the original letter will be sent.

7.8 Greg Turton noted that as the Neighbourhood Forum has not completed its work, it was felt that it would not be appropriate for

the Neighbourhood Forum to make a statement at the Plans Panel meeting regarding the Aspiring Communities planning application

7.9 With regard to the work of the task groups, Greg Turton noted that Christine Thornton had led a group carrying out speed checks in the area. A walkabout had also taken place in the Firths relating to rubbish and flytipping. Greg Turton noted that the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum has 88 members but that many of them are not involved in the task groups. Greg Turton noted that more people must be so involved in order to bring about success. He noted that some of the task groups are not yet off the ground although the Environment task group is active. Greg Turton noted that Bill Birch intended to start the Housing and regeneration Task group soon, whilst Greg Turton himself has called a meeting of the Youth Opportunities Task Group for 7th October. Other task groups which have not yet met are Retail and Business, Community, Heritage and Integration and Community Cohesion.

7.10 With regard to publicity, it is hoped to produce a 2016 Beeston Traders Calendar. There has been a photoshoot in Cross Flatts Park for the cover. Most of the traders involved have had their photographs taken although two of them have yet to do so. Greg Turton noted that banners publicising the Neighbourhood Plan had been erected about a year ago. It was felt that new banners and a new slogan are required for the next stage in the process.

7.11 Rosemary Casserley asked how the Beeston Neighbourhood Plan would fit in with the overall plan for the City of Leeds. Greg Turton noted that this is a legal requirement. Rosemary Casserley noted that the plan for the City of Leeds envisages sheltered housing for the Moorhouses factory. Greg Turton noted that Adam Ogilvie had reported that an organisation wishing to build affordable housing had made enquiries about the Moorhouse Site but the Council had told them that they would need to consult the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. Greg Turton noted that when the Neighbourhood Plan goes to examination, the plan is checked on four criteria

- i) that it does not offend Leeds City Council's Core Strategy
- ii) that it complies with the National planning framework
- iii) that it conforms with EU regulations
- iv) that it is sustainable in character/

Bill Birch noted that every ten years, the City Plan must be reviewed. The plan is never fully implemented, hence the need to revise this. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum had come into existence when the revision of the City plan was taking place. Greg Turton added that Councillor Peter Gruen had acknowledged the need for Leeds City Council to consult with neighbourhood areas; there is an opportunity within the plan for this to happen. It was noted that Leeds has over 20 Neighbourhood Forums. Leeds must therefore have a city plan which accommodates Neighbourhood Planning. We need a resources statement from Leeds City Council. Leeds City Council have given a commitment which is not exactly what we want. By working together with Leeds City Council we can achieve something in line with the wishes of the community. Bill Birch added that Neighbourhood planning is a democratic process and that the more people who are involved the better. He noted that he has lived in Beeston for many years; he asked whether local residents want to make it a great place to live. Greg Turton said that the aim is to leave a legacy for future generations. The Youth Opportunities task group will seek to do this.

8. Report of Committee meetings held on 20th August 2015 and 17th September 2015. Christine Thornton noted that the committee had discussed invitations to the Beeston Forum AGM, the meeting of the plans panel which never happened, the possible academisation of local primary schools and our response to the letter from Leeds City Council explaining why the Aspiring Communities planning application had not been considered by the plans panel meeting on 6th August. There was also a discussion about the venue to be used for Forum meetings whilst Beeston Village Community Centre is undergoing refurbishment although it was noted that this will not happen for some time. There was also an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

9. Correspondence. Robert Winfield read a letter from Peter Nuttall of Cockburn School, dealing with the academisation of local schools. It was noted that this letter had been held over from the last Forum meeting, which had voted not to consider the letter as it was 9.40p.m when it would have been considered.

Peter Nuttall referred to paragraph 10 of what he described as the minutes of the Forum meeting on 6th August (Robert Winfield pointed out that this was an error and noted that he is in fact referring to the minutes of the meeting on 2nd July) referring to his retirement. He pointed out that he will be working for 2 ½ days per week from September, until December, when he will probably retire altogether. He added 'I am afraid that I was not aware that I was meant to be in touch with your organisation'. He added, again referring to the minutes, that he is surprised at Steve Francis stating that e mails to Beeston Primary School will be forwarded to the Forum; he added that as these e mails will not have been addressed to the Forum, he would consider this to be a matter for the Head Teacher or Chair of Governors to agree to. He would be mentioning this to the incoming Head Teacher. Peter Nuttall added that Steve Francis is quite correct when he states that Cockburn School, Hugh Gaitskell School and Beeston Primary School are considering changing status and becoming academies. It is likely that other schools in the trust will come to the same decision, especially bearing in mind the Prime Minister's statement that all schools in England should become academies. Mr Nuttall added that, that being said, there is a set procedure in place which should be followed before schools can become academies. The opinion of governors, staff, pupils and parents is likely to hold the most weight in any such consultation, as unlike the situation which was in place when schools became Trusts- a statutory list of interested parties was produced by the government and the bodies on that list had to be consulted by schools- there is no such list for schools that are considering changing status to academies. It is entirely up to the governing body of each school to decide how and with whom they will conduct any consultation.

Mr Nuttall added that in answer to the point made by Gohar Almass (again from the minutes) , no consultation has at present taken place, mainly due to the school holidays. However, consultation which will be open to all will commence during the September term at some point, and this will be done via the websites of the schools involved, such as the ascendancy of technology these days! The dates and duration of such consultation will be announced in South Leeds Life and should consultation point to the schools becoming academies, this will take place in 2016. As far as the proposals themselves are concerned, the information which the Forum requires is probably best retrieved from the government's website about academies; this explains very fully what is involved and how schools are affected. Mr Nuttall concluded by expressing the hope that this has been helpful and that the Forum will take the opportunity that is being offered to all members of the local community to take part in the consultation.

Andrew Scopes noted that he is the Chair of Governors of Beeston Primary School which, he pointed out, is not pursuing academisation.

10. Any Other Business-

10.1 It was noted that the latest issue of South Leeds Life was available from the rear of the hall. It was noted that on page 4, there is a reference to the results of the recent Yorkshire In Bloom competition . Beeston in Bloom and Holbeck in Bloom each received a Silver Gilt . Park Fisheries received a Gold for their display of flowers. Friends of Cross Flatts Park also received a Gold, which is , in fact not the top award as there is a platinum award. There is also a new category for open spaces.

10.2 Greg Turton noted that there has been a change of use planning application for 49 Cardinal Road. It is proposed to change the use of the premises from a café to a Youth Centre. He noted that at the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum , he had been instructed to find out more, as there had been fears that the development would breed anti social behaviour. He had understood that Councillor David Congreve would be taking up the matter .

Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that a person had complained that Greg Turton had passed an e mail on to everyone else. That individual had felt that Greg Turton should not have passed on the e mail . Angela Gabriel added that the planning application had gone in, and the building would be a café and a gym . She said that the councillors will object as there is a café next door and an existing youth club in the area. Greg Turton pointed out that he had shared the e mail with the Committee of the Beeston Community Forum . Bill Birch noted that Greg Turton was seeking information on behalf of the Beeston Forum Committee. In view of this , he felt that the committee should see the answer.

10.3 Mark Parry noted that Edna Newton had retired from running the raffle at meetings of the Forum . It was agreed to give her a vote of thanks. Christine Thornton noted that Edna Newton had given up these responsibilities due to ill health and would probably stop attending meetings of the Forum. She suggested that we could organise some flowers to give her. She also wondered whether anyone would like to take on the running of the raffle

10.4 Robert Winfield noted that the Committee had discussed a planning application relating to the Harrison Spinks warehouse close to the Broadway, and had resolved that a holding objection should be submitted, with the forum being given the option to withdraw the holding objection, or to make an objection on substantive grounds. Christine Thornton noted that Harrison Spinks had moved into the old EJ Arnold building which was more recently occupied by PoleStar. Arthur Kirby pointed out that shifts are being worked at the building. Richard Bell asked who would be impacted by the planning application. Arthur Kirby noted that when he was he Chairman of the Southleigh Residents Association, there was a lot of discussion about noise problems at the site. Christine Thornton noted that Harrison Spinks has occupied the site for many years. Bill Birch noted that until a problem arises, no new will complain. If there is any proposal to work late hours, there would need to be some understanding of noise levels, hence a noise survey would be required. . Richard Bell said that if rules dealing with noise pollution are broken, they can be enforced . Bill Birch, however said that the rules cannot be enforced if no background readings have been taken. . If noise levels are 5db above the background, this is automatically a statutory nuisance. This can be identified if surveys had been carried out. Councillor Angela Gabriel understood that the entrance to the premises is straight onto Dewsbury Road. Greg Turton noted that the proposed operating hours are 6 am to midnight on Mondays to Fridays and 6am to noon on Saturday. Richard Bell wondered whether we should contact people living in the area of the site and ask whether there is a problem. Christine Thornton asked how he would do this. She added that she does not know what noise a bedding factory makes. She added that her father worked for EJ Arnold which used large, noisy printing machines. She noted that the factory worked shifts until 10p.m . Greg Turton noted that he had looked for a notice on a lamppost. He said that he had found such a notice, but that this refers to another application. John Hook noted that the building will be extended at the back, but that the loading bay will be off Westland Road. Christine Thornton noted that Harrison Spinks has taken over the whole of the building after PoleStar had moved out . Arthur Kirby wondered whether Harrison Spinks can send out information about the proposals. Bill Birch said that it is difficult for us to object to something which local residents are not objecting to . He suggested that the holding objection should be withdrawn , but that we should express the hope that the Planning Department will take account of any noise and traffic problems. This was agreed.

10.5 Robert Winfield noted that Leeds City Council had sent a letter responding to our Freedom of Information request dealing with the circumstances in which the Aspiring Communities planning application had been withdrawn from consideration by the Plans Panel meeting on 6th August, together with a 119 page document incorporating all communications which had taken place between Leeds City Council and the developer or agents for the developer. Robert Winfield noted that the Committee had voted to send a response to the documents; however, as some members of the committee had yet to read the 119 page document, it was also decided to leave open the possibility of writing a further letter. Robert Winfield pointed out that he had posted both documents on the website. Any Forum member who has any points which might be included in a further letter could contact Robert Winfield by e mail or through facebook.

10.6 Robert Winfield noted that two of the members of the steering group set up by Aspiring Communities in relation to their planning application are clearly identified as members of the police force and that a photograph of at least one of them wearing police uniform appears on the website. Robert Winfield noted that this might lead a reasonable person to believe that the officers are serving on the steering committee in an official police capacity or even that the planning application is supported by the police. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we raise our concerns with the Chief Constable .

10.7 Robert Winfield noted that Chris Powell of First Leeds , who had been intended to be a guest speaker at the current meeting had neither attended the meeting nor provided any explanation for his inability to attend . Robert Winfield noted that he had hoped to raise a number of issues with First including the possible introduction of the New Routemaster Bus and the possible introduction of Oyster cards. Christine Thornton suggested that we simply ask Chris Powell why he had not attended the meeting; the issues mentioned by Robert Winfield could be raised in a personal capacity.

10.8 It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum will take place on 12th November, rather than 5th November as the Committee has taken the view that it would not be appropriate for the Forum to meet on bonfire night.