

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 - 14th June 2018 Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Ratification of new Neighbourhood Forum members
4. Guest Speaker, Steve Thompson , Skills Hub, Cockburn School
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 10th May 2018
6. Police Report
7. Discussion about the Neighbourhood Forum
8. Report of the Committee meeting held on 17th May 2018
9. Correspondence
10. Ratification of the co-option of Susan Ottley Hughes to the Beeston Community Forum Committee.
11. Ratification of the co-options of Richard Bell, Bill Birch and Susan Ottley Hughes to the Beeston Neighbourhood Committee
12. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 10th May 2018

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) , Mrs. G. Adamson, Mrs. S. Akhtar, Councillor G. Almass, Mr. R. Bell, Mrs. M. Broadbent, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Mr. M. Clayton, Mr. A. Cooper, Mr. M. Day, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick-Ward , Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Mrs. N. Hussain, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. E. Leathem, Mr. A. Mahmood, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Mrs. M. Munro, Mr. M. Parry, Rev L. Pearson, Councillor A. Scopes, M. Shamraze, Mr. M. Wilson and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks . Christine Thornton thanked the members present for their attendance and congratulated Angela Gabriel on her re election to Leeds City Council and Gohar Almass and Andrew Scopes on their election to Leeds City Council for the first time .

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Abbie Miladinovic (Leeds City Council) and Bill Birch

3. It was noted that Angus Kinnear , Managing Director of Leeds United FC , who had been due to have been the guest speaker had not arrived at the meeting. Robert Winfield noted that the Leeds United football team is currently undertaking a politically contentious tour of Myanmar , and wondered whether his absence might be connected with that. Robert Winfield noted that this is the last Forum meeting before the international football match at Elland Road and that Angus Kinnear had been specifically invited to attend the meeting for that reason . It was agreed that Robert Winfield write to Angus Kinnear about this matter .

4. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum on 5th April 2018 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Christine Thornton noted that International Fun Fairs has donated £250 to the Beeston Community Forum and that Robert Winfield had sent a letter of thanks to Stewart Robinson

5.2 A discussion took place about Ash Mahmood's election as a member of the Committee. Ash Mahmood acknowledged that at the Forum meeting at which he had been elected to the Committee , he had entered the address of 114 Barkly Road on the attendance sheet . He noted that everyone knows who he is and where he works . He explained that his actual residential address is 10 Cross Flatts Place . He added that his actions were not intended to cause confusion and apologised to the Forum if it is felt that his actions had been in any sense improper . It was noted that membership of the Beeston Community Forum Committee is confined to residents of Beeston. Robert Winfield pointed out that the last Committee meeting had resolved that members of the Committee would be expected to produce documentary evidence of their residence in Beeston to Robert Winfield (as Secretary of the Forum) with Robert Winfield being expected to produce similar evidence to Christine Thornton (Chairman of the Forum). Robert Winfield noted that the full details had yet to be worked out and that a constitutional amendment would be required to ensure that this is enforceable . Mark Day asked why people living outside the area who want to help are excluded from membership of the Beeston Community Forum ; those undertaking community work in the area should , in his view, be a part of the Forum. Christine Thornton noted that the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum have different constitutions ; the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum allows people working or carrying on business in the area to join . Colin Hendrick Ward noted that the constitution states that Forum members must live on this side of Cross Flatts Park . Richard Bell noted that individuals who live outside the Forum area are able to attend meetings, but have no voting rights. Robert Winfield noted that Committee members who move away from Beeston are not even given the opportunity to resign from the Committee gracefully, but automatically cease to be a member of the Committee . This had actually happened on one occasion. Ash Mahmood asked whether the boundaries of the Beeston Community Forum and Beeston Neighbourhood Forum are the same. Robert Winfield noted that this had been our wish, but that Leeds City Council had insisted on the exclusion of the Elland Road framework area from the Beeston Neighbourhood Area as this was deemed to be of strategic importance to the city as a whole , and in the view of Leeds City Council, unsuitable for including in a Neighbourhood Area. Richard Bell noted that there are no residential properties in the Elland Rod framework area. Councillor Gohar Almass noted that he has worked in lots of voluntary organisations , and noted that these had been quite welcoming . It would be great to encourage people to join the Forum , which would in his view become more inclusive . Richard Bell said that he did not know why we are having this discussion , and noted that the constitution stipulates that Forum members must be residents of Beeston. Christine Thornton noted that individuals living outside Beeston are welcome to attend Forum meetings, but have no voting rights . We have never failed to welcome people. Many people in the area had never heard of the Forum but we cannot compel people to attend Gohar Almass felt that the rules are there to be changed ; if this helps the Forum and get more members , why not? Ash Mahmood suggested that there should be a review of the Constitution and could not see how that would cause harm . Adam Cooper objected to people from outside this area influencing decisions in the area. Residents groups from outside this area might have an issue if people from this area flooded their meetings. Allowing people from outside the area to influence decisions would be akin to allowing residents of

Beeston to vote in different wards at the recent Leeds City Council election. Christine Thornton emphasised that she is not saying that people from outside the area cannot attend meetings, but noted that the constitution states that they can neither vote at meetings nor become a committee member. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that the constitution could not be changed until the AGM and expressed the view that she would not want discussions of this nature to take place at every meeting. Richard Bell referred to the objects of the Beeston Community Forum, as defined by the constitution

The forum is non-political, non-sectarian and promotes the inclusion of all members of the Community irrespective of disability, racial origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or age. It will:

- a) *Provide a forum for the residents of Beeston to meet together and share common concerns.*
- b) *Promote events, activities and action which will improve the health, well being and the quality of life for residents of Beeston.*
- c) *Use its best endeavours to influence the policy making process and service provision for Beeston.*

Mark Day suggested that at the next AGM, the constitution could be amended by allowing members of community organisations with an interest in the area to join the Forum. A member of an organisation such as Beeston in Bloom, who lives in Holbeck should be allowed to join the Forum. Robert Winfield noted that a constitutional amendment can be proposed at any Forum meeting, not just at the AGM. He noted that four weeks' notice of any proposed constitutional amendment must be given in writing, at a previous Forum meeting. He added that any Forum member can propose an amendment to the constitution; if he receives such a proposal, he would be duty bound to make arrangements to bring the proposal to the Forum regardless of the extent to which he agrees with the proposal. Richard Bell added that a constitutional amendment requires a two thirds majority. A member of the audience noted that he had recently moved here as it is a very nice place and noted that we had spent 20 minutes on this discussion when we should have been looking at improving the community. Christine Thornton said that she agreed entirely with this point, adding that she would love young people to attend the meetings. Pam Jones noted that inclusivity is a part of the Neighbourhood Forum and that people with young children or who work shifts might have difficulty in attending meetings

Christine Thornton noted that the Forum is quite an active group, and has, over the years influenced a number of changes, notably by people coming to meetings and discussing issues. Councillor Angela Gabriel agreed with this view, and said that the Beeston Forum is one of the best self functioning Forums. She noted that the Forum has been in existence for 20 years, and felt that the discussion which is taking place is boring some people. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum was founded on 18th February 1999 (as evidenced by a document posted on the Forum website) so that the 20th Anniversary of the Forum will be early next year. Rosemary Casserley noted that a few people were involved in the Forum 20 years ago.

It was noted that in view of the circumstances surrounding his original election to the committee, Ash Mahmood had agreed that the vote to elect him to the committee would be taken again. The members present voted by 16 to 1 with 8 abstentions to elect Ash Mahmood to the Committee.

6. Police Report- It was noted that there was no representative of the police present. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we write to the police to express our concerns about this situation. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that we would need to write to Sgt. Stuart Saville, whose e mail address she would send us. She observed that people in the local police force move jobs without informing people.

7. Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

7.1 Robert Winfield noted that a report of the views expressed at the Neighbourhood Forum Open Day on Saturday 3rd March had been prepared by Abbie Miladinovic of Leeds City Council. Robert Winfield noted that attendance at the Open Day had been undermined by the poor weather. Robert Winfield recalled that the Forum meeting due to have taken place two days previously had been cancelled and there was still a significant amount of snow on the ground

7.2 Robert Winfield noted that the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum has a vision ; 'To improve the reputation of Beeston by developing it as a proud, inclusive, ambitious community; a neighbourhood that is desirable to live in, prosperous to work in and supports the development of the whole community . To make Beeston a safe clean and sustainable place by promoting improved housing , better air quality , reduced noise and traffic. Robert Winfield noted that those attending the open day had been asked to indicate whether they agree with certain propositions , and whether each proposition should have high, low or medium priority .

7.3 Robert Winfield outlined the various propositions 'To support the delivery of high quality but affordable housing which is appropriately designed safe and accessible' Yes 38 No , zero . Priorities . High 29 , Medium 9 Low nil .

7.4 'To encourage the provision of housing which offers a choice and type of tenure' . Yes 38, No zero . Priorities . High 27 Medium 11 . Low nil

7.5 'To encourage the sympathetic reuse of sites and derelict buildings' Yes 38 . No nil . Priorities High 33 Medium 5 . Low nil

7.6 To encourage better maintenance and care of existing housing stock. Yes 38 . No nil . Priorities . High 33 Medium 5 . Low nil

7.7 Robert Winfield referred to a number of comments which had been made by those tending the open day. He noted that it was argued that some houses need to be demolished . There was a suggestion that there should be no more houses of multiple occupancy ; only new houses with gardens. It was suggested that derelict buildings should be demolished and replaced with housing , but in its original character if possible. One person would like all houses to have a garden, or flats with communal gardens. There was a suggestion that we should reuse sites , in particular the site of the former jam factory on Old Lane, and the site next to St Anthony's . There was a suggestion that buildings should be better designed and more attractive . Adam Cooper wondered whether there is any provision in the Neighbourhood Plan for absentee private landlords who do not care about the area . Robert Winfield noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had not been written , but this point could be considered

7.8 Robert Winfield turned to the issue of Greenspace . In relation to the proposition 'To protect and enhance greenspace and improve accessibility and safety', all thirty eight respondents agreed with the proposition and regarded it as being of high priority . Comments about greenspace included a suggestion that cars and motorbikes should be kept out of Cross Flatts Park , and that there should be more planting of trees.

7.9 Robert Winfield turned to the issue of Street Scene and Businesses . 'To improve the cohesiveness of the street scene and encourage pride and sense of place' . Yes 36 No 2. Priorities High 30 Medium 6 . Low 2 .

7.10 'To encourage the diversification of the offer of local services and businesses . Yes 38 . No nil . Priorities High 9 Medium 28 Low 1

7.11 'To encourage the greening of the street scene' Yes 38 No nil. Priorities High 18 Medium 19 Low 1

7.12 'To encourage mixed use schemes to improve the local job offer' . Yes 38 No nil Priorities High 11 Medium 27. Low Nil .

7.13 Robert Winfield noted that there had been a number of comments in relation to street scene and businesses. It was suggested that people should be asked to take their cans and takeaway cartons away, rather than throwing them in the street. It was suggested that there should be no more takeaways and betting shops . It was suggested that there should be reflector mirrors for cars on Cross Flatts Avenue and Cross Flatts Grove as there are too many cars parked. It was suggested that there should be a bank in Beeston. One respondent said 'I would like to see a better looking Beeston- neater , tidier, somewhere you might want to live in ' . A discussion ensued . Rosemary Casserley noted that all the propositions are positive , and suggest things which everyone wants. She

wondered where we are going . People, she said, will want to say yes to more housing and more green space. Christine Thornton recalled that the objectives which form the basis of the report were brought to a forum meeting. Richard Bell noted that we are seeking to validate the objectives. Adam Cooper said that it had been difficult to carry out surveys of residents at the last Beeston Festival . Councillor Gohar Almass said that these are rhetorical questions and suggested that we should highlight the five or ten top answers. Pam Jones noted that the statistics show that we are heading in the right direction. Christine Thornton noted that the figures may change when we speak to more people . Colin Hendrick Ward said that we should get the information to everyone so they can read it. Christine Thornton noted that the report will be published on the website

7.14 Robert Winfield then addressed the issue of connectivity . In connection with the proposition 'To improve the connectivity of footpaths and cycleways ' , respondents answered Yes 18 No nil. Priorities High 18 , Medium 18 Low 2.

7.15 'To reduce the amount of through traffic using the area as a route into the City Centre' Yes 38 .No nil. Priorities High 31 Medium 6 Low 1

7.16 'To make Beeston more pedestrian friendly' Yes 36 No 2 . Priorities High 25 Medium 8. Low 2

7.17 Robert Winfield noted that there were a number of comments in relation to connectivity . It was suggested that there should be a 20 mph limit throughout . Other comments included 'As a pedestrian , I think it is already pedestrian friendly' and 'I find it quite pedestrian friendly now' . It was suggested that there should be no more cycleways that reduce the width of the road or endanger pedestrians. Another respondent said 'The question is, how do we do it? More traffic lights and humps'. It was also suggested that there should be a green filter to traffic lights to get up Wesley Street from Elland Road (making a right turn). A discussion ensued . Pauline Johnson said that we do not want more humps whilst Rosemary Casserley suggested that we should get rid of the humps which already exist , arguing that these increase pollution. Stuart Casserley said that people should be educated to cross the road properly. Pauline Johnson said that roads are not sufficiently wide for cycleways , considering traffic needs . This problem has already been demonstrated on Dewsbury Road. There are no disused railway tracks along which cycleways could be built. It was suggested that cars should park on roads , not on footpaths , as on Waincliffe Drive. Pam Jones said that the police should attend Forum meetings , and noted that this issue had been raised several times

7.18 Robert Winfield then turned to the issue of heritage and local character . The proposition 'To encourage increased recognition of important heritage sites in Beeston and encourage new developments to contribute to local character ' produced these responses; Yes 38 No nil . Priorities High 24 Medium 13 Low 1 . The one comment is to support Friends of Stank Hall Barn to take it over , apply for grants and preserve our heritage by realising their ideas for it.

7.19 Robert Winfield turned to the issue of community facilities . The proposition 'To encourage the use and development of existing community facilities spaces and buildings such as schools , parish and church halls, Health for All , the Library, Sunnyview House , Sugar Mill and the Health Centre' produced these responses Yes 38 No nil. Priorities High 32 , Medium 6 Low Nil

7.20 There were a number of comments made by respondents. It was suggested that Leeds City Council should compulsorily purchase the old church hall on Barkly Road next to St Anthony's school and give it to the school for them to build a nursery . Adam Cooper noted that he suggested that some time ago and nothing happened. There was one miscellaneous comment ; 'I agree with all points but sadly fail to see how these would be achieved in such an inner city multicultural community'

7.21 Pauline Johnson asked for a hard copy of the report. Robert Winfield said he would be happy to send her one

7.22 The meeting turned to other issues in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that a meeting had taken place on 24th April between Lindsey Pearson, Pam Jones, Christine Thornton, Robert Winfield and Abbie Miladinovic to discuss what was needed to take the neighbourhood Forum forward ; for example, census data . There had also been a session at Merrion House on 26th April, attended by Christine Thornton, Lindsey Pearson and Robert Winfield , where Ian Mackay, the Leeds City Council Neighbourhood Planning Officer considered the issue of design in Neighbourhood Planning . Lindsey Pearson noted that the Beeston Neighbourhood Area is quite big, and that one idea which had been aired at this session is to divide the Neighbourhood Area into several smaller areas and looking at each area in turn in more detail .

7.23 Robert Winfield noted that he has been notified of a 'Neighbourhood Planning Hive' at the University of Reading on Wednesday 6th June . Christine Thornton noted that there will be a Neighbourhood Planning meeting at Leeds Beckett University on Saturday 9th June . Christine Thornton noted that there would also be a litter pick at Holbeck Cemetery (with questionnaires being handed out to passers by) on 9th June.

8. Report of Committee meeting held on 19th April 2018 . Christine Thornton noted that most of the Committee meeting had been spent discussing issues which had already been reported back .

9. Correspondence

9.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Pat McGeever , Director of Health for All (Leeds) explaining that they were still awaiting a final lease from Leeds City Council in relation to the land on which the new Beeston Village Community Centre will be built . It had been resolved to write to Leeds City Council to express our concerns about these delays

9.2 Robert Winfield noted that as a result of the decision of the last Forum meeting , he had written to David Congreve and Adam Ogilvie , who were about to retire as Leeds City Councillors, thanking them for their services to the community and assistance to the Forum, and wishing them well for the future. Robert Winfield had received an e mail from David Congreve thanking the forum for its kind thoughts and wishes . He added that it has been a privilege to serve Beeston for 28 years and Holbeck for 14 years and concluded 'May I wish everyone well'

9.3 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Martin Wright of Leeds City Council that he is unsure as to the holding of the 2019 fair at Elland Road because of the possible change of use of parts of the car parks; he added that no doubt he will find out more as the summer progresses. It was agreed that we would write to Leeds City Council to ask what their plans are and what consultation there will be with local residents. The letter had been sent , but there had , so far been no reply

9.4 Robert Winfield noted that there had been a significant exchange of e mails with Leeds City Council about concerns which had been aired at the Committee about the state of a half built bungalow at 94 Ring Road. Robert Winfield noted that there had been safety concerns based on the possibility of people encroaching onto the building site , which had not been cordoned off , and the possibility of building materials slipping onto the pavement. The Committee had resolved to write further about this matter .However, Robert Winfield had noted, whilst passing the site on a bus recently, that most of the concerns appeared to have been addressed, which would make a letter unnecessary. The meeting agreed that our concerns had been addressed and that no further action is necessary

9.5 Robert Winfield had received e mails from First Bus and the West Yorkshire Combined authority in response to his e mail about the diversionary route taken by services 2, 3 and 3a . Richard Tandy of First Bus noted that buses would be unable to turn right onto Swinegate from Sovereign Street as Swinegate is a one way street . To use Vicar Lane , buses would have to use Swinegate, Bishopgate, Wellington Street, King Street and Boar Lane. This diversion would delay services too much to be acceptable. Neil Stewart , the Highways Network Manager for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority noted that the previous time services 2,3 and 3a diverted away from Vicar Lane was due to the partial closure of Vicar Lane northbound as a result of construction works to the

nearby Victoria Gate centre . When these works were ongoing, Leeds Bridge was open allowing for services 2,3 and 3a to divert either via Call Lane or via City Square and Park Row before resuming the normal route on New Briggate . On this occasion Leeds Bridge is closed to traffic from the south due to the complexity of works taking place to the big structure. This has forced inbound services 2,3 and 3a to divert via Crown Point Bridge which has severely impacted the timetable of northbound services. During Leeds City Council's consultation process, they had a number of meetings with First Bus and the diversion route now in place is the result of these discussions . There have been a number of requests for Eastgate to be considered for additional bus stops but this is not possible due to the high volume of buses already using these stops . Options to run via Neville Street and Sovereign Street were discounted quite quickly during the discussions between Leeds City Council and the bus operator , due to the ongoing diversions to all high sided vehicles each time wind speeds are too high adjacent to Bridgewater Place. This diversion upon diversion would have devastated this group of services each time Neville Street would be closed, which has already happened on over 30 occasions since the beginning of 2018 . The temporary bus stop on Duke Street is the only available location close enough to Leeds Bus Station on the current diversionary route towards New Briggate . Neil Stewart concluded by saying that he understands the concerns of bus users who have lost access to a central stop on Vicar Lane but he is not in a position to force First Bus to change their route and acknowledges that First Bus also has to keep to timetable for the rest of the route both north and south of Leeds Centre.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Mark Wilson noted that he has lived on the Parkwood Estate for eight years , and noted that children are coming down and playing football despite 'No Ball Games' signs . He noted that he is disabled and gets stressed. He said that the community should encourage children to do something with their time. Christine Thornton said that playing football is good . She recalled that when she was young, young people regularly played football, cricket and rounders in the street. She wondered whether Mark Wilson had reported what was going on. Mark Wilson noted that he had reported this to the Anti Social team and the police . He noted that his brother, who is a policeman, cannot become involved as this would give rise to a conflict of interests . Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that she had been responsible for putting goalposts behind land near Dewsbury Road on the Parkwoods . Adam Cooper who noted that he has lived on the Parkwood Estate in the past noted that there is nothing to do there. Angela Gabriel noted that there was a community centre on the Parkwood Estate which closed as no one used it . There was a youth club but children did not use it. She added that it is not possible for Leeds City Council to organise childrens entertainment every evening . This is the responsibility of parents and the community; not just Leeds City Council .

10.2 Stuart Casserley noted that in addition to the absence of police from Forum meetings, here has been an absence of police from the area . He noted that community police walk round the area and get to know the people. He suggested putting pressure on the Police and Crime Commissioner to restore the level of community policing. Robert Winfield noted that at the recent meeting with Insp Lisle, she explained that the level of policing in the area would be increased . Eddie Leathem noted that he has been told by the Police and Crime Commissioner , Mark Burns Williamson , who is a personal friend, that the present situation is due to recruitment and changes of shifts and that there will be an increase in the police presence

10.3 Ash Mahmood noted that Aspiring Communities will be carrying out a litter pick in conjunction with Beeston in Bloom on Saturday 12th May between 11.40a.m and 1p.m . There is also a family fun day involving face painting and bouncy castles between 1p.m and 3p.m

10.4 Adam Cooper noted that he had attended the meeting in the expectation that representatives of the police would also be present . He noted that he formally worked for Carillion, but has been at home for the past three months. He noted that he had not seen a single police officer walk down his street during that time . At 2p.m one day he witnessed a blatant drug deal outside his house, as well as children riding three to a bike with no helmets . He noted that he worked from home quite a lot when working for Carillion. There has been a huge rise in motor bike riding around the park , as well as blatant law breaking on the street, due to the reduced police presence. He added that criminals do not have a care in the world as they know there is no police presence. The

situation is getting worse. He had e mailed a local PCSO about the situation but the police are not listening to what is said. It was agreed to e mail the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner about this matter .

10.5 It was noted that Mark Wilson had written a book about Parkinsons Disease, of which he is a sufferer , which is available in Beeston Library

10.6 Rosemary Casserley noted that she had recently been walking in Middleton Woods and had noticed that a house at the bottom of Southleigh Garth was having an extension and had apparently extended its garden into the woods. She noted that the relevant planning application states that the Beeston Community Forum is a consultee . Christine Thornton noted that the Beeston Community Forum does not receive planning consents; the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum does . These are circulated to committee members . She suggested that Rosemary Casserley contacts the Planning Department, which is now based in Merrion House.