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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 1st June 2017

Agenda

1. Acting Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speaker, Alistair Kay, Farm Foods
4. Minutes of the meeting of the joint meeting of the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum held on 4th May 2017
5. Constitutional Resolution. To consider and if thought fit pass the following constitutional resolution

That the area around Stank Hall Barn which

is not currently included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council and

will be included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council following the ward boundary changes to be implemented in May 2018

shall immediately be considered to be a part of Beeston for purposes connected with the constitution of the Beeston Community Forum in addition to the areas specified in clause 5a).3 of the constitution

This resolution shall not be considered to have been passed unless two thirds of the members present and voting vote in favour of the resolution. Should fewer than 20 forum members be present, the question shall not be put and the matter will be held over to the next Forum meeting at which 20 members are present

6. Police Report
7. Discussion about the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum
8. Report of the Committee meetings held on 20th April 2017 and 18th May 2017
9. Correspondence
10. To consider and if thought fit pass a resolution to ratify the decision of the committee to co opt Rev Lindsey Pearson as a member of the committee
11. Any Other Business

Minutes of the joint meeting of the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum held on Thursday 4th May 2017

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) , Mr. D. Ambler, Mrs M. Ambler, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. J. Birch, Mrs. M. Broadbent, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. J. Coulter, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss P. Johnson, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. D. Kitchen (Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum), Mr. E. Leathem, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Miss A. Miladinovic (Leeds City Council) Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. H. Pritchard (Planning Aid) , Mrs. C. Quinn , Mr P. Whitehead, Mr. E. Wills (Planning Aid) and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting

2. Apologies for absence. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that the apologies from the Annual General Meeting of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum, which had directly preceded the current meeting , should be carried forward and treated as apologies from the current meeting . On this basis apologies for absence had been received from Adam Cooper, John Cunningham and Arthur Kirby . It was noted that Arthur Kirby had resigned from the Committees of the Beeston Community Forum and Beeston Neighbourhood Forum due to ill health

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2017 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting . There were no matters arising

4. Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

4.1 Christine Thornton noted that it had been intended that a representative of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum would attend the meeting. Robert Winfield pointed out that he had received an e mail from Dawn Carey Jones, Secretary of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum , explaining that no member of the Forum would be in a position to attend

4.2 Christine Thornton introduced Dennis Kitchen, Chairman of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum. Dennis Kitchen noted that in 2011, the Government came up with the policy of Neighbourhood Planning . In 2012, Leeds City Council decided to get on board with Neighbourhood Planning and started the ball rolling in Leeds. Holbeck was invited to set up a Neighbourhood Plan . He noted that there are three residents groups covering the Ingram Gardens Area, the Gaitskells and the Recreations . There was also a CAG (Community Advisory Group) in Holbeck . Several representatives from each of the residents groups served on the CAG to advise about new housing in Holbeck. Leeds City Council decided that Holbeck would be 'guinea pigs' for Neighbourhood Planning . The group setting up the Neighbourhood Plan was told that it had some money; £20000, which was given as a front runner in an urban area. The money was given to Leeds City Council to look after , but the group then found out that this could only be used for certain activities. As a pilot area, Holbeck was given lots of support. The money did not come but the support did. Without the support, the Neighbourhood Forum would not have been able to do many things which it did . Planning Aid had been very supportive, in the persons of Mike Dando, who had laid out a map of what a Neighbourhood Plan is about, and Tony Wray. The Neighbourhood forum had also received support from Ian Mackay and his team at Leeds City Council , as well as other people who had worked with and alongside the Neighbourhood Forum . Dennis Kitchen described Tony Wray as a stalwart of Neighbourhood Planning . Harvey Pritchard had also been involved and Joe Hill had helped. Shaun Hanson , whose services had been paid for by a grant from Locality , had an idea as to how to reach out to businesses. The Neighbourhood Forum was also helped by a number of people at Leeds City Council ; Steve Ross, Ellie Rogers, Ian Mackay, Tony John and Abbie Miladinovic . Additionally, all ward councillors were on board. Dennis Kitchen said that Neighbourhood Planning is a journey which they had thought would not take very long but they are still on the journey . It was hoped that the Referendum of Local Residents who would be invited to approve the Neighbourhood Plan will take place at the end of this year or next year . Consultation had been carried out with local residents using questionnaires, asking local residents about priorities and dealing with issues such as history, heritage, green issues, street conservation , housing and the environment. Businesses had an input in relation to shop fronts. The Neighbourhood Forum came up with a consultation document . The Neighbourhood Forum is now producing another document to be given to Leeds City Council as the draft Neighbourhood Plan for scrutiny and referendum. An Inspector, Tony Burton had been appointed to carry out the Independent Examination. He wrote a book 'How to Produce a Neighbourhood Plan' . He will look at the draft Neighbourhood Plan in July and decide whether it meets the relevant criteria. The plan then goes before Leeds City Council which accepts and adopts the plan, then puts it to referendum of residents.

The process of Neighbourhood Planning is not easy . Despite having a good team, there have been a lot of setbacks. Leeds City Council has been involved. A Landlords Forum , meeting once every three months, had been started to discuss thoughts about housing. The Board of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum has subgroups dealing with content, publicity and contents from the plan. Each is an important part of what the Neighbourhood Forum does. The content of the plan must meet Leeds City Council's core planning strategy .

4.3 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Christine Thornton asked how many replies had been received to the questionnaires which had been sent out. Dennis Kitchen said that sixty questionnaires had been completed face to face.

Other responses had been received online and from businesses , so that the total is around 100 . Face to face interviews had taken around 20 minutes as the questionnaire had been long . The Neighbourhood Forum explained how a Neighbourhood Plan can help with regenerating Holbeck .

4.4 Dennis Kitchen outlined a number of top tips; Don't report if there is nothing to say, don't promise what is impossible to deliver, be clear as to what a Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot do , newsletters should be colourful and eye-catching , and groups should consider the amount of time necessary to keep their website up to date and who will do it. Aaron Perry had produced lots of maps of the area of Holbeck covering business, heritage , green space , job opportunities and community facilities. These will be added to the website as an interactive map. Abbie Miladinovic is involved with this . Dennis Kitchen added that people who started off the Neighbourhood Plan are still involved .

4.5 Colin Hendrick Ward referred to Dennis Kitchen's earlier remark that 100 survey responses had been received and asked how many surveys had been circulated. Is it possible that people will argue that they had never been consulted ? Dennis Kitchen said that every house in the Neighbourhood Area had been leafleted Boxes had been posted in the Community Centre, the Post Office and at every school . Colin Hendrick Ward asked whether the responses made clear that the respondents understood the issues involved . Dennis Kitchen said that most people had kept to the script , but this is a diverse area . Rev Lindsey Pearson asked how many people had been involved with the process. Dennis Kitchen said that the Neighbourhood Forum had started with 21 people, the minimum necessary . Over the 5 to 6 year period since efforts to set up a Neighbourhood Forum started , some meetings had been well attended , others poorly attended . Board members are good stalwarts , who had been assisted by Planning Aid and Leeds City Council

4.6 A member of the audience asked about businesses, including those on Water Lane . Dennis Kitchen said that the Neighbourhood Forum had organised a breakfast meeting for businesses . The prostitution managed area in Holbeck had been launched at the same time . A few of those attending had come to speak about the managed area. A member of the audience noted that at that time, she had been getting phone calls from relatives all over England about the situation . She hoped that the prostitutes would move elsewhere . It was noted that 15 to 20 years ago, the Red Light Area in Leeds used to be the Calls.

4.7 Rev Lindsey Pearson asked Dennis Kitchen what he would have done differently , or advise the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum to do . Dennis Kitchen noted that he had set timescales, which had been reset several times . This had been disconcerting, as those involved had been seeking to produce a Neighbourhood Plan since 2012 . Holbeck had been given many unfulfilled promises and it had been difficult to keep things going. Holbeck in Bloom had done great work, and the Neighbourhood Forum had also considered communications, notably ways through from Holbeck to the City Centre. Leeds City Council had announced expenditure of £3.4 million to upgrade back to back housing in the Recreations in order to enhance the area. Dennis Kitchen added that there is a long term plan to have a project which they hope can be fulfilled . Activities of the Neighbourhood Forum include new notice boards , litter bins in the area, childrens' film nights every half term , the Christmas lights switch on, which is part of a bigger event , and bonfire night . These events keep the community together .

4.8 Colin Hendrick Ward asked about the impact on the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum of the forthcoming ward boundary change . Dennis Kitchen noted that the Holbeck Neighbourhood Area is within the Beeston and Holbeck Ward . Colin Hendrick Ward asked how much time elapsed between the passing of the Localism Act 2011 and of Leeds City Council and the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum working together. Dennis Kitchen said that this was about 12 months .

4.9 Steve Francis asked how the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum found projects which were not planning related . Dennis Kitchen noted that the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum found that it could not spend the money granted by Locality on these projects. Instead , the group approached local councillors for money from the small grants fund . The group has had two pots of money from Locality , which have been used to pay for the services of Peter Baker, their planning consultant .

4.10 A member of the audience asked how the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum had succeeded in receiving grants of £20000. Dennis Kitchen noted that this resulted in the status of Holbeck as a front runner for Neighbourhood Planning, and added that this is a 'carrot'. Only £16000 had been spent on consultancy fees and on the efforts to produce a Neighbourhood Plan . The appointment of an independent inspector and the referendum is funded by Leeds City Council, not the Neighbourhood Forum

4.11 Christine Thornton observed that our aim is to resurrect the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum . She noted that the Forum had got off to a reasonable start , but people then stopped attending meetings . Greg Turton, the founding Chairman of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum , then resigned . She added that we had sent a survey to 6500 households and received 67 replies . We had come up with issues similar to Holbeck, notably Anti Social Behaviour , absentee landlords, and multi occupation

4.12 The seating at the meeting had been arranged with Forum members and others sat around one of several tables . Abbie Miladinovic said that those seated around each table would spend around ten minutes discussing a number of aspects of Beeston , under a number of categories, including one thing you like, and housing , including what housing is good , what is bad and what should be improved. Groups could also discuss heritage (historic or listed buildings), and green spaces such as the area around Beeston Village Community Centre

4.13 Following these discussions, a number of Forum members reported the outcome of the discussions to the meeting . Bill Birch

referred to locations for new houses, existing green spaces and cultural heritage. A member of the audience noted that not much more shopping facilities are needed. There should be no more supermarkets and takeaways. Edward Wills said it would be necessary for the Neighbourhood forum to prove that there is no more need for shops and takeaways. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that the members on her table had concluded that Town Street, as a shopping street should be better developed. There should be no more takeaways and better quality shops should be encouraged. The extent of the shopping area in Town Street and Beeston Road could be considered by the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. She noted that the local branch of the Leeds Building Society was closing down.

4.14 Robert Winfield referred to the issue of Job Opportunities. Although the White Rose Centre is marginally outside the Beeston Neighbourhood Area, jobs provided by the White Rose Centre, White Rose Office Park as well as various industrial estates are relevant to the people of Beeston. Ken Hewson observed that the White Rose Centre is expanding. Rev Lindsey Pearson said that we must ensure that people in the area are able to take up jobs; for example, that they have the relevant education and ability. Christine Thornton wondered whether it would be possible to influence these matters by means of a Neighbourhood Plan. She noted that when the Old Lane branch of Asda had opened, they said that they would offer jobs to locals. She also noted that Steve Foster of the White Rose Centre had said that they would be keen to offer jobs to locals. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that the White Rose Centre has premises which can offer help in drafting CVs. There is also a job shop at the Two Willows Centre on the Cardinals. There are also similar facilities at the Dewsbury Roads One Stop Centre, as well as other initiatives. It was, however noted that many children leaving school are not ready to go to work. Abbie Miladinovic noted that the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum had taken off with other projects alongside Neighbourhood Planning Work. Other projects fed in to this. Harvey Pritchard referred to the experience of Tesco in Seacroft. Tesco had signed a legal agreement for the training of local people in managerial skills. Harvey Pritchard felt that such a legal agreement is necessary. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that the same thing had happened with Asda, and that this happens with all newly built stores. Harvey Pritchard noted that a Neighbourhood Plan could specify that any new development over a certain size should have such a legal agreement. Angela Gabriel recalled that when the Old Lane Asda opened, banners saying 'come and get trained to go to work' went up. Colin Hendrick Ward noted that training must make people capable of doing a job. He added that job opportunities could be created by bringing businesses into the area; for example, engineering could be brought into Beeston. We could take young people who are no longer employed as engineers due to lack of opportunities. Edward Wills said that that could be stated in a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that training opportunities are mostly in service industries. Colin Hendrick Ward noted that Warehouse and Distribution have a massive presence. A member of the audience noted that there are service industries at the White Rose. Christine Thornton noted that we still have one inadequate High School, South Leeds Academy.

4.15 The meeting then turned to the issue of local heritage and character. Bill Birch referred to Stank Hall Barn, St. Mary's Church, the cobbled streets close to Beeston Village Community Centre, and the former Passmore Building, with its distinctive bay windows. Robert Winfield referred to the mile post on the corner of Old Lane and Dewsbury Road. Edward Wills said that buildings do not have to be listed to be mentioned in a Neighbourhood Plan. Christine Thornton referred to the Yorkshire flagstones. Ken Burton referred to Highfield House, close to the Whistlestop Pub, which started life as a barn house. There was a discussion about cemeteries., Christine Thornton referred to Holbeck Cemetery (which is actually within the Beeston Neighbourhood Area), whilst Angela Gabriel pointed out that Beeston Cemetery incorporates a war memorial to miners. Mark Parry noted that there is some confusion as to where the boundary for Beeston actually lies. Harvey Pritchard noted that this is a matter for the Neighbourhood Forum, and suggested that we could produce an A4 sheet showing the boundary which those involved with the Neighbourhood Forum could keep on them. Edward Wills said that local identity is important. Councillor Angela Gabriel referred to the welcome to Beeston signs close to the White Rose Centre. She observed that Beeston Hill is a different area. Robert Winfield noted that the boundary of the Neighbourhood Area is set out in the Neighbourhood Forum's constitution and has been approved by Leeds City Council. Christine Thornton noted that there had been no such area as 'Beeston Hill until SRB 4 money came in. Mark Parry suggested that there should be more boundary and heritage signs. Christine Thornton said that we should get rid of the road sign at Tommy Wass saying 'turn left to Cross Flatts'

4.16 Ken Burton referred to a lack of quality affordable housing. There are also many absentee landlords; too many family houses have been converted into flats.. Christine Thornton agreed that there is a lack of social housing. Colin Hendrick Ward felt that there should be an improvement to terrace houses for health reasons; for example damp. Lindsey Pearson suggested producing a map of brownfield sites. Abbie Miladinovic noted that the list of brownfield sites is public so we can create such a map. It was noted that there is a planning application to build 58 houses on the site of the former Moorhouses Jam factory.

4.17 Christine Thornton referred to community facilities. Mark Parry suggested that there could be playgrounds or a play area. Steve Francis observed that three holes of South Leeds Golf Course lie within the Neighbourhood Area. Angela Gabriel asked who is building on the land next to Beeston Primary School. A member of the audience referred to the community facilities on Cardinal Square. Abbie Miladinovic noted that local community facilities include Beeston Village Community Centre, and libraries. Robert Winfield noted that the meeting room at Beeston Police Station is in the Elland Road framework area and thus outside the Beeston Neighbourhood Area. Steve Francis referred to the local churches; St Anthony's, St Andrews and St Mary's. Lindsey Pearson pointed out that St David's Church is being sold, but she does not know what for. A member of the audience referred to the cricket club. Ken Hewson referred to the green space near St David's Church and Holbeck Bowling Club.

4.18 Mark Parry noted that we need traffic calming measures on busy routes as there is too much speeding. Peter Whitehead felt that only a minority of young drivers put their foot down. Abbie Miladinovic asked whether there is a need for more parking and cycleways. There was strong opposition to more cycleways, whilst Mark Parry opposed an increase in the number of parking spaces on the basis that this would attract more traffic to the area. Peter Whitehead asked what percentage of new developments are on

brownfield spaces and what stipulation does the council place on this. He added that some flats near Burmantofts have car parking, but as this carries a charge, local residents prefer to park in the street .

4.19 Christine Thornton noted that Beeston is well connected by roads to anywhere. Harvey Pritchard asked about local bus services. Rev Lindsey Pearson noted that these are good down the main road but not otherwise. Edward Wills wondered whether we should say that we want bus services maintaining. Christine Thornton noted that we are well connected to motorways, indeed too well connected! .

4.20 Christine Thornton wondered whether those present have been invigorated by the discussion which has taken place; if not, we are on a hiding to nothing! Myra Munro hoped to get more involved. Christine Thornton noted that people can get involved in other ways , for example by the production of graphics and websites. Abbie Miladinovic wondered whether there are any local historians. It was noted that these include Ken Burton and Frank Goddard, who has been a guest speaker at the Beeston Forum in the past . Colin Hendrick Ward said that we should look at what we would like and want , and that we should remember that we already have good things here , but we should make an improvement. Christine Thornton referred to local community groups . Harvey Pritchard noted that Beeston has a number of communities . As part of the process of convincing the examiner, we would need to approach other groups. We should do our utmost to get them involved and keep evidence that all sections of the community have been invited to get involved . There should also be efforts to get schoolchildren and businesspeople involved . One reasons why plans fail is that there is no evidence of such involvement . We need to bring on board more people , but will they take part and will they attend meetings .

4.21 Christine Thornton referred to the resolution to request the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Forum to make an application to Leeds City Council to add the area around Stank Hall Barn which

i) is not currently included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council and

ii) will be included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council following the ward boundary changes to be implemented in May 2018 to the Beeston Neighbourhood Area

The resolution was carried unanimously

5. Police Report- It was noted that no representative of the police was present

6. Report of the Committee meeting held on 20th April 2017. Christine Thornton explained that in view of pressure of time, this item would be deferred

7. Correspondence. In view of time pressures on the meeting, the meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that the e mail from Councillor Debra Coupar and the letter from Chief Constable Dee Collins be left on the top table for inspection by Forum members . A full version of each letter would be posted in the minutes

7.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Councillor Debra Coupar, the Leeds City Council Executive member for Safer Leeds . Debra Coupar understood that we had received an update on this issue from the Police, and that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Insp Travis attended the Beeston Community Forum on 6th April to provide an update. The injunction against the gang that have been causing such disruption in Beeston was much needed , and she noted that in our letter, we had set out the fear and anxiety that this group's behaviour was causing . Whilst it was not possible to brief the Forum ahead of the injunction being taken out, , Debra Coupar said that she is pleased that there has been a commitment from Police Officers to keep the Forum up to date on important community issues where possible

7.2 Robert Winfield had received a letter from the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Dee Collins . Mrs Collins thanked us for our letter referring to the Beeston Family Feud reported in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 9th March. She was concerned to hear that we feel let down by the actions of the police and the courts and that the police have failed to meet our expectations in relation to the police's communications about the matter . Dee Collins therefore asked Superintendent Matt Richardson of Neighbourhood Operations in Leeds to look into this as a matter of priority . Dee Collins said that she understands that the criminality emanating from this dispute led to some 87 separate offences being committed in the Beeston area of Leeds and she fully appreciates the impact this has had on our local community . Attacking this type of criminality in order to protect and reassure members of the public is a strategic priority for West Yorkshire Police and as such the Leeds District Serious and Organised Crime Unit were commissioned to investigate this matter in order to ensure that the very best resources at the police's disposal were deployed to tackle this very serious issue. This specialist and highly skilled team carried out comprehensive enquiries in relation to all these offences and this led to a number of arrests and criminal charges . The police's decision to work in partnership with and with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner to pursue gang injunctions under the Police and Crime Act 2009 is further evidence of the police's commitment to impose every possible sanction in order to tackle this group of organised criminals. In addition to the prison sentences and other criminal justice outcomes brought , these court orders impose a number of conditions that allow the police to closely manage the behaviour of those concerned but also, perhaps more importantly, to exclude them from the Beeston area . Dee Collins added that she hopes that we appreciate that the sensitive and somewhat covert nature of the enquiries involved were such that our communication plan had to be carefully managed and that reporting restrictions still exist in relation to some charges that are yet to be heard in court. Dee Collins added that the police's endeavours to reassure the public of West Yorkshire are underpinned by a robust communications strategy; hence the police's decision to release the information to the media on 9th March . As part of the community impact assessment, the police used a number of media including West Yorkshire Police website and social media in an effort to bring members of our community up to date and to keep them informed. . Dee Collins added that she is informed that our local Neighbourhood Policing Inspector attended the

Forum on 6th April. Dee Collins regretted that the police has been unable to update us by any other means in the meantime. Dee Collins thanked the Forum for its ongoing support and for the valuable contribution which we make to making our community safe. She asked us to let her know if she can be of further assistance

7.3 Robert Winfield received a letter from Craig Wallbank, Customer Liaison Officer, Leeds Building Society, in reply to our letter opposing the closure of the Leeds Building Society's Beeston branch . He said that the decision was not an easy one to take and Leeds Building Society understands that not every member will be happy. Our comments have been noted and Mr Wallbank confirmed that all complaints of this nature are fed back to the Society's senior management team. He added that the reason for closing the branch is not a cost cutting exercise , but more to reflect a change in the habits of members . They have found that more people choose to use multiple branches and the internet. This means that some branches have very few customers transacting on some days . Mr Wallbank added that Leeds Building Society needs to do the right thing and run the business in the right way for the benefit of all members . This will enable them to continue offer to offer attractive saving and lending rates in order to make the business sustainable . Although the way in which members of the Leeds Building Society are choosing to interact is changing, Mr Wallbank added that Leeds Building Society is mindful of the impact these changes will have on some members . As such, a full impact assessment was undertaken and the needs of all members especially those who are potentially vulnerable was considered . Mr Wallbank added that as part of Leeds Building Society's commitment to ensure they can manage the impact on potentially vulnerable members , they are deploying their specialist customer support team in branches to support members with how they can continue to operate their accounts . A member of the team will be in the Beeston Branch on 28th April 2017 between 9 am and 1 pm.

8. Farm Foods Planning Application – It was noted that following a decision of the Committee , the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum had lodged identical holding objections to this planning application, which will involve the demolition of the Concourse House Building on Dewsbury Road and the building of a new Farm Foods store on the site. Robert Winfield said that he would be leaving a copy of the letter on the top table for inspection by Forum members . Christine Thornton noted that the objection is partly motivated by the fact that we did not know anything about the application . A member of the audience noted she found details of the application in a newspaper after knowledge of it was denied by councillors two months ago . She asked why the newspaper knew about this before local residents . However, residents have received letters from Leeds City Council . It was noted that residents have been receiving leaflets from Farm Foods for around a year . Details of the planning application had been posted in a library in Hunslet, rather than Beeston. Additionally Concourse House had been boarded up after a break in and nothing had been done about it . The application had been publicised in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 19th April. Myra Munro pointed out that details have also appeared in South Leeds Life . A member of the audience had complained about the fact that she had known nothing about the planning application. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that planning permission had only been put in two weeks ago, then notices had gone up. She has encouraged people to support, or object to the planning application . A member of the audience noted that there is no supermarket in Holbeck, but three supermarkets in Beeston within half a mile of one another . Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that the government has relaxed the planning laws, thus making it more difficult to object to planning applications. Concourse House is privately owned and Farm Foods had indicated that they would buy the site if they secure planning permission. Colin Hendrick Ward noted that there were nine objections to the planning application and one expression of support . Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that as soon as the Councillors became aware of the planning application, they asked for the letters to be sent to local residents . Eddie Leatham said that Farm Foods leaflets are delivered to residents at the bottom of Wesley Street. Robert Winfield pointed out that Farm Foods have been invited to send a representative to the next Forum meeting on 1st June. He noted that the Leeds City Council Highways Department had raised strong objections to the application and suspected that this would result in the application, at least in its present form, being killed stone dead . A discussion also took place about the state of the present building on the site. Robert Winfield noted that he had seen three youths wearing the uniform of Cockburn School on the site. One of them was seen trying to remove the boarding from the windows. Robert Winfield noted that he had succeeded in taking photographs of the youths involved , with faces clearly visible. These were e mailed to the school, as a result of which police had spoken to the youths involved.

9. Robert Winfield drew the attention of members to the notice that a constitutional resolution to include the area around Stank Hall Barn in the Beeston Community Forum Area would be considered by the next Forum meeting