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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 2nd March 2017

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speakers**
 - a) Stewart Robinson, International Fun Fairs and Martin Wright, Leeds City Council**
 - b) Steve Foster, General Manager, White Rose Centre**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 2nd February 2017**
- 5. Police Report**
- 6. Neighbourhood Forum Report**
- 7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 16th February 2017**
- 8. Correspondence**
- 9. Possible Co-options to the Committee**
- 10. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the joint meeting of the Beeston Community Forum and Beeston Neighbourhood Forum held on Thursday 2nd February 2017

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr.R. Bell, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs J. Birch, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs . S. Burton, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs R. Casserley, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Ms. S. Keeton, Mr. E. Leathem, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Mr. J. Morton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Rev. L. Pearson and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks – Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the first ever joint meeting of the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum .

2. Guest Speakers

2.1 Christine Thornton introduced the guest speakers for the Beeston Community Forum, Stewart Robinson of International Fun fairs and Martin Wright of Leeds City Council

2.2 Stewart Robinson wondered how many times he had visited the Forum in the past 15 years, and noted that the fair is much the same as it has been in the past . The fair has a similar layout, but this year, as a result of the development of the Park and Ride facility will be using the Fullerton Car Park for public car parking in order to eliminate parking on the park and ride facility. The Fullerton car park will be used solely by users of the fairground , and parking and leaving will be supervised by stewards . Visitors to the fair would walk through the Fullerton Car Park onto the old BRS site behind the football ground. The fair is there . The site is very clean and is good for people to walk around and for wheelchairs to move about. It is clean under foot. However, when the Park and Ride facility was being developed , the site

was in a state and visitors needed to wear wellingtons . The layout of the fair needs to be different . People walk on the walkround and leave through one entrance. There are also emergency entrances and exits .

The fair opens at 5p.m on the first Thursday (9th February) as children are at school and the same applies on the following day . However, the fair is open at 1p.m on Thursday 9th February for children with special needs . Children from all over Leeds are invited , free of charge, and the rides go slow. Later, there will be the official opening of the fair by the Lord Mayor of Leeds and the President of the Showmans Guild of Great Britain . On every other day of the fair, the fair will be open at 1p.m except when matches take place. On the first Saturday of the fair (11th February) , there is a match so the fair will not open until 6p.m when the car parks have been cleared following the end of the match. On the following Tuesday, the fair will only be open between 1p.m and 4p.m due to a match. The arrangements for the fair have worked well. International Fun Fairs have worked with Martin Wright of Leeds City Council and the police in connection with car parks. The site is different and coaches from supporters will drive through the fairground, into Fullerton Park into the compound . Car parking is free and there are plenty of litter pickers operating on a morning on Elland Road in the car parks and anywhere else where litter might have been left . There will be a coning system along Elland Road, in the Park and Ride facility and along adjacent side streets to prevent illegal parking .

The fair will have 26 big rides including a big wheel. Stewart Robinson noted that there was a Big Wheel in the City Centre. This proved popular and the same big wheel will be coming to the fair. There will also be a massive roller coaster from Scotland. This is the second largest fair in Yorkshire and is unique in that there are no duplications of rides; there is one of each type of ride. There are plenty of opportunities for children and teenagers . The fair will finish on Sunday 19th February, and will have left the site by the following Tuesday. Stewart Robinson noted that it takes a lot longer to set up the fair than to dismantle it. People on the site will use local amenities including the pub.

With regard to music and noise , this should be less of a problem as the fair will be further away from houses , but noise will still be monitored by machines. If anyone who lives in the area is not happy, they can telephone Stewart Robinson or his partner Roger Tuby.

2.3 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor . Amongst issues raised were the impact of the Park and Ride facility on the fair, the exhibition of models, the nature of the agreement with Leeds City Council to operate the fair, and whether the Park and Ride bus service can be adapted to enable people to travel to the fair from Leeds City Centre

3. Christine Thornton introduced the guest speakers relating to the Neighbourhood Forum; Ian Mackay and Abbie Miladinovic of Leeds City Council

3.1 Ian Mackay noted that he manages Neighbourhood Planning in Leeds and pointed out that 36 communities in Leeds are involved in Neighbourhood Planning in some way; all of them at different stages , most of them doing different things and with lots of different issues . Although Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Coalition government in 2012, , Ian Mackay still regards all groups undertaking Neighbourhood Planning as pioneers, especially in Beeston. Ian Mackay observed that there are not many communities like Beeston carrying out Neighbourhood Planning, so Beeston is a pioneer. A Neighbourhood Plan is a development plan which can allocate sites for development , for example, housing , retail, leisure and employment . It can also designate green spaces . Ian Mackay noted that a Council can only designate an area of land exceeding 0.2 hectares as a green space, but there is no corresponding size threshold for a Neighbourhood Plan . A Neighbourhood plan can also set out design policies for any new development in the area . This can be either general, or specific and detailed, or relate to an area or specific site. A Neighbourhood Plan can also set up projects ; things which the local community would like to deliver during the lifetime of the plan, which is normally 10 to 15 years. This is an important part of the process in terms of bringing people together. In Holbeck, for example, the community had been brought together and worked with partners as the plan was worked on. It is also possible to identify projects which the local community would like to be delivered in the Neighbourhood Plan. It is also possible to use a Neighbourhood Plan to bid for funding . This had been explored by some communities Ian Mackay felt that there is an opportunity for this in Beeston. Holbeck had missed out on this opportunity.

Ian Mackay observed that Neighbourhood Planning has been on the agenda in Beeston for some time. There is no draft plan, but in Ian Mackay's view that is a good thing. We can learn from good and bad practice . Neighbourhood Planning is different to Council planning. With a Neighbourhood Plan , the community prepares the plan and consults the council . This is the reverse of what happens when the Council prepares a plan , when the council prepares the plan and consults the community . Leeds City Council is legally obliged to offer support to Neighbourhood Planning groups but goes beyond this legal obligation. Additionally, generous funding is available to Neighbourhood Forums, this has already been accessed by the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. Ian Mackay said that he does not wish to give the impression that neighbourhood planning is the best thing since sliced bread; it is not , but it is the best show in town for delivering things for the community . This is a long and tortuous work which involves lots of work. It is a bottom up process which comes from the community, although support is available from the local authority and planning aid . A draft neighbourhood plan is subjected to independent examination by the local authority . There is then a referendum at the end of the process . The referendum question is 'Would you like Leeds City Council to use the Beeston Neighbourhood Plan to help determine planning applications in the Beeston Neighbourhood Area' . This referendum question helps groups to stay focussed. A plan fundamentally helps a local authority to determine planning applications . There are no rules about the topics to be covered in a neighbourhood plan; there is no need to cover topics such as green space or housing.

Ian Mackay said that we have a number of strengths; an excellent organisation , with drive, enthusiasm, skills and the support of a consultant. We have made a good start but must think about what happens next . We should not jump to conclusions as to what the issues are . We should keep an open mind and wait for engagement with the wider community (people of all ages, backgrounds and different parts

of the Neighbourhood Area). Moreover, we should not simply seek the views of residents , but recognise that there is significant business support. The views of the business community are important. Ian Mackay felt that we should compile a Beeston Profile setting out strengths , weaknesses , opportunities and threats. We need such statistics as population, health crime and environmental statistics and issues. Every profile is different but must be locally distinctive. The council can give significant assistance. We must think about engagement and must meet with the wider community, and discuss thoughts, ideas and feelings on planning and other issues. We should draw up a locally distinctive questionnaire and look at issues from a statistical and evidence based perspective . It would be a mistake to ask leading questions such as 'Would you like more green space or a health facility ?' A questionnaire must be more sophisticated and tease out key issues.

Ian Mackay pointed out that Abbie Miladinovic will be with Leeds City Council for two years as part of the graduate training programme. She has helped Neighbourhood Planning Groups in Walton, Holbeck and Headingley. Leeds City council also has the help of four students from Leeds Beckett University who will be starting their placement on Monday. Ian Mackay said that he would like one of them to do the legwork and research so as to give the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum the time , effort and money required . It would also be good to have a young person involved. Leeds City Council has a good reputation nationally for supporting Neighbourhood Planning. Ian Mackay observed that the members present at the meeting know their community and key groups.

3.2 Edward Wills noted that he is from Planning Aid, an organisation which involves professional planners who volunteer help and are, indeed desperate to help. He said that Leeds City Council are amazing and the best in the country for helping people.

3.3 Abbie Miladinovic noted that she has previously run the engagement for a small rural parish in Essex . She would be willing to write the engagement strategy which involves targeting people who do not get involved in planning issues. It is necessary to design events, surveys and social media, which can be done from home or even on the phones of members. A key issue is how we will get good results. We must prove that we have engaged with the community, otherwise people will not vote for the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.4 Bill Birch asked how much success there has been with social media, including facebook and twitter. Abbie Miladinovic noted that she ran a website and social media and secured thousands of hits. We need to maintain a profile, not post once every six months. By doing this, we gain a following which spreads like wildfire. If there are a lot of people , this is a good way of spreading the word, including amongst young people who are often left out of planning issues. Bill Birch wondered whether there had been any success in identifying communities in community groups. Abbie Miladinovic said that a lot of such groups have good facebook profiles. A group which does not have a large number of e mail addresses can send out a message or a tweet.

3.5 John Cunningham noted that one of the most important aspects of Neighbourhood planning is the referendum. When members of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum visited Wolverhampton , the members were told that the Neighbourhood Forum had an organisation undertaking leafleting activities and ensuring that everything is done. Robert Winfield pointed out that there is a prohibition on the use of public money in connection with the referendum campaign. Ian Mackay noted that the referendum issues begin now when we think about engagement . If people have not been involved in the beginning, they will not come out and vote. Residents must feel that they have had a reason , and that they have been able to have their say throughout the process If the engagement is fantastic , this must encourage people to vote. Some funding could be available, but all skills are available from the community. Ian Mackay emphasised that there is a need to make the plan different and locally distinctive, relevant and attractive. It should not be necessary to try too hard to get people to vote . Ian Mackay noted that there have been two Neighbourhood Planning referendums in Leeds so far. In Linton, there was a 96% vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan on a turnout of 44% . In Clifford, there was a 92% vote in favour of the plan on a turnout of about 30% . Ian Mackay felt that the Parish Council should have made more of an effort to persuade people to vote and seemed to assume that people would simply turn out . He noted that some turnouts in referendums have been around 55 to 60% .

3.6 Richard Bell noted that the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum has a facebook group and has had a leafletting campaign . He felt that the biggest issue is one of engagement . He added that a lot of people whom he has spoken to do not see the relevance of the Neighbourhood Plan. No reason for it has been identified , nor a unique selling point. We need an issue of concern which gets people to understand the relevance of the neighbourhood plan and encourages them to get on board . Christine Thornton felt that we must start from scratch. Richard Bell noted that Beeston has a large transient population . They do not engage in community projects as they are not here for long enough . Ian Mackay felt that we should not make too many assumptions regarding what people think. There should be no leading questions on surveys which should, instead be open and transparent . They should get across the fact that we want to hear what people have to say. Richard Bell said that there should be rally open questions such as 'What do you think?' 'What can be improved?' . Abbie Miladinovic said that we need to make people aware of what a neighbourhood plan is, what it can do and how it can benefit someone. We need to make people feel that their ideas about the area are valued. An important stage is preliminary work involving advertising the Neighbourhood Plan and events

3.7 Rosemary Casserley asked how much weight will the Neighbourhood plan have on planning applications . She noted that when flats in Beeston had been demolished, there had been no contact . She was also aware of one town plan, where there had been building which was totally against what had been agreed . Ian Mackay said that a Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory development plan which has significant legal weight. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan will become the Council's Plan for Beeston. It is not, however , the only plan as there are also national and local planning policies . Neighbourhood Plans are backed up by significant amount of legal evidence around the country. Ian Mackay added that he has been to parish councils across Leeds and had said similar things. Parish plans then appeared in isolation; they referred to planning issues but had not been through the same process and were more of a wish list . Neighbourhood Planning is a long and drawn out process as it is statutory. Robert Winfield noted that it had been agreed that the two Forums would work closely together and hold quarterly joint meetings of which this is the first. He felt that the Neighbourhood Forum should heed the advice

which had been tendered to it by Leeds City Council . He also noted that we need to take on board the comments made by Richard Bell . Robert Winfield also pointed out that a decision had been taken to disband the task groups. Although not all of the task groups had been set up, as envisaged , one of them at least was doing good work which ended when it was disbanded . Christine Thornton said that we still need a plan ; it is all right to discuss things , but we now need steps for the way forward. Ian Mackay said that the interest is there. Some people have understandable doubts but there is enough momentum to move forward. He suggested the establishment of a working group to meet with Abbie Miladinovic, Planning Aid and others to set out a project plan specifying key areas of work, and when we would like to achieve them, what we need to do and who can help. Robert Winfield pointed out that the Neighbourhood Forum had been set up at the initiative of Greg Turton. His resignation from the Chairmanship of the Neighbourhood Forum had come as a shock. Robert Winfield then took on the chairmanship of the Neighbourhood Forum despite having been open with members that he does not really have the necessary time to do the job, although he would of course do his best . Edward Wills wondered whether grants are available for a planning advisor . Ian Mackay pointed out that Shaun Hanson has helped the Neighbourhood Forum and set out ideas. Robert Winfield referred to the Aspiring Communities Planning Application, which is highly controversial in the area and which will be going to a full public inquiry at the end of March . Members of the Committee , will , in the meantime be busy with preparing representations to the inquiry and will have correspondingly less time to devote to issues connected with the Neighbourhood Plan. Ian Mackay suggested that we could, however get things moving with a meeting over the next two weeks . Robert Winfield envisaged that the Neighbourhood Forum Committee would be involved. Christine Thornton suggested that the meeting should be opened up to any other member of the Neighbourhood Forum who might be interested; they would not need to join the Committee. Robert Winfield suggested that he could arrange to send an e mail to all members of the Neighbourhood Forum. Christine Thornton observed that there are seventy to eighty members of the Neighbourhood Forum and suspected that many of them are hiding! . Ian Mackay said that this situation is quite common. He added that a website is important to engage with members. Ken Hewson said that there were concerns about small numbers. We need to have more people involved. If this does not happen, he is unsure whether it is worth it. . Bill Birch noted that we have a nucleus of people who want to be involved in Neighbourhood Planning. This should go forward but he is not saying that no one else should become involved. People must consider what they are doing rather than volunteer now . There should be the opportunity at a meeting to lay out what we will do. Bill Birch felt that this should take place after the Aspiring Communities public inquiry which is a really big thing. Ian Mackay said that we should have a response in February or March .

3.8 Richard Bell asked whether the scope of the Plan has changed . He noted that the last time he was involved with the Neighbourhood Forum various wide ranging objectives had been discussed . He was concerned that these were too wide and not focussed on something which is achievable . He noted that it takes a lot of time to undertake Neighbourhood planning . Will people have the time to complete this . Ian Mackay said that one of the lessons of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum is that they had fantastic engagement did not filter out planning and other issues sooner. In theory, anything can go in a neighbourhood plan, but we need to consider what the starting point is . Groups spend a lot of time on issues which they will not do much about. Abbie Miladinovic said she had looked through the results of the survey undertaken by the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum and noted that there are a lot of planning issues which can be targetted with a Neighbourhood Plan . Positive improvements can be made but we need to get people on board with these Robert Winfield pointed out that the Neighbourhood Forum Committee had resolved to invite representatives of the Hyde Park and Holbeck Neighbourhood Forums to the next joint meeting of the two Forums which will take place on Thursday 4th May . Christine Thornton suggested raising two or three issues which are planning issues. It was noted that Holbeck has done this. Issues which were identified by the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum include tackling anti- social behaviour in Cross Flatts Park and elsewhere . This is not a planning policy but can we secure this by design? Another potential policy is affordable housing , for example more bungalows for the elderly and disabled as well as affordable housing for young families . Spare land can be used to build housing and industry to provide jobs. People are aware of planning issues, but these are not highlighted .

3.9 Rosemary Casserley asked whether a student can undertake basic research. Ian Mackay said that the four Leeds Beckett Students would be undertaking duties in connection with their placement one day per week for ten weeks The students would have access to Leeds City Council data. They have each been interviewed for their role and have been found to have a number of genuine skills. Edward Wills pointed out that they are under the direction of Harvey Pritchard at Leeds Beckett University . Ian Mackay added that the students will be closely managed when they are in the office and will make a difference. Abbie Miladinovic said that they would undertake a good project. Rosemary Casserley recalled that Leeds City Council had done something about the number of people in a 100 yard area in Beeston which is a very diverse community. The student could look at the whole area . Ian Mackay noted that this is a fair point. We must be open minded and not jump to conclusions. A student would not be able to complete a profile of Beeston but would be able to get it off to a good start . The profile would involve carrying out surveys and taking photographs. Ian Mackay suggested that residents should go into unfamiliar areas which might have changed in recent times. Edward Wills recalled that Mark Parry had produced a beautiful document giving a summary of the issues in the area. He suggested that we should get hold of it . Christine Thornton noted that she did not know that there were so many small businesses in Beeston. Ian Mackay said that the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum had done the same thing. They had received no feedback from businesses then held a successful business breakfast. Ian Mackay said that we should try different things, as what works in Holbeck might not work in Beeston. Abbie Miladinovic said that targetting other events is a good way to engage with the community . Christine Thornton said that she had been in Beeston Village Community Centre whilst celebrations of the recent Chinese New Year were taking place . She had asked Councillor Angela Gabriel to speak about the work of the Beeston Community Forum but had overlooked the Neighbourhood Forum . Ian Mackay noted that it had been a while since he had walked around Beeston but had seen nothing to indicate that a Neighbourhood Plan was being prepared . Christine Thornton noted that a number of banners had been prepared ; however Robert Winfield pointed out that only the banner outside the Broadway Hotel was still in existence. Ian Mackay said this is a potential student project . The project could highlight the fact that a neighbourhood plan is being prepared . Something which has little cost can be quite effective .

3.10 Robert Winfield noted that Abbie Miladinovic had e mailed him to explain that she hoped to take 15 minutes to discuss a paper which

she had prepared and attached to the e mail . Robert Winfield noted that he had made an unsuccessful attempt to email the paper to members of the Neighbourhood Forum , who could not therefore study the paper in advance of the meeting , as Abbie Miladinovic would have wished. Furthermore, Robert Winfield expressed concerns that if the fifteen minute session did take place , this would be likely to make the finishing time of the meeting unacceptably late. Abbie Miladinovic suggested that the paper could be considered at the meeting envisaged earlier.

4. Apologies for absence were received from Maureen Broadbent, Councillor David Congreve, Steve Francis , Councillor Angela Gabriel , Colin Hendrick Ward and Mark Parry .

5. Ratification of Neighbourhood Forum members- Christine Thornton asked whether anyone present who is not a member of the Neighbourhood Forum and who qualifies for membership wished to join. No one came forward. There were no other membership applications to ratify .

6. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 5th January 2017 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. .

7. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum held on Thursday 1st December 2016. Christine Thornton noted that this was a short meeting held at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Beeston Community Forum. Robert Winfield apologised for the fact that the division between the minutes of this meeting, and the minutes of the last meeting of the Beeston Community Forum is not sufficiently clear . The minutes were accepted as accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting

8. There were no matters arising

9. Police Report- It was noted that no members of the police force were present at the current meeting, nor at the last meeting, nor had any explanation been given for their absence. It was agreed that Robert Winfield would write to Insp Travis to seek an explanation for this situation . Richard Bell wondered whether the police still intend to attend our meetings ; have they decided not to attend and not told us.

10. Neighbourhood Forum matters. Robert Winfield noted that all the matters which he had intended to deal with in his Neighbourhood Forum report had been dealt with adequately in the session involving Ian Mackay and Abbie Miladinovic. . A discussion took place as to whether the Neighbourhood Forum AGM should take place on Thursday 4th May or at some other time. Robert Winfield reminded the meeting that the committee had decided to invite representatives of the Hyde Park and Holbeck Neighbourhood Forums to this meeting. He also pointed out that he has no strong views as to whether the AGM should or should not take place on 4th May and would be happy to go along with the majority decision. Bill Birch said that if the two Forums work closely together, why not hold the Neighbourhood Forum AGM on 4th May. Christine Thornton however suggested that a separate meeting might serve to raise the profile of the Neighbourhood Forum . Robert Winfield noted that the Neighbourhood Forum Constitution states that the AGM shall normally be held in May and must take place within 15 months of the last AGM. Robert Winfield felt that there would need to be a strong justification for the AGM not being held in May , for example bad weather on the date originally scheduled . Bill Birch said that AGMs are dull . Eddie Leatham said that if the AGM is held at a standalone meeting, there is a risk that it would be inquorate, and therefore supported the AGM being held on 4th May. Robert Winfield noted that the Beeston Community Forum has no guest speaker at the meeting on 4th May and no such guest speaker would be arranged unless there is a pressing local issue where an appropriate guest speaker cannot practically be accommodated at another time . Christine Thornton observed that it had been difficult to chair the current meeting because matters relating to both forums were being considered together ; she had been under the impression that at joint meetings, matters connected with the Beeston Community Forum would be put on the back burner. Robert Winfield noted that no guest speakers relating to the Beeston Community Forum had been planned for any of the joint meetings; he felt that at the 4th May meeting , it would be possible to minimise consideration of matters relating to the Beeston Community Forum unless an unexpected local issue arises It was resolved to hold the Neighbourhood Forum AGM on 4th May.

11. Election of the Vice Chairman of the Neighbourhood Forum. Eddie Leatham expressed an interest in taking on this position. A resolution to elect him to this position was carried and Eddie Leatham was therefore declared elected as Vice Chairman of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

12. Report of Committee meeting held on 19th January 2017 . Christine Thornton reported that the bulk of the meeting was taken up in consideration of aspects of the Aspiring Communities planning application . Christine Thornton noted that the Forum had learned from the Save Our Beeston Campaign that the public inquiry which will determine the planning application will start on 28th March and last for four days . There was also a discussion about the planning application to build 58 houses on the site on Old Lane . Christine Thornton noted that the developers had attended the last meeting of the Forum .

13. Discussion about the response of the Forums to the planning application to build 58 houses on a site at Old Lane .

Stuart Casserley noted that the application is only for outline planning permission. Robert Winfield noted that if outline planning permission is approved, the developer would formulate detailed specific plans and seek planning permission for these. Questions were raised as to whether we could object at a later stage if we disagree with any aspect of the detailed plans. Richard Bell asked whether any aspect of the planning application is objectionable. Bill Birch wondered whether it would be better to use the site for housing (for example affordable housing, which might be expected to generate additional traffic) , and suggested doing nothing until more detailed plans are available. Robert Winfield wondered whether anyone could suggest a use for the land which would not generate additional traffic. Richard

Bell, who noted that the developer is a customer of his firm said that the proposed development is welcome and is a sign of confidence in the area. Stuart Casserley suggested that a proper traffic study should be carried out on Old Lane . Rosemary Casserley wondered whether Asda has the money to do this. Richard Bell suggested that the amount of additional traffic generated would be insignificant. Stuart Casserley said that if Dewsbury Road is developed, this might push traffic onto Old Lane. Richard Bell noted that Aspiring Communities had to provide a traffic plan . Bill Birch said that he hoped to see the developers again for a discussion about what they can do for the community. We should not support their plans until that has taken place, and we see what they can come up with. He likes the idea of affordable houses on the site but would not wish to give the developer carte blanche and run off with all the profits. The reported sum of £100000 available for community projects is, he said, derisory. It was agreed to take no action now

14. Correspondence

14.1 Robert Winfield had received a letter from Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council apologising for the fact that the Beeston Community Forum and Beeston Neighbourhood Forum had been left off a list of community organisations supplied by Leeds City Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and Wales in connection with the consultation process relating to the current review of Leeds City Council ward boundaries .

14.2 Robert Winfield had received a letter from Robert Cooke of the Planning Inspectorate clarifying various aspects of the forthcoming inquiry into the Aspiring Communities planning application

14.3 Robert Winfield pointed out that the statement of case put forward by CW Planning Solutions Limited on behalf of Aspiring Communities in connection with the forthcoming public inquiry stated that Aspiring Communities had made two formal complaints about Leeds City Council's handling of the planning application at the end of July 2015 and December 2014. Robert Winfield noted that we had previously requested , under the Freedom of Information Act, copies of all correspondence between Leeds City Council and the Developer , or any agent for the developer between two dates which include the times at which the complaints were ostensibly made ; however there were no letters of complaint , nor any reference to a complaint having been made. Robert Winfield noted that after full consultation with the Committee, he had written to the Leeds City Council planning Department asking whether they can shed light on the matter . He had , so far, received no reply

15. Co-options to the Committee . Robert Winfield noted that Eddie Leatham had just been elected as vice Chairman of the Neighbourhood Forum. He suggested that as it is envisaged that most, if not all committee meetings would be joint meetings of the Committees of the Beeston Community Forum and Beeston Neighbourhood Forum , with matters relating to both forums often being considered under the same agenda item, it would be sensible for him to join the Committee of the Beeston Community Forum although this would be a matter for Eddie Leatham and the meeting. Eddie Leatham agreed to seek election to the Beeston Community Forum Committee; the necessary resolution to elect him was agreed .

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Rev Lindsey Pearson recalled that the Forum had passed a resolution supporting repairs to the clock at St. Mary's Church. Two applications have been submitted but she has heard nothing .She pointed out that following a suggestion by the Save Our Beeston Campaign, a sponsored walk around Beeston is being organised, to start at 1130 am on Sunday 12th March . The walk will be around four miles in length and some people have indicated that they would walk. It is envisaged that walkers would be back in time for a light lunch at the Parish Centre. She had a number of sponsorship forms with her. . It would be good to know who will take part for catering purposes . Lindsey Pearson noted that she will be away for the next week. It was noted that the sponsor forms have no contact details

16.2 Bill Birch noted that a number of timetables had been produced in connection with the public inquiry for the Aspiring Communities planning application, but he does not quite know what these timetables mean. Accordingly , he proposed a resolution authorising the committee to take any action it thinks fit in connection with putting the forum's case to the Inquiry . This was passed with no votes against. It was noted that Jeremy Morton and Lindsey Pearson abstained . Richard Bell said he does not understand the terms of reference of the inquiry. Robert Winfield noted that he had received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate clarifying aspects of this . Rosemary Casserley said that the plans incorporate twenty toilets for men but only two for women. She said that the facility is supposed to be for everyone . Are the developers prejudiced against women? Christine Thornton noted that this is a valid point but noted that the time to put in objections has elapsed . Bill Birch noted that the Save Our Beeston Campaign recently held a meeting with a Leeds City Council planning officer. Would the inquiry simply be a case of Aspiring Communities versus Leeds City Council . The Save Our Beeston campaign had been informed that this is not the case and that Leeds City Council would defend their position in relation to the planning application on the grounds of environmental impact and the suitability of the buildings . Bill Birch added that Aspiring Communities has applied for costs from Leeds City Council in connection with the non determination of the application. Bill Birch added that an issue is what aspiring Communities have done in the community

16.3 Robert Winfield raised the issue of publicity for forum meetings . He noted that in recent times , there has been a significant decline in attendance at the meetings. He noted that local residents cannot be expected to attend the meetings if they are not aware that the meetings have taken place. He noted that the task of circulating posters advertising our meetings had been undertaken by Greg Turton, who is no longer a member of the committee and John Fenton, who has now moved away from Leeds . Several current members of the committee have difficult personal circumstances. Against this background, Robert Winfield wondered whether any Forum members might be willing to assist with the circulation of posters. Rev Lindsey Pearson offered to place a poster on her church notice board. Robert Winfield agreed to email posters to her. Christine Thornton noted that no posters are displayed in Beeston Village Community Centre. It was agreed that Robert Winfield write to Toshali Bhatia of Health for All (Leeds) about this matter