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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

### Beeston Forum General Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers- Councillor James Lewis, Chairman, Metro and Graham Riley, First Leeds
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014
6. Police Report
7. Report of the subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston
- 8.. Report of the Committee meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014
9. Correspondence
10. Discussion about the Planning Application relating to Cockburn School
- 11 Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Attendance:- Mr R. Bell ( in the chair in the absence of Christine Thornton) , Mr. J. Adamson, Mrs. D. Ansboro, Mr.G. Ansboro, , Mr. D. Belton, Mr.J. Belton, Mr. D. Blackburn, Mrs. J. Blackburn, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mrs. R. Casserley, Mr.S. Casserley, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. B. Flynn, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. P. Goodfield, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. D. Kenny, Mr. E. Leathem, Mr. A. Mahmood, D. McGough, Mr. J. Morton, Miss E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton and Mr R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks . Richard Bell welcomed those present to the meeting and noted that he did not realise that he would be in the Chair for the meeting ( in view of Christine Thornton's absence)

2. Tribute to John Hodgson, deceased. Robert Winfield regretted to bring to the attention of the Forum, the recent death, on 20th August, of John Hodgson . Robert Winfield noted that John Hodgson had been a founder member of the Beeston Forum Committee , serving as the Treasurer of the Forum from the foundation of the Forum, until he stepped down from the position after he had served in the position for ten years. He then continued as a member of the Forum Committee until he resigned from the Committee in February 2012. Robert Winfield said that John Hodgson always had the best interests of the Community of Beeston to heart and as always putting his views forward at Forum meetings, most recently at the last meeting of the Forum, which had taken place just two weeks before he died. Robert Winfield noted that in the earlier days of the Forum, John Hodgson had kept a tally of good things undertaken by the Beeston Community Forum. He wondered whether it would be appropriate for someone to revive this . Robert Winfield invites the members of the Forum present to stand in silence in memory of John Hodgson. This period of silence was duly observed .

3. Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor David Congreve, John Fenton, Arthur Kirby, John Peckham, Christine Thornton and Noor Zaman
4. Guest Speaker - Robert Winfield noted that the guest speaker was to have been Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP. However, Robert Winfield pointed out that he had, on the previous day, received an e mail from Mr Benn's office explaining that he would no longer be able to attend the meeting because he has to be in London for a Private Members Bill dealing with the 'Bedroom Tax' which starts first thing the following morning. In the light of Hilary Benn's inability to attend the meeting, the meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we make enquiries of Mr Benn as to whether he will be in a position to attend either of the Forum meetings for which no guest speaker had so far been arranged; the meeting in November, or the meeting in January (which, Robert Winfield noted, would take place on 8th January, as the first Thursday of the month is New Years Day).
5. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th August. Robert Winfield noted that it had been drawn to his attention that pages 2 and 4 of the document incorporating the agenda and minutes had not been printed. Against this background, Robert Winfield felt that it would not be appropriate to ask the meeting to consider a resolution to accept the minutes as a fair and accurate report of the meeting. Robert Winfield said that he would arrange for the document to be reprinted, and that the minutes would be considered by the next meeting of the Forum.
6. Police Report - it was noted that no members of the police service were present at the meeting, nor had any explanation been given for their absence.
7. Report of the Subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston. Greg Turton noted that there as little to report as he had recently been on holiday. Robert Winfield noted that the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 21st August had considered a draft of the Constitution for the Neighbourhood Forum. It is hoped that we will shortly be in a position to apply for designation of the Neighbourhood Forum. Greg Turton noted that it will be necessary to submit a statement of case to show that the application complies with relevant legislation. Greg Turton noted that he had taken the Statement of Case submitted by the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum and adapted this for Beeston. Greg Turton noted that Alex Cowling, who assists Ian Mackay on the Leeds City Council Neighbourhood Planning Team had been asked to produce a draft of a constitution, otherwise we would have overrun the timescale on our project plan. It was noted that Alex Cowling had produced a generic constitution. Robert Winfield noted that the draft of the constitution had a number of shortcomings; however Richard Bell suggested that we thank Alex Cowling for his work. Greg Turton said that he is grateful to Ian Mackay for delegating this work to Alex Cowling. Richard Bell wondered whether we should publish the draft of the constitution on the Neighbourhood Plan website. Greg Turton said that the finalisation of the draft of the Constitution is a matter for the Neighbourhood Forum.
8. Report of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 21st August. Robert Winfield reported that the bulk of the meeting had been taken up by a detailed discussion about the draft Constitution for the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. Two other matters had been discussed briefly; the arrangements for the unlocking of the building before the start of the current meeting in view of Robert Winfield's day trip to the Beamish Museum earlier in the day, and a brief discussion of the Planning Application by Asda Stores Limited for its store on Old Lane. It was noted that the matter was being considered by a meeting of the Plans Panel in the afternoon of 4th September, making further consideration of the matter by the Forum impossible. Robert Winfield wondered whether any member of the audience was aware of the outcome of the meeting. No member of the Forum was aware of the outcome of the meeting. Robert Winfield noted that Asda's application for longer opening and delivery hours breached an undertaking given by Asda to the Forum that the store would not open 24 hours per day and that there would be no deliveries between 2300 and 0700. Robert Winfield noted that Asda are no longer seeking to open the store for 24 hours per day and that their application for delivery hours between 0600 and 2300 means that only the Reid between 0600 and 0700 is an issue. John Hook noted that Asda are seeking to sell liquor in the store between 0600 and 2400 whilst Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that Asda will only be allowed two deliveries between 0600 and 0700
9. Correspondence- Councillor Angela Gabriel had forwarded an e mail from Sue Watson, the Safety Officer of Leeds United FC to Robert Winfield. Sue Watson explained that she had been tasked with managing the traffic management plan for Leeds United FC. Previously, all traffic management around the football ground was managed by West Yorkshire Police. She added that they have completed the first few games of the season and are about to review their operation on Elland Road. dh wondered whether any local residents would wish to attend a meeting taking place at 1pm on Thursday September 4th. Robert Winfield noted that the original e mail had been sent to the Beeston and Holbeck Councillors less than 48 hours before the meeting to which it refers. Angela Gabriel confirmed that she had been unable to attend the meeting. Richard Bell pointed out that Leeds United FC had, in the past welcomed input from local residents. Robert Winfield noted that Shaun Harvey, when Chief Executive of Leeds United FC had been a regular guest speaker at Forum meetings. When he left Leeds United FC he expressed the wish that someone at the club would continue the relationship; unfortunately, when the ownership of Leeds United FC passed to GFH Capital, this did not happen. It as agreed that Robert Winfield would write to Mrs Watson to invite her to the next meeting to the Forum. It was hoped that this would lead to the re establishment of the relationship between the Forum and Leeds United FC.
10. Any Other Business
  - 10.1 When the minutes of this meeting were submitted for consideration by the following meeting of the Forum, Richard Bell and Doris Brooke stated that they did not make certain remarks attributed to them in this paragraph of original draft of the minutes. The remarks attributed to Richard Bell were amended following a telephone conversation with him. Although it is plain that the remarks attributed to Doris Brooke were made by someone, investigations could not identify the person who actually made the remarks. There follows a re-

drafted version of this paragraph which was approved by the Forum at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 A discussion took place about Leeds City Council's service for the collection of large household items. It was noted that a resident seeking to dispose of a refrigerator spent 30 minutes on the phone and was told that the Council could collect on 16th October. When the resident sought to dispose of a double bed, the resident's brother in law would have been able to take it to a excuse tip in a van, but vans are not allowed to enter tips. It was argued that this situation could lead to fly tipping in streets. Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that this service has been overwhelmed by demand and that no cuts had been made to it. Councillor Adam Ogilvie added that the waiting time for the service has been reduced; it had been 8 to 12 weeks but extra resources have enabled the waiting time to be reduced to one month. It was noted that dumping in the street occurs in areas where there are houses to let. Richard Bell noted that there are limitations as to what can be done to collect cumbersome items; he added that a service with a waiting time of 1 1/2 months is not a great service. Greg Turton said that fly tipping is affecting the community year in year out and that some people do not care if others are aggrieved. He felt that there needs to be a review which would consider imaginative ways of improving the service. He urged the councillors to take back the comments made at the Forum and make it clear that we are concerned. Richard Bell said that a wait of a month to collect bulky items could lead to other issues. It was argued that someone taking a van to a tip would be doing Leeds City Council a favour. Angela Gabriel pointed out that vans can go on certain days, for example Wednesdays; however Richard Bell pointed out that tips are blocked off to prevent the entry of large vehicles. Stuart Casserley noted that a licence is required for a commercial vehicle to enter a tip. He obtained a permit as he uses a small trailer rather than a car. Richard Bell said that he was aware of instances where individuals with no permit have been allowed onto the tip. He felt that those in charge have taken a pragmatic view. Doris Kenny said that she was aware of people visiting a waste tip being asked where they live. Angela Gabriel said that they are simply seeking to find out who is using the tip. Adam Ogilvie noted that he sits on the local environmental steering group. Angela Gabriel noted that skips can be provided free of charge for community clean ups, but stressed this must be for community use, rather than used by a single individual. She added that SLATE, based on Hunslet Road are willing to take discarded furniture. Rosemary Casserly noted they she still has the leaflet which was distributed at Christmas giving details of green bin collections. She noted that the leaflet also describes where it is possible to take old bicycles and electrical goods for disposal. The leaflet describes which tips are open and when. She also noted that rag and bone men visit her area. It was noted that scrapyards will not accept fridges due to CFCs. Pauline Johnson noted that when she purchased a new fridge she asked the company from whom it she had bought it to take her old fridge for disposal

10.2 Steve Francis referred to the work which was taking place at Beeston Primary School. It was hoped that children would be able to return to the school on the following Monday. The work was not totally finished; for example contractors are masking good the green area adjacent to the school. However, it is hoped that the school will then settle down and that there will then be no more development as this would affect the classrooms. Steve Francis added that a 20 mile per hour speed limit has been imposed on Cross Flatts Grove and in other areas of Beeston. People do not seem to be obeying this, but Steve Francis said that he is not surprised. Dennis Bottomley said that no one seems to be taking any notice of the speed limit.

10.3 Ash Mahmood noted that Aspiring Communities will be submitting a fresh planning application for the former Ice Pak premises on Barkly Road. There would be a public consultation involving a meeting at the premises between 2pm and 8pm on Wednesday 17th September to which all Forum members are invited and are welcome to look around the premises and ask questions. The official public consultation would take place at St Mary's Church between 7.30 pm and 8.30pm on Thursday 18th September. All local residents will receive a leaflet explaining the project. The plans have been downscaled massively from the previous planning application. Ash Mahmood said that Aspiring Communities has considered the comments made about their previous planning application. The size of the development had been reduced by 50% and there would be 192 parking places.

10.4 Pauline Johnson pointed out that that the off peak half fare on trains will no longer be available from 8th September. It will be necessary to pay the full fare between 4.01pm and 6.29pm, a situation which Pauline Johnson described as shocking. Mark Parry noted that it is no longer possible to use a cheap day return and a Metro Rover during the evening peak period, even on quiet trains. Pauline Johnson noted that when a group in which she is involved goes walking, it is impossible to predict with certainty when they would return. She posted out delays might be caused by unexpected accidents or illnesses. Mark Parry noted that the Campaign for Better Transport, in which he is involved, had set up a petition against the changes. There was a suggestion that the Forum should object to the changes; however Richard Bell pointed out that the Beeston Forum is for Beeston issues. Pauline Johnson said that money had been wasted on the trolleybus scheme and the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme.

10.5 Bernard Flynn had been made aware of a Planning Application made by Cockburn School for a path at the back of Southleigh Avenue (of which he is a resident) to the rear of Cockburn School. Angela Gabriel said that she had not been informed officially of this, but she understood that the proposal is related to the temporary relocation of pupils from Holbeck. Bernard Flynn said that he had heard something from local residents that this will run for three years. He added that traffic on Southleigh Road would be affected but that no one had been consulted. The deadline for representations relating to the planning application is 12th September. There were just two signs on lamp posts informing residents of the application, one of which was half way up a lamppost on Southleigh Drive. The Southleigh Residents Association had been trying to obtain information about the application from the school but had not been successful. No accommodation had been made for homes and there had been fears of an increase in the level of traffic. Bernard Flynn added that Southleigh Road is busy with parked cars and that the goodwill of an oncoming driver is required for an oncoming driver to pass. The Planning application does not stipulate any time restrictions. The entrance of the gateway to the playing fields is where the footpath starts. This is currently locked unless access is required. He added that this will become a second entrance to Cockburn High School for someone dropping off children. Bernard Flynn added that no one from Cockburn had contacted him, and added that the Planning application had been submitted in August when many people including staff at the school are on holiday. He added that he only found out

about the application last week, since when he has spent time away from home on holiday. A number of people have been putting out leaflets and many local residents had been surprised by the application. Rosemary Casserley said that she is involved with the Southleigh Residents Association. There would be a meeting at 6.45pm on the following Thursday at the School. She had also heard from Peter Nuttall who had informed her that there is no money to implement the plans and that they will therefore not happen. Adam Ogilvie pointed out that neither he nor Angela Gabriel had seen the planning application and that he would email the planning officers about this. Bernard Flynn said that he has brought a copy of the Planning application, including a map, to the meeting. He said that although the application would affect everyone on Southleigh Road, Southleigh Road is not included on the map. Angela Gabriel wondered whether Bernard Flynn had objected to the Planning application. He said that he had not yet done so. Robert Winfield wondered why the Planning application had been submitted and why the map of the Planning application had omitted Southleigh Road which would apparently be affected by the application. John Hook noted that he visited the Leeds Planning Office and had delivered a map relating to the Planning application to a number of local households which would be affected. The reaction of such residents is either that they would object, or that as they are behind a metal fence, they would not be affected. Angela Gabriel said that this is the first the Councillors had heard about the Planning application; no constituent had contacted them about this matter. John Hook said that he had been told by the School that this would be temporary for 12 months and was intended to keep younger children away from older children. He added that he had seen a Planning notice under the gates by a hedge on Southleigh Drive. Philip Goodfield noted that he is the Secretary of the Beeston Broncos, which uses the playing fields at Cockburn School. He has joined the shadow governing body of the new primary school (Lane End Primary School) and noted that he knew nothing about the planning application. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Forum would object to the planning application. Steve Casserley noted that 20 years ago, there was a gate in the bottom of the school at the fencing. Richard Bell said that this had been shut down in order to prevent people being abducted. Greg Turton wondered whether the planning application had been submitted by the School or the Education Department, noting that it is normally the Education Department which normally submits planning applications in these circumstances. Richard Bell felt that it is likely that the school management would have decided to submit the application. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Steve Francis that we write to Peter Nuttall of Cockburn School asking why no community consultation had taken place. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that she had been dealing with a local resident in connection with the use by Cockburn School of roads in the area for heavy vehicles. Adam Ogilvie noted that the councillors were aware of the temporary situation involving the new school, but not of what is effectively a new entrance for the school. The councillors will say that this is unacceptable. Rosemary Casserley referred to the situation involving car parking at Cockburn. She noted that this probably applies to other schools. There is limited parking for staff; when this is filled other vehicles park on the road. When an event takes place, people park where they can. The school has said that this is the responsibility of the Council, not the responsibility of the school, but she criticised the school for not taking responsibility in relation to visitors to the school. Richard Bell noted that he pays road fund licence and said that if it is legal for him to park, he will park. If vehicles are causing an obstruction or nuisance, their users should be subjected to penalties. Philip Goodfield said that the problem is that more people have cars than when the schools were built. Mary Dinsdale expressed concerns that all traffic to the school comes in one way on the Southleigh Estate. She expressed the view that this is dangerous and feared this could lead to an accident. Robert Winfield recalled that he had attended school on the site when it was Parkside High School. He noted that shortly after Parkside School closed, Cockburn High School relocated to the site after the original site had closed because of an asbestos scare. He noted that the school had expanded and that the present school buildings are unrecognisable from when he went to school on the site. Mary Dinsdale said that the way in which the school had been allowed to expand was unacceptable. This has caused problems which could have been avoided if the situation had been thought out. Many people had been saying that the estate could not cope from the increased traffic caused by the development of the school but this is a done deal. John Hook noted that he had received an email from the school explaining that the footpath will only be temporary. Robert Winfield wondered how we can be assured that the footpath will actually be temporary. Philip Goodfield said that the buildings where it is intended to teach the primary school pupils on a temporary basis already exist. It was never planned to use Cockburn but this had proved necessary. The new school is being built as there are not enough schools for all the children in the area. He added that Cockburn School is part of a Co-operative trust and as such should reflect the views of local residents. Bernard Flynn said that Cockburn School already has an acceptable entrance where buses can draw in.

10.6 A member of the audience asked what the current situation is with Wesley Street Methodist Church. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that she was aware that planning permission had been granted for flats but she suspected that this had expired. Sandra Burton said that she had heard that the original developer had died; the site was then purchased by his son who later went bankrupt. Edna Newton noted that the original plans had been drawn up in 2007

