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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 2nd August 2018 Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Ratification of new Neighbourhood Forum members**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 5th July 2018**
- 5. Police Report**
- 6. Discussion about the Neighbourhood Forum**
- 7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 12th July 2018**
- 8. Correspondence**
- 9. The Leeds Clean Air Zone**
- 10. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 5th July 2018

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. J. Birch, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. S. Francis, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. E. Leathem, Mr. A. Mahmood, Mrs. M. Munro, Mr. M. Parry, PCSO Sharon Robinson (West Yorkshire Police), Councillor A. Scopes, Mr. M. Shamraze, PC Craig Varley (West Yorkshire Police), Mrs. S. Waugh (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks. Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting on what she described as a 'beautiful summer evening'. She noted that this was an auspicious day, being the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of the National Health Service, for which she worked for 47 years.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gohar Almass, Richard Bell, Mark Clayton and Councillor Angela Gabriel

3. Ratification of new Neighbourhood Forum members. There were none to be ratified

4. Guest Speaker. Christine Thornton introduced the guest speaker, Mark Burns Williamson, OBE; Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

4.1 Mark Burns Williamson said that the meeting reminds me of his old days as Councillor, when he used to meet in pub rooms which were a little warm. He would try to keep his remarks fairly brief, speak about things which he is doing, and hear about local issues. He thanked the Forum for its invitation, and noted that he had attended a number of Forum meetings which he recalled had taken place at

Beeston Village Community Centre. Christine Thornton noted that the Community Centre has been demolished. He noted that two colleagues from West Yorkshire Police were in attendance ; PCSO Sharon Robinson and PC Craig Varley , who are part of the local team. In addition, Sharon Waugh, the Engagement Manager for the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office was also in attendance.

4.2 Mark Burns Williamson briefly explained his role. He is the elected Police and Crime Commissioner, not a police officer. He sets the police budget , which amounts to £430 million. West Yorkshire Police is the fourth largest force in England and Wales. The Police and Crime Commissioner also sets the Police and Crime plan, which sets out priorities for the police force. He also holds the police to account . There are four priorities, which are worked out as a result of consultation with the police and a number of partners including the public. The priorities are tackling crime and anti social behaviour, safeguarding the vulnerable, supporting victims and witnesses and ensuring criminal justice works. Mark Burns Williamson noted that he is in the process of refreshing the Police and Crime Plan. There is an overall vision of keeping West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe. He noted that copies of his latest newsletter had been handed out to those attending the meeting . He highlighted the launch of Victims Services , which Mark Burns Williamson had been responsible for commissioning . Victim Support has won a £3.6 million contract to provide support for victims or witnesses over three years. This includes people who have not reported crime but want to speak to Victim Support. For further details , it is possible to visit Mark Burns Williamson's website or go to Victim Support, which is open to members of the public for advice

4.3 Mark Burns Williamson noted that he appoints the Chief Constable ; currently Dee Collins, whom he noted has done a good job, and has recently been awarded the CBE . She has been the Chief Constable for two years in a permanent role , and leads for women in policing nationally. She consults widely within the force and keeps her feet on the ground. She has done a good job in difficult circumstances . Mark Burns Williamson noted that it is his role to hold the Chief Constable to account through various meetings . There are Community Outcomes Meetings , in which those present go through the Police and Crime Plan and check how the police are performing against the plan. There are also joint Executive Group meetings to make key decisions. Mark Burns Williamson added that he is held to account by the Police and Crime Panel , which consists of councillors and appointed members and meets regularly. The members also go through the Police and Crime Plan.

4.4 Mark Burns Williamson noted that he was a Wakefield District Councillor for 15 years and had been Chairman of the Police Authority for 10 years. He was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2012 when the position was introduced by the government and re elected in 2016. He has a wide remit. Mark Burns Williamson chairs the local Criminal Justice Board , which works with the courts and the probation service , and looks at decisions made. Mark Burns Williamson said that the splitting of the probation service has not been successful , and has not delivered. He would like more powers to be devolved so that more decisions are taken at local level. He particularly wished to see devolution of decisions relating to the probation service ; he does not agree with recent decisions.

4.5 With regard to funding, Mark Burns Williamson noted that a number of departments had been lobbying for funding. He referred to the 70th birthday of the NHS , and noted that we would all want to see a better and properly funded NHS , but policing equally needs funding. The police service has suffered a £140 million cut since 2010, and 2000 officers and staff had been lost . This has been big impact , but the force has been recruiting staff for some time. Mark Burns Williamson noted that he had raised money on the police council tax precept. He noted that he had used his power to raise an extra £12. Had he not done that, there would have been no growth. Public feedback , he said, supports this increase in council tax providing this recruits new officers

4.6 Mark Burns Williamson noted that he has undertaken a review of Neighbourhood Policing with new teams being introduced in April. He has protected the number of PCSOs, of whom there are 603 in West Yorkshire . He noted that in Leeds, Leeds City Council has provided additional matched funding , which he noted has made a difference. He added that surveys are carried out to determine the level of confidence and satisfaction in policing. In Leeds , there are higher ratings than elsewhere in West Yorkshire due to the additional PCSOs. Shift systems have changed from a public facing point of view and this has been tougher on the staff but everyone going into the teams knew that . Neighbourhood Policing is what Mark Burns Williamson believes in . He said that members of the public want to see and engage with local officers. He asked whether cuts to other services such as youth services have an impact on the police . He noted that the 101 telephone line is difficult to get through to due to demand . The police budget ensures that there are no vacancies in the call centre , and that overtime is offered. Mark Burns Williamson noted that he has been into the call centre , and sat with call handlers. He had spent two hours in the call centre earlier in the year. He noted that calls had included threats to commit suicide by jumping from a bridge over a motorway, domestic violence , and children having been left at home. Thus , many calls are not about crime but about safeguarding issues. He noted that the police is dealing with missing persons and added that much domestic violence is due to safeguarding and mental health issues.

4.7 Mark Burns Williamson hopes to see the Neighbourhood policing model settle down over the next year . It is under review. He noted that new officers are young and inexperienced and have to be mentored. They cannot go out without support, and there is an impact on more experienced staff . They then go on independent patrol status. Mark Burns Williamson noted that serious and violent crime has been in the news. There have been increases in West Yorkshire , for example in knife crime and firearms offences , but not to the same extent as in London or Birmingham. He noted that the news is dominated by London. He does not want to see crime reach the levels seen elsewhere.

4.8 Mark Burns Williamson noted that he has been funding programmes involving going into schools which raises awareness of gangs and the implications of knife crime. He referred to the Safer Communities Fund . The proceeds of crime money had been themed

around violence and serious crime. 100 applications for money are being looked at. The next round of grants opens in October. Mark Burns Williamson said that there is likely to be a more general focus £2.2 million has been given to 500 groups at a time when we have seen cuts to youth services and other groups. Anti Social Behaviour is always up there in terms of issues raised by the public. Good weather contributes to an increase in Anti Social Behaviour as more people are outside. The police are working with Leeds City Council to address these issues, which are not just policing issues. They are looking at tasking meetings , considering issues such as housing . A reducing re offending strategy is being finalised. It is also intended to look at sentences. Some are very short; evidence suggests that these will not work. Mark Burns Williamson noted that he has recently visited Armley Jail . Some inmates had been damaging the walls knowing that they would be released soon and that nothing would be done. The Crown Prosecution Service will not take a case unless a certain threshold of damage is reached ; a situation Mark Burns Williamson described as nonsense . He added that the government has made a mess of the system and there has been no analysis of the types of sentencing and the behaviour of people coming out of jail . Some of them do not want rehabilitation although others do.

4.9 Mark Burns Williamson referred to cyber crime. He described this as crimes without borders and committed through the use of technology such as mobile phones, I pads and laptops. There is a national shortage of investigators, not just in West Yorkshire . Mark Burns Williamson is seeking to improve this situation. He noted that the College of Policing , which sets accreditation standards , has a role. The police budget will recruit 500 digital investigators . He added that online crime is mind boggling and the public expect capabilities . Cyber crime is growing . Child sex exploitation, revenge porn and cyber bullying are real things . Many young people live their lives online.

4.10 Road Safety is one of the two most important issues raised by the public. Additional funds from the £12 increase in the police precept will increase the road policing capacity and the intercept team . The police use Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in order to combat dangerous driving and speeding. Mark Burns Williamson said that the use of mobile phones at the wheel is a real threat to the safety of drivers and pedestrians. It only takes few seconds for tragedies to occur . He added that incidents such as the recent crash in Horsforth, where four young people had died , happen too often.

4.11 Mark Burns Williamson noted that the Neighbourhood Policing Team works with Leeds City Council and Community groups . All have an important part to play. Mark Burns Williamson added that he is working with a number of West Yorkshire MPs in relation to Protect the Protectors. He referred to the Emergency Services Workers Bill which deals with assaults on PCSOs , Police Constables , workers in the fire service and paramedics . Officers have been equipped with body worn cameras which are a good thing, but some people think it is acceptable to assault the police. Holly Lynch, the MP for Halifax is leading and the bill has cross party support . Mark Burns Williamson recently wrote to the Home Secretary expressing the hope that Brexit does not derail the timetable .

4.12 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. John Cunningham asked whether the march due to be taking place on the Saturday after the meeting had been cancelled . Mark Burns Williamson said that this would be a big day; the police have known for some time about two 'so called demonstrations' taking place then. A number of groups will be coming together in Leeds and Wakefield, and the force will be stretched . There has been a meeting with Leeds City Council about safety issues. The England Football team will also be playing at 3p.m on that day ; this does not help from a policing perspective . He can understand why people want to counterdemonstrate but this is not helpful. There is the potential for conflict and more police resources are required . The police will try to confine march to certain designated areas in Leeds City Centre . He noted that social media has a downside in some areas. Myra Munro asked what the protesters are marching for. Mark Burns Williamson noted that the demonstrators are marching in favour of Tommy Robinson, who was arrested outside Leeds Crown Court for contempt of court. He described him as extremely distasteful, but noted that we live in a democracy in which people have the right to express their views. Eddie Leatham asked about the costs involved. Mark Burns Williamson said that this would amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds as a bare minimum. He noted that there is mutual aid, in which forces support one another, but there is a bigger bill for the force due to cancelled rest days . It is not possible to claim the money from the government as this amounts to less than 2% of the budget and can be absorbed .Councillor Andrew Scopes noted that the march is planned to take place on 7th July (the anniversary of the London bombings) and would bring back memories

4.13 Councillor Andrew Scopes noted that Mark Burns Williamson had been criticised for the level of reserves during the recent local elections . He noted that in Leeds there are a number of priority neighbourhoods , including Holbeck and Beeston Hill in which Leeds City Council is investing extra money . He asked how much extra resources can the police put in as there is more crime in more deprived areas. He added that the current police team is doing a good job. Mark Burns Williamson acknowledged that there are reserves , but noted that all funds are earmarked . The force needs savings over the next 4 to 5 years as the government has given a flat cash settlement which is effectively a cut, as it takes no account of pay awards and inflation. Mark Burns Williamson added that details of his reserves strategy are published on his website Reserves exist to police public demonstrations. In addition, a risk assessment is required to deal with counter terrorism and a sum of money is required . Mark Burns Williamson said that if he does not do that , he would be negligent . He noted that once money has been spent it is gone . It is necessary to look at where the threats are and deploy the police on a daily basis . PC Craig Varley added that there is a briefing lasting 20 minutes before the police come on duty . A supervisor identifies key issues then deploys officers accordingly. Mark Burns Williamson noted that sometimes this happens jointly with Leeds City Council . He noted that the police force works with departments including Housing, Environmental Health , Fire and Rescue and Trading Standards (in connection with frauds and scams) on a daily basis .

4.14 Bill Birch said that the budget is a matter of judgement. He felt that it is too pessimistic. He said that we need more officers on the

beat , and noted that the government has got things wrong as there have been too many police cuts . The level of reserves is high and we want more police deployed. He added that he was unhappy with the use of the PFI scheme to build three police stations at a cost of £280 million. He said that we want more spending on people and less on buildings. Mark Burns Williamson said that the relevant PFI deal had been undertaken 8 to 9 years ago, and had been used to build the new Elland Road Police Station, a building in Wakefield and the Carr Gate training centre. He described Elland Road Police Station as state of the art. He noted that it would have been impossible to afford new buildings from traditional capital budgets. PFI was being pushed by the government . He noted that this was one of the best PFI deals and I had to go through a Home Office business case . The cost to the taxpayer has been less than PFI deals in health and education, and has given good value for money. It would have been impossible to build without PFI . Reserves are a one off and cannot be used for revenue spending . It would be necessary to make staff redundant. Much funding is earmarked to balance the books. It is necessary to build reserves for the new Kirklees Police Headquarters as the present Huddersfield Police Station is not fit for purpose. Mark Burns Williamson noted that he is now seeking to avoid PFI deals. He added that the extra council tax is about recruiting additional officers and staff. He has closed the door on PCSO recruitment . He added that he wants to see vacancies filled. He said that the government is passing the burden by cutting from the centre, so that the burden falls on local taxpayers . This, he said is the equivalent of the social care levy.

4.15 Bill Birch referred to the consultation exercise in relation to the additional police precept. He noted that the additional £12 was far more than people voted for , and said that this had been a strange consultation even though the money was needed . Mark Burns Williamson said that when the consultation took place , he was unaware of the flexibility on the level of £12. He noted that 70% of respondents had been willing to pay for than £5 and a large percentage had been willing to pay more than £10. He noted that every Police and Crime Commissioner chose to raise an additional £12; without doing that, there would have been no growth in policing

4.16 Mr Shamraze noted that he works in the public sector and that he deals with increasing demand alongside a decreasing budget and resources. He noted that the aim is to work smarter , and noted that the public sector is behind on the technology used . He noted that some processes and procedures are counterproductive and asked whether there are any plans to implement technology rather than adding people to address demand. Mark Burns Williamson noted that officers are equipped with technology including body cameras, airwave radios and mobile devices . He had set up a fund to pay for these when first elected. He noted that the police have been reducing their estates in terms of cutting costs; however, no one envisaged the level of cuts which occurred in 2010. He noted that the object is to enable officers to do as much as possible when out and about, rather than needing to return to the station. However , anyone who is arrested will need to be taken to a custody area. He noted that officers are now brought up to utilise technology

4.17 Ken Burton asked how many cases of speeding on Dewsbury Road have there been. He also asked why there is a report of a driver with 62 penalty points on his licence driving on West Yorkshire roads. Mark Burns Williamson acknowledged that he does not know the answer to this question . Sharon Waugh said that she would have that information. Ken Burton referred to speeding which occurs at weekends , involving people racing on quad bikes at 60-70 mph . He asked whether this shows up. Mark Burns Williamson said that this does show up, and those responsible are issued with fixed penalty notices. He referred to the West Yorkshire casualty reduction partnership , involving the five West Yorkshire district councils and West Yorkshire Police. This looks at statistics involving cameras , speeding and traffic accidents . Ken Burton said tat it makes a mockery of police catching people if a driver is allowed on the road with 62 penalty points. Mark Burns Williamson described this as an unbelievable case. Ken Burton noted that the magistrate involved in the case had taken account of the fact that the driver would lose his job if banned from driving. Ken Burton said that if he did not think of his job when offending , why should anyone else.

4.18 Steve Francis noted that eight months ago , he had been the victim of cyber crime during the process of selling his house. The proceeds of the sale of his house were traced to a bank in Cambridge. Steve Francis reported this matter to Action Fraud which passed on the details to Cambridgeshire Police and West Yorkshire Police. He had heard very little apart from his solicitor saying that the money had been followed and they had got most of it back . Steve Francis noted that neither he nor his solicitor had been contacted by Cambridgeshire Police or West Yorkshire Police. He had received a letter from Cambridgeshire Police explaining that the case had been closed as there is no chance of success . Mark Burns Williamson said that if Steve Francis sends him the details, he will follow the matter up .

4.19 Bill Birch referred to the managed prostitution zone in Holbeck which , he noted , is causing significant problems in Holbeck, Beeston Hill and even in Beeston. He asked whether it is a policy decision to partner Leeds City Council in the zone , and whether there is a mechanism for a review and to see whether the policy is working. He noted that Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum held a seminar involving the former Chief Constable of the force covering Ipswich explaining how street prostitution had been eliminated by tackling kerb crawlers. He wondered whether West Yorkshire Police can follow Ipswich in following a proactive approach rather than seeking to hold prostitution and the associated drug problem in Holbeck. Mark Burns Williamson noted that the managed zone has been signed off by Safer Leeds . He is aware of concerns about this , but noted that other evidence points to the conclusion that prostitution is being managed better than if Holbeck was simply left as a red light district. This is a partnership decision . He noted that each district sets plans and Leeds City Council supports this . This is not just signed off by West Yorkshire Police. Mark Burns Williamson noted that he has walked around Holbeck and spoken to the local MP . He noted that two key individuals (sex workers) had recently been arrested. PC Craig Varley noted that the sex workers concerned are currently in jail and that this has had an impact on the number of calls and behaviour. PCSO Sharon Robinson noted that there are ongoing issues with one person and that the police are building up a case. Bill Birch said that the police are doing great work but the policy is wrong. Targeting prostitutes is not the answer as they live chaotic lives on drugs and and take what people give them. He had asked for details of arrests and cautions last

year and was told that there had not been a single one. He had written on 7th May, 12th June and 27th June asking for relevant data , but has received no reply. He has reported the matter to the Information Commissioners Office because of his suspicions that the relevant data is being systematically withheld . He also wrote to Mark Burns Williamson's Office on 27th June but had so far received no response. Mark Burns Williamson noted that the letter had only been sent the previous week . Bill Birch asked why the data is not forthcoming unless someone had taken a decision not to release it. Mark Burns Williamson said that he would look into this. He also noted that the managed prostitution zone divides opinions . He noted that some organisations working with sex workers support the managed zone as the alternatives would be more chaotic. He noted that Safer Leeds reviews the policy every year . Bill Birch noted that the former policeman from Ipswich had demonstrated how to get rid of street prostitution, which, Bill Birch noted is an endemic problem in Holbeck due to the managed zone . Mark Burns Williamson noted that he had not attended the meeting to which he refers , but he was sure that it is possible to get evidence on the other side of the argument . We need a proper analysis. Christine Thornton observed that prostitution is the oldest profession in the world. She felt that it should be legalised. Sex workers can be monitored and screened . This should take women off the streets . She asked whether this has been discussed in the UK . Mark Burns Williamson noted that this has been discussed in Parliament. Councillor Andrew Scopes noted that there have been discussions about the Amsterdam and Swedish models. He noted that Amsterdam does not take prostitution off the street . No solution deals with all the problems. The government should come down one way or the other and should not sit on the fence. John Cunningham noted that the local police are lucky. The locals moan but they cannot do anything physical. He noted that the locals went out in Chapeltown , attacked kerb crawlers and chased them night after night . The prostitutes then cleared out to Water Lane and later to Holbeck. Christine Thornton said that we do not want vigilantism. Mr Shamraze felt that prostitution has a direct link to immigration and drugs. People on drugs are people who have been promised work if they came to the UK . They are stuck. He noted that the problem is managed in a certain way. Better intelligence is obtained by working with people there. People identified with drugs and trafficking are better identified. Councillor Andrew Scopes noted that Supt Sam Miller is looking at the data with a view to analysing it. He added that the managed approach aims to help women out of prostitution . No single policy will solve the problem overnight . There is a need to find solutions to a long term problem. Mark Burns Williamson noted that a report went to Safer Leeds at the end of last year. There had been a joint decision, on balance, to continue the scheme. Bill Birch asked whether the report is in the public domain. Mark Burns Williamson confirmed that it is. Bill Birch said that there is a lack of redemption in the policy. There is no evidence that prostitutes are saved. Would there be a change of view if prostitutes are saved and kerb crawlers and pimps are jailed? Steve Francis pointed out that prostitution is not an offence but kerb crawling and soliciting is . Mobile phones had resulted in women being on the street as there are no phone boxes in which they can leave their cards .

5. Police Report

5.1 PCSO Sharon Robinson noted that there have been 17 crimes since the last meeting.

5.2 It was noted that there have been two shed, eight house and one garage burglary. There was a shed burglary on Barkly Grove on 10th June. There was a burglary on Marley Grove on 9th June in which thieves entered through an insecure window and stole a computer. On 9/10 June, money was stolen from a property on Noster Hill after a break in . On 16/17 June , there was a house burglary on Cardinal Square between 7.30p.m and 12 am in which electrical equipment was stolen. Technically, this is a domestic situation. On 19th June between 9 am and 7pm there was an attempted burglary on Cross Flatts Place. On 21st June at around 4 am there was an attempted burglary on Cross Flatts Place in which the intending thief tried the door. On Cross Flatts Terrace, a thief stole two sets of car keys and then a vehicle, obtaining access to the property through an insecure door . On 23rd June in Noster Street computer equipment had been stolen and the front porch damaged . There was an insecure window. There was a house burglary on Cross Flatts Terrace in the afternoon of 28th June. Nothing was stolen. Between 1am and 10.30 am on 22nd June , there was a shed burglary on Chatswood Crescent in which tools were stolen.

5.3 It was noted that there were three thefts from motor vehicles. In Beeston Road, a van was broken into and a window smashed . In Marsden Avenue on 30th June/1st July, tools and a satellite navigation system were stolen. The entry method is unknown. On 1st June between 2.30 am and 9am on Parkfield Row, a thief gained entry to a vehicle and stole parcels and hand tools.

5.4 One vehicle was stolen from Elland Road by unknown means on 7th July between 7p.m and 10.30p.m

5.5 It was noted that there were two robberies. One , on Waincliffe Place involved the theft of a bike . The owner of the bike recovered the bike but was then threatened. On Oakhurst Avenue, a male punched someone and took a mobile phone and a wallet

5.6 PC Craig Varley urged those present not to go away scared. He noted that the police are doing quite well even though any crime is too much crime. There have been two notable arrests of people involved in incidents in relation to burglaries. Plain clothes officers are carrying out extra patrols on nights in the Cross Flatts area and the top end of Beeston . This is linked in to the Neighbourhood Policing team . He noted that in certain circumstances, people believe that their car is locked and cannot understand how thieves gain entry. He urged members of the public to check that their car is locked and not leave valuables on show. He noted that people walk down the street and try car door handles in the space of five or six seconds . PC Varley said that he would touch on an emerging problem; that of off road and nuisance motor bikes driving in an anti social manner. There is an ongoing investigation and eight warrants had been executed in the previous week, with two warrants being executed in the present week. Police seized off road bikes (including one potentially stolen) going towards Middleton. The suspect is involved in incidents of anti social driving. The routes taken by the bikes have an impact on this area.

5.7 PC Craig Varley said that CCTV images of a suspect involved in the arson attack on a mosque and a Sikh temple just outside

Beeston had been published on the West Yorkshire Police website on 29th June. Anyone with information can report this securely. This is not monitored 24 hours per day but checked at 7 am every morning. A number of incidents have been dealt with including one on Dewsbury Road, one in Tempest Road onto Beeston Road, one on Elland Road next to the Police Station and one in the Cross Flatts Area. There have been five seizures of vehicles with no insurance, five arrests of people driving over the alcohol limit and one arrest for a positive drug test.

6. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 14th June 2018 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

7. Matter arising. Christine Thornton recalled that at the last meeting, Sgt Saville had suggested a discussion about the main priorities for the police force in this area. Christine Thornton suggested that this should be postponed to a future meeting. Councillor Andrew Scopes agreed that drugs are a problem. He had recently met with the person at Leeds City Council responsible for drugs, alcohol and tobacco, Daniel Byrne, who is putting together a strategy. There is an acknowledgement that a better strategy is needed involving prevention, education, crime and disorder, treatment and recovery and emerging issues such as Spice, which, Andrew Scopes noted is wrongly perceived as an alternative to cannabis, but is in fact an amphetamine. He added that there is a lot of misinformation going to drug users. The problems are not just in Beeston and Holbeck ward but outside the Trinity Shopping Centre. Daniel Byrne intends to bring in a five year strategy covering the years 2019 to 2024. The task for the community is to hold him to account. Andrew Scopes noted that he had left the meeting confident that Daniel Byrne recognises that there is a real problem. Christine Thornton acknowledged that she is cynical; she had heard about strategies when working in the NHS and the problems had not stopped. Bill Birch felt that we should look at needle exchange. Lots of needles are being dropped. He is concerned that needle exchange is not working. He could not find out how it is operating and who is running what. Andrew Scopes said that needle exchange is a commissioned service by Leeds City Council involving 116 needle exchange pharmacies. Christine Thornton noted that people using drugs must opt in. Intravenous drug users are not saying that they need needles. Andrew Scopes said that the nearest needle exchange pharmacy is on Dewsbury Road. He felt that we need one closer, for example in the Beeston Hill/Holbeck area together with a greater push on education. Christine Thornton said that we need to get the service to people who need to use it. Bill Birch noted that he had asked how many needles are being given out and got back. He had never received an answer. This should be one for one. Christine Thornton said that something is needed to put used needles in so that they are not dropped in the street. Bill Birch wondered whether needles are given out one at a time, five at a time or ten at a time. Christine Thornton said that people should be treated the same as diabetics; one needle for each injection. She is concerned about needles being thrown about. Andrew Scopes said that he is particularly concerned about Beggars Hill where children, who are unaware of the dangers involved in handling or licking needles play. He noted that he has a five year old son.

8. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

8.1 Mark Parry noted that the Neighbourhood Forum website is completely out of date and in particular had not advertised the Neighbourhood Forum AGM in May. He would be happy to update the website upon receipt of the e mail

8.2 Christine Thornton noted that herself, Pam Jones and Colin Hendrick Ward had spent an hour and a half surveying parts of Beeston. Christine Thornton noted that she had seen parts of Beeston which she did not know exist. She noted that they started at the Vicarage, then went down Kirk Beston. They had seen lots of houses and trees, and a previously unknown recreation ground. Christine Thornton had never been there. Pam Jones described this as hidden treasure. Colin Hendrick Ward remembered a footpath which he had used in the past. Christine Thornton discussed who uses the playing field, which is clearly maintained by Leeds City Council as the grass had been cut. Pam Jones noted that her experience had proved that the exercise was worthwhile. She and her colleagues had identified areas and had spoken about leafleting them to get residents living there to get them involved. Colin Hendrick Ward noted that he had seen number of Health and Safety issues including two windows at height where children can reach them which had been broken for five years. Pam Jones noted that she had found people using public highways as drives and bringing vehicles up paths, which she described as dangerous. Colin Hendrick Ward noted that he had asked a man about the name of the wooded area at the back of his house and was told that it is called 'The wooded area'

9. Report of Committee meeting held on 21st June 2018. Christine Thornton noted that this had looked at Forward Planning and Speakers and our stall at the Beeston Festival

10. Correspondence

10.1 Robert Winfield noted that he had issued the usual invitations to attend the Forum AGM on 6th December. Each of the Beeston and Holbeck Councillors had responded; however Hilary Benn MP and the Lord Mayor Councillor Graham Latty would be unable to attend.

10.2 Robert Winfield noted that he had spoken by telephone to Ben Searson of Co-op Estate Planning who had expressed an interest in attending a future meeting as a guest speaker. Mr Searson subsequently mailed him. Robert Winfield noted that he had pointed out that all meetings up to and including February 2019 have allotted guest speakers, that he has no authority to invite guest speakers unilaterally, and the question of whether he would be invited would be likely to be decided by the Forum Committee to be elected at the AGM in December 2018.

10.3 Robert Winfield noted that he had spoken to Pat McGeever, Chief Executive of Health for All (Leeds), whom he had met by chance in Leeds City Centre. Pat McGeever informed him that there had been a further delay in the building of the new Beeston

Village Community Centre , which is now likely to start in August. The anticipated completion date is thus May 2019

11. The Beeston Festival. Christine Thornton noted that there will be one stall to be shared between the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. Volunteers are needed . Christine Thornton noted that she has the banners and that a table and two chairs had been ordered. [She added that as she will be manning her own stall, she will not be able to help on the Beeston Forum stall. We need people to spend time, possibly as little as 1 hour , between 12p.m and 5p.m. Myra Munro said that she would be away. Mark Parry said that he would be able to help in the afternoon between 3pm and 5p.m. Eddie Leatham would be able to help. Christine Thornton said that someone would be needed to set up the stall at the start of the festival, and wondered whether Eddie Leatham could come at 10.30 to help set up the stall. Colin Hendrick Ward said that she would be able to come.

12. Any Other Businesses

12.1 Mark Parry referred to plans for the clean air zone, noting that the original plans would have included Beeston. Owners of older diesel vehicles can either pay a fee or obtain a grant for the conversion of their vehicle to lower level. Mark Parry said that he was annoyed by the exclusion of South Leeds from the scheme , and said there had been pressure to do only the minimum necessary to meet legal targets . He suspected that government funding for conversion grants might be a little tight. He noted that there are more HGVs in the city due to industrial sites and suspected that these might have been taken out to avoid a difficult situation. He noted that Councillor Richard Lewis had said that there would be cleaner taxis and buses, but had not referred to cleaner HGVs. Mark Parry suggested that we should write about this . Councillor Andrew Scopes said that he would support writing a letter , and noted that this is one of the big issues which we should discuss. He added that modelling has suggested that our area would be no less clean if it is excluded from the clean air zone, than if it is included. Industrial areas are said to be near the motorway. He noted that 8000 lorries could be 'caught' by the bigger area. He noted that Client Earth are suing the government, which, they claim has not done enough to reduce emissions to 40 microgrammes per cubic metre. There is, he explained the potential for small businesses suing the council for going too far. He noted that vehicles are categorised as A; HGVs B; buses C; small vans and D ; cars. It is only possible to go as far down as necessary to secure clean air targets . Much of South Leeds is better than the targets . Andrew Scopes added that he does not think there is enough material to show the public that clean air is taken seriously. He added that the nine councillors in the Inner South Area had spoken to Councillor Richard Lewis and explained that there is a need to do more to enhance air quality , and if not a charging zone , what. Andrew Scopes said that he would be able to give far more detail; for example, in relation to EU Regulations. Pam Jones asked whether, if we are outside the clean air zone, this will encourage more depots and distribution centres. She noted that Beeston is one of the worse areas for chest problems and asthma. Andrew Scopes noted that there are a large number of small businesses with perhaps two or three lorries , which would be faced with costs of £80000 to £100000 if they are to upgrade. This is really challenging. Small businesses are objecting to Leeds City Council about this. Pam Jones said that re education is necessary, as in connection with smoking. Andrew Scopes said that the model shows that air quality will improve regardless of whether the clean air zone includes South Leeds. However, the modelling is not real but hypothetical . Eddie Leatham said that a new system will be put in, and vehicles coming through this area into Leeds City Centre must comply with new requirements. He added that the worst traffic is along Old Lane at peak times when traffic is bumper to bumper. Christine Thornton suggested that we could write to Leeds City Council to seek information , ask why this area is being excluded from the clean air zone and seeking relevant facts and figures. Andrew Scopes said that Leeds City Council has a difficult balance; we all want clean air but we do not want businesses going bankrupt. He has been to a meeting at which fears that small businesses would go bankrupt were expressed. Ash Mahmood asked what proportion of the fees would go to local government and what to central government . He said that we must lobby councillors and MPs to keep the money in Leeds and improve the environment in Leeds . Mark Parry said that it is possible to secure a grant for conversion. Ash Mahmood said that there is a slim chance of obtaining a grant and that a new hybrid costs £35000 to £40000; beyond the means of most people. What small business has a surplus of £100000 to upgrade its fleet? He suggested that we could benefit our environment by planting shrubs and hedges to take in carbon emissions and clean our air. It was suggested that Mark Parry, Andrew Scopes and Robert Winfield could get together to compose a suitable letter . Pam Jones wondered what businesses have been consulted; large distribution centres or smaller businesses . She noted that there had been discussion about siting distribution centres at the side of motorways . Christine Thornton noted that this area is flanked by motorways , and the problem has been noted . Andrew Scopes noted that there had been 9000 responses to the consultation; a large number. He suggested copying himself into the letter so that he would respond. He could also send Robert Winfield a relevant link. He added that large companies will comply with new rules and not pay anything as they are constantly renewing their fleets . Businesses such as Asda at Old Lane will have a clean truck. He noted that Holbeck is in the revised clean air zone area. Bill Birch suggested writing to Leeds City Council to ask what the pros and cons are ; on that basis we can then say whether we agree or disagree.

12.2 Sandra Burton asked who has bought Stank Hall Barn. Councillor Andrew Scopes said that no one has, although there is a preferred bidder. Ken Burton noted that he has been told that the deal has been done, but Leeds City Council would not say with whom. Andrew Scopes said that he would e mail Robert Winfield with full details so that these can be included in the minutes (*Secretary's Note: Andrew Scopes duly sent this e mail . He said 'At the time of writing this email, the latest information I have is that the preferred bidder for the Stank Hall is West Mill Venue Limited. They have previous experience of acquiring and restoring a Grade I listed mill building in Derbyshire. They also operate a wedding business in the venue. The same model is being suggested for the Stank Hall site.'*)

12.3 Ken Burton noted that a considerable amount of work was being undertaken at Concourse House . He does not know about it and has seen no planning notice. Christine Thornton noted that the building has been taken over by Al Murad tiles. Ken Burton noted that the top windows had been taken out and tiles removed from the roof. People are working there at weekends, and there have been

rumours that a snooker hall has been planned.

12.4 Bill Birch wondered what Aspiring Communities are currently doing. Ash Mahmood said that there is nothing new and as soon as there are any developments , he will e mail us .

12.5 Robert Winfield wondered what the views of Forum members are about the proposal to build a new railway station at the White Rose Centre. There were suggestions that this is a good idea as it might take cars off the road. Mark Parry, however feared that Cottingley Station might close. He noted that an office park might be built at Millshaw. If two stations are retained , an additional track might be necessary. Councillor Andrew Scopes confirmed that Cottingley Station is at risk. There had been a meeting with Councillor Richard Lewis . Andrew Scopes felt that it would be better if Cottingley Station remains open as there is limited bus transport from Cottingley to the White Rose. There are technical difficulties arising from the length of trains and tracks and from trains speeding up and slowing down again. Robert Winfield noted that he frequently walks to the White rose Centre and noted that this involves crossing the Ring Road leading from Dewsbury Road to the White Rose Centre at a place where there is no pedestrian crossing. He said that any White Rose station would be better used if a pedestrian crossing were installed at a suitable point. John Cunningham noted that many trains stop at both Cottingley and Morley. Christine Thornton feared that this would make the journey longer ; she cannot understand how slow the journey to Manchester is . Mark Parry noted that trains only stop at Cottingley in peak hours . Bill Birch said he would be concerned if Cottingley station closes , as it is a deprived struggling area . He noted that the Beeston to Cottingley bus service has been abolished and he does not trust First Leeds to keep up the level of bus services . He recalled that several years ago, First Leeds had, in his view set up a Holbeck to Cottingley bus service to fail . Had this continued to the City Centre, it would have succeeded . John Hook said that Network Rail is a problem . He noted that trains from Leeds to Morley will sometimes stop at Cottingley and sometimes go through. Five carriage trains go to York and miss stations out . Network Rail make the point that there is a short distance between Leeds, Cottingley and the White Rose and that it is necessary to juggle the times of trains . He noted that trains are of two carriages and currently running on an emergency timetable . It is necessary to check when trains are running when a passenger arrives at the station. John Hook said that a guard should be on each train. It was agreed that we would write with our concerns.