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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 2nd January 2014

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speaker- Philip Lewer, Chair, NHS Leeds South and East Clinical Commissioning Group**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 7th November 2013**
- 5. Police Report**
- 6. Report of the subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston**
- 7. Report of Committee meetings held on Thursday 17th October 2013, Thursday 21st November 2013 and Tuesday 10th December 2013**
- 8.. Correspondence**
- 9. Possible Co-options to the Committee**
- 10. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7th November 2013

Attendance:- Mr. R. Bell (in the chair), Mr. J.K. Adamson, Mr. R. Almond, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, R. Casserley, Mrs. M. Cook, Councillor D. Congreve, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor A. Gabriel, M. Hobson, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, Mr. J. Lee, MBE, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, Mr. J. Morton, Miss. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. N. Zaman

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks-** Richard Bell welcomed those present to the meeting and stated that as Christine Thornton was away, he would chair the meeting
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from Doris Brooke, John Cunningham, John Fenton, Kathleen Fenton and Christine Thornton
- 3. Guest Speakers.**
 - 3.1** Richard Bell introduced the first guest speaker, Jayne Holland.

Jayne Holland thanked the Forum for its invitation and explained that she is the Manager of the South Leeds Live at Home Scheme, which is a neighbourhood network scheme covering Beeston, Cottingley and Hunslet. She

added that Leeds is unique in having Neighbourhood Network schemes. These are associations catering for old people and allowing them to live at home. The aim is to allow old people to live a happy, safe and independent life by running activities and events; in short, anything required to help old people to live at home. Many people are unaware that the live at Home Scheme relates to Elderly people. Jayne Holland pointed out that people aged around 55 to 60 do not wish to be described as elderly, as in Holbeck Elderly Aid and Middleton Elderly Aid. She noted that South Leeds Live at Home Scheme is based at St Andrews Church, where the organisation has office premises only. She added that there is a misconception that the organisation is a part of St. Andrew's Church. In fact, the only connection which South Leeds Live at Home has with St. Andrew's Church is the fact that it rents an office. There is, however, a good relationship with St. Andrew's Church. The organisation is part of Methodist Homes, an umbrella charity.

Jayne Holland noted that South Leeds Live at Home Scheme is responsible for finding staff salaries and other outgoings. It receives funding from Adult Social Care. The organisation employs six staff; the only full time member of staff is Jayne Holland, who is the manager. She pointed out that the organisation has 500 members throughout the area which it covers, which she said is not a lot. Jayne Holland acknowledged that her organisation does not reach to people to whom they should be reaching. The organisation undertakes various activities such as befriending, lunch clubs, ballroom dancing, lunch clubs and day trips. There is also a mens group whose members go for a pub lunch, curling, a shopping service and a telephone befriending service. The organisation is supported by a committee of volunteers, comprising eleven members, all of whom are local residents. They are either volunteers or members of the scheme.

Jayne Holland added that a dementia cafe will be launched at St. Andrews Church on 11th December. She added that a Tai Chi class will start at St Mary's next year. She added that although her organisation is here for the community, many people do not know about them. The organisation advertises by using posters and social media. She also hoped that members of the Beeston Forum would spread the word about the organisation. Anything that anyone wants from older people, they would seek to provide. She said that the group's motto is 'When you stop laughing and having fun, you are getting old'.

Richard Bell wondered how people can contact the organisation. Jayne Holland said that the organisation uses leaflets, newsletters and business cards. She said that she would welcome any suggestions for an event. She wondered whether members of the audience might be aware of an elderly neighbour who needs a befriender. She said that the way forward for the group is by working with local GPs. She acknowledged that this had been difficult in the past as many doctors are uneasy about working with volunteers. She hoped that elderly people would turn to a lunch club, rather than a course of antidepressants.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions from the floor. Amongst issues raised were the dementia cafe, and how South Leeds Live at Home advertises its activities

4. Richard Bell introduced the second guest speaker; Insp. Chris Bowen.

4.1 Chris Bowen noted that he is currently working nights. He noted that he had looked at the Beeston Forum website to see what was being discussed and found that he was the guest speaker! He acknowledged that he does not know what information the Forum had been given in the past. He intended to give a summary of the structure of the police and how it will develop in the New Year; in particular, what changes will take place. He also said that he will look at crime statistics and he said that there is some good news.

Chris Bowen noted that he is the Neighbourhood Inspector for an area including Beeston, Holbeck, Cottingley, Stourton and Hunslet. He noted that there are 18 Police Constables, 18 PCSOs, 3 Sergeants and one Inspector (himself). He noted that the people driving around and the people providing emergency responses are separate. Chris Bowen noted that some good news had emerged on the day before the meeting. He said that his present Neighbourhood Police Team would transform into the Inner South Leeds Neighbourhood Team, which would take in Belle Isle and Middleton in addition to the areas already covered. This is a bigger area with a new title. The new team will have nine additional PCs and an extra 5 PCSOs, which is more than the new area should bring

with it. Staff would be reallocated according to need. Chris Bowen said that it would be possible to devote more attention to priorities, as there are more resources. There will now be seven sergeants, not three. He said that there are currently not enough people driving a problem solving approach. Chris Bowen stressed that it is his aim to solve problems, not move them to other areas. He noted that the Police force will become one big Leeds happy family; the organisation will be known as Leeds City Police, rather than City and Holbeck. The aim is to work together to solve problems, but the police need more people. Chris Bowen said that five of the nine PCs would be dedicated to problem solving. Although the detail is still to be worked out, it is intended that one PC will be allocated to each of five areas; Beeston, Beeston Hill, Holbeck, Hunslet and Middleton and Belle Isle. Each allocated police constable would concentrate on solving the problems in the respective area. The aim is to work on action plans and create a lasting solution. Other police would be used to carry out the action plan, and will direct staff to solve the problem. The additional PCSOs will bolster this approach. PCSOs will be allocated to each area. He noted that the changes will happen between January and April on a date which is still to be decided. Chris Bowen said that the PC allocated to Beeston will work with the Beeston Forum, which he described as positive. He noted that resources are scarce, so that anything extra is good news.

Chris Bowen noted that the Inner South Leeds model links in to other agency boundaries, as the organisations concerned already work to the same boundaries. He noted that all agencies currently meet once every six weeks , to decide on priorities and discuss how each organisation has done. Sometimes, there is a situation in which organisations had thought that another organisation had been dealing with a particular problem. Under the new system, the agencies will be involved in a weekly quick fire tasking session, involving a half hour video conferencing session, on a Monday morning. He noted that there are five different agencies including the police and the local authority. The organisations get on with dealing with agreed priorities. Chris Bowen noted that under the new system, if anything goes wrong, it can be identified after one week, rather than after six weeks. This drives problem solving better. Chris Bowen noted that now he has been in his present job for six weeks , he is beginning to make changes.

Chris Bowen then addressed crime statistics and noted that the figures refer to the entire Holbeck NPT area, not just Beeston. There had been an overall reduction of 70 crimes, which is good. The number of burglaries is 16 down on last year (10%) . There have been 166 burglaries in the area since 1st April. He recalled that when he was a constable in the area between 2000 and 2002, there were fifteen burglaries per day. He mentioned that today, if he comes on duty and finds three burglaries, he is going mad. He noted that there is sometimes a blip when someone is active, before the police apprehends the suspect and gets evidence. As an example of this, there had been four or five burglaries in the Southleighs in a week. A suspect had been arrested for one of these crimes, and there had been no more burglaries since he had been caught. He added that there had been a burglary on the Waincliffes two days before the meeting, and the police are currently looking for a suspect. He noted that Holbeck NPT has the best burglary detection rate in South Leeds.

Chris Bowen urged residents to help the police by ensuring that their property is marked. If, for example , thirteen lawn mowers are found in a flat, the police would more easily be able to identify their owners, and can return stolen property to them. He added that the only crime which is increasing is what is described as 'Burglary- Other' , that is to say burglaries which are not of houses. He said that such burglaries often involve garden sheds and the police have been speaking to residents about making sheds secure. He noted that many people have no lock on sheds. He noted that there had been 36 'Burglary- others' this year. Chris Bowen said that he is concerned , but that this is not an epidemic. He urged people to be aware and to share knowledge.

Chris Bowen noted that there are statistics dealing with the level of satisfaction in the police. If someone has had to call the police in relation to a crime or Anti Social Behaviour, how satisfied is that person. There is also a separate measure of confidence in the police. If something happened, do people believe that the police would do a good job. Both these figures are moving in the right direction. Chris Bowen said that no one wants to be the victim of crime and he noted that he had his car window smashed The public need to trust the police to do their best. They must realise that the police are not two headed ogres and are, in fact approachable. It is hoped that residents would get to know local PCSOs. He noted that he had taken back the comments of Forum members that

police are on their bikes too much. He noted that he had told the local PCSOs that bikes have brakes. He stressed that it is important that the local team polices in a style with which the public are happy. There is no point in achieving good crime statistics if the public feel that the police are not approachable. We must find an appropriate relationship.

4.2 The meeting then opened up to comments from the floor. Amongst issues raised were the policing of Middleton Woods, possible drug dealing in Cross Flatts Park, whether details of police visits to privately rented properties are passed to the police, speeding along Cross Flatts Grove, the prioritisation of issues by the police, and scams aimed at enabling criminals to access computers remotely

5. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2013 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 John Hodgson noted that Yasir Mahmood had described the content of a leaflet issued by Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing as scurrilous and inaccurate. John Hodgson noted that he had had a discussion with Ash Mahmood and Yasir Mahmood about this matter. He noted that one issue is the fact that there was no address on the leaflet. John Hodgson felt that the Mahmood brothers should have been aware as to who is behind Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing as Bill Birch had submitted a letter to the planning department about the plans by Aspiring Communities. Yasir Mahmood had said that the letter was wrong, and had taken offence to the letter, saying that it was an attack on the councillors, and that the councillors do not deserve to be attacked. John Hodgson said that he is fed up with the lack of interest shown by all political parties in our area. Some might say that everything is well in the LS11 postal district and everyone is happy in LS11. John Hodgson noted that the leaflet had been described as inaccurate, but pointed out that most of the content of the leaflet had been taken from information circulated by Aspiring Communities. He added that many people think that political parties have neglected the LS11 area for thirty years. He noted that the Mahmood brothers and Zeb Ahmed had agreed to return to a future Forum meeting. John Hodgson said that he wished to make it clear that the leaflet is not scurrilous. Richard Bell noted that he had not been present at the last Forum meeting and that Yasir Mahmood is not present at the current meeting. He felt that the content of the leaflet is nothing to do with the Beeston Forum. Bill Birch apologised for not being at the last meeting as he had to meet a Professor who had come from Adelaide. He said that Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing is just a group of four or five individuals, who had put a number of ideas to the council. Bill Birch added that all the information about the plans by Aspiring Communities had been taken from their information. Additionally, the leaflet issued by Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing is not an attack on the Councillors, whom Bill Birch recognises as hard working people, but on the party political system. The Labour party had sent the Elland Road Police Station and the Park and Ride scheme to this area, and there are plenty of things which Leeds City Council has done which are not to the benefit of this area. Bill Birch said that Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing said that the land owned by Aspiring Communities should be for residential use. Richard Bell said that this is the view of the planners too. Councillor David Congreve noted that the leaflet issued by Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing has no name on it. He felt that anything which is published should have a name on, and asked who is associated with the group. Bill Birch said that he cannot disclose who is involved in the group without appropriate consent. David Congreve said that this is a secret group. Bill Birch said that there are four or five people involved. He would give their names at a later date, and will in the meantime, ask those who are involved whether they want their names publicising. He is not hiding. Richard Bell said that he could not see what this has to do with the Beeston Forum.

6.2 Pauline Johnson referred to paragraph 9.2 of the minutes dealing with the proposals for a 20 mph zone in an area between Old Lane and Cross Flatts Park. She noted that she had enquired at Beeston Library on the previous Friday. The staff at the library knew nothing about the proposal, which Pauline Johnson described as ridiculous. **When the minutes were considered for approval at the following meeting, Pauline Johnson asked for it to be made clear that she was describing the fact that the details had been sent to Morley Library, rather than to Beeston Library as ridiculous.** Richard Bell said that he saw these details on South Leeds Life. John Peckham said that he had seen notices on two lamp posts at the bottom of Cross Flatts Grove. It was also noted that there is a similar

notice on Wooler Avenue. Richard Bell said that the proposed 20 mph zone is based on signage and there will be no road calming. If people flagrantly speed and are caught, they will be punished. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that the proposed 20 mph zone is based around schools.

6.3 In connection with paragraph 9.4 of the minutes, a member of the audience noted that he had received assistance from Tom Smith in relation to two street lamps which had been covered by trees. Roy Casserley noted that it had taken him three weeks to deal with an issue in relation to street lighting. Two trees could be cut, but he noted that as the footpaths are not adopted, there is limited ability to deal with them. Robert Winfield noted that he had received an e mail from Mark Atkinson of Leeds City Council about the issue of street lighting in the vicinity of Beeston Village Community Centre. Mark Atkinson stated that the footpaths in question are not adopted highway. That is, the footpaths do not fall under the responsibility of Leeds City Council as the Highways Authority. Because of this, the Highways Act does not permit the Local Authority, in its duty as the Highways Authority, to spend public money on lighting unadopted footpaths and highways. He added that the land and community centre may well be under the ownership of another department of Leeds City Council, for example Learning and Leisure, or Parks and Countryside; however, unless that department chose to have 'private' lighting installed to assist the problem, street lighting is not an option. Robert Winfield noted that Mr Atkinson's e mail is consistent with what he has previously said about this issue. However, Robert Winfield said that it should be a straightforward task to identify the owner of the footpath in the hope that a resolution of this matter would be easier. Robert Winfield added that there had been a discussion of this matter at the recent Beeston Forum Committee meeting, which had also identified the unsatisfactory state of the footpaths as an issue. Accordingly, Robert Winfield would be writing to Leeds City Council about the state of the footpaths and also seeking an investigation as to the ownership of the land. Roy Casserley noted that it will be necessary to write to the landowner, if the landowner can be identified. He also noted that he had dealt with another street lighting problem in relation to land owned by private landlords.

7. Report of Subgroup dealing with Neighbourhood Planning- Greg Turton noted that there had been a problem with the designated area. He also noted that at the last Committee meeting Councillor David Congreve had been invited to join us, having been appointed by the three Beeston and Holbeck Councillors as the link councillor responsible for neighbourhood planning. David Congreve had assured the committee of the support of the three councillors for the concept of a neighbourhood plan in Beeston, and was happy with the work of the steering group. Arrangements would be made for David Congreve to attend future meetings of the Committee, if required. David Congreve had been asked to investigate why the application for the designation of the area had not been progressed. There had been no details at the time of the Committee meeting; however, as a result of David Congreve's efforts, a memo had been received from Ian Mackay of Leeds City Council on 22nd October. The application had been held up because the Elland Road Framework Area had been included in the proposed designated area. The Council regards this area as being of strategic importance to the City, and felt that neighbourhood plans are not equipped to deal with strategic issues. The Council therefore requested the omission of this area from the designated area. Greg Turton noted that a meeting between himself, Christine Thornton and Ian Mackay had taken place on 28th October to discuss this issue, the delay in progressing the application for the designation of the area, which had been submitted as early as 29th August and any further issues in relation to the proposed designated area. Ian Mackay said that the request to omit the Elland Road Framework Area had come from senior council personnel. The relevant framework document had been produced in 2007. Ian Mackay pointed out that as a designated neighbourhood area immediately adjacent to the Framework Area, the involvement of the Neighbourhood Forum is an important consideration in planning. He confirmed that the Council has no other objections to the proposed neighbourhood area, and that the Council is committed to supporting a neighbourhood plan in Beeston, subject to the omission of the Elland Road Framework Area. He felt that the remaining area will be ideal to yield an effective neighbourhood plan. Greg Turton noted that it is possible to set up focus groups in the adjacent area whilst writing a neighbourhood plan. Leeds United FC, and other businesses based in the Framework Area could be invited to send representatives to such focus groups. He noted that the Boston Spa Neighbourhood Forum has focus groups dealing with various aspects of the village.

Greg Turton noted that at the meeting with Ian Mackay, there had been some discussion of the delay in

designating the area, which had at that stage taken from 29th August to 28th October. Ian Mackay attributed this delay to a number of causes; namely a site application consultation, which is on a city wide basis, the involvement of senior offices, and a holiday on the part of Councillor Peter Gruen, who is the Council Executive Board member responsible for neighbourhood planning. Greg Turton, however felt that such a delay, with no explanation having been given is inexcusable. Greg Turton and Christine Thornton were angry about this situation, because it is not justified to sit on the issue without any explanation. He noted that an apology had been sought and received from Ian Mackay by an e mail received on 30th October. Greg Turton said that the Steering Group would be recommending the acceptance of the proposal to remove the Elland Road Framework area, as a means of ensuring that the progress of the plan to the examination stage is straightforward. He said that it is the role of the Steering Group to get the plan through the designation stage as soon as possible.

Greg Turton therefore proposed the following motion 'That Beeston Community Forum agrees to the request by Leeds City Council to omit the Elland Road Framework Area from the Beeston Neighbourhood Area; however, it shall expect automatic consultation about any development proposals relating to this area. These proposals shall have regard to the provisions of the Beeston Neighbourhood Plan'. John Hodgson wondered whether we would have the time to look at any proposal, and felt that by passing the motion we would be giving up our rights. He noted that our councillors had spoken out against the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme, but politicians had pushed this through in the interests of expediency. He noted that the Elland Road Framework Area is 'worth millions'. Richard Bell said that we must make a decision or waste another month. If we do not remove the Framework Area from the Neighbourhood Plan Area, this puts the brake on the plan. John Hodgson described any neighbourhood plan omitting the Framework Area as a toothless tiger. Richard Bell said that consultation means that you do not influence a decision, you are told about it. John Peckham urged support for Greg Turton's motion. Greg Turton said that if the motion is passed, Leeds City Council had undertaken to put the area out to consultation next week. He noted that the Council has ten urban design principles, including involving the community, regenerating throughout Leeds, creating excellent new places and sustainable environmental solutions. If we go ahead with the neighbourhood plan, we will have the right to hold the Council to these principles. John Hodgson said 'except on Elland Road', which was rejected by Greg Turton. The resolution was put to the vote; there were 18 votes in favour, three against and four abstentions.

8. Correspondence. Robert Winfield reported one item of correspondence which had not already been dealt with; a letter from Andrew Hall of Leeds City Council in relation to the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme. Mr Hall stated (Robert Winfield noted that the e mail had been received on 18th October) saying that he would raise the matter of the Elland Road Park and Ride survey report with a colleague on Monday and let us have sight of the report. Robert Winfield noted that this had not been received, despite the assurance. With regard to the traffic signals at the site, Andrew Hall said that these were required to be amended as part of the police station development. The site already had traffic signals in place and the new arrangements are also fit for purpose to meet both present requirements for access to the present car parks and subject to approval the proposed park and ride car parking and access.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 John Hodgson noted that David Congreve and Angela Gabriel are negotiating section 106 Agreements in relation to the Park and Ride Scheme. He noted that he was amazed that Councillor James Lewis was concerned about his constituents. He noted that 700 cars need to be parked there in order to make the scheme pay.

9.2 Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that she had organised a meeting earlier in the day to discuss Christmas lights which would be paid for by the councillors and sited on the trees near the Co-op. There would be a switch on ceremony at 5.30p.m on Thursday 5th December. There would be carol singing outside the Co-op and those involved would then adjourn to the parish Hall where there would be free food and entertainment. Angela Gabriel said that she hoped that this would be an annual event and that those involved would then attend the Beeston Forum AGM which would follow immediately.

9.3 Robert Winfield drew attention to the passage on the minutes and agenda paper beneath the agenda referring

to the Forum AGM taking place on 5th December. He noted that anyone interested in joining the committee will be more than welcome to speak to , or contact any committee member.