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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 2nd July 2015

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers- Alan Jones, Adsa Stores Limited and Andrew Lester, HardHat Communications
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 4th June 2015
5. Police Report
6. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan
7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 18th June 2015
8. Correspondence
9. Beeston Village Community Centre- Report of Users Committee meeting – 22 June 2015
10. Any Other Business

Please note that the Forum was to have hosted guest speakers from Morrison Construction and Yorkshire Water. They have however requested a postponement of their appearance at the Forum as the construction work being undertaken on behalf of Yorkshire Water, which is the reason for their appearance at the Forum, will now take place somewhat later than expected

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 4th June 2015

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Bell, Mr. D.C. Bottomley, Mrs J. Bush, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs R. Casserley, Councillor D. Congreve, Mrs. B. Draper, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick- Ward, Mrs. P. Heron, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. E. Leathem, L. Lewis, P. Lewis, Mr. A. McGrath, Mr. J. Morton, Mrs. M. Munro, Miss E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mrs. F. Orr, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. S. Sturman, Mr. G. Wainwright and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield (when the minutes of the meeting were considered for approval by the following meeting, it was noted that Gohar Almass had attended the meeting, but his name had not been included in the list of those attending)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting, and noted that it is a change to see sunshine! She noted that it was good to see Councillor David Congreve back, and noted that this

is the first meeting of the Forum since he stepped down as Lord Mayor of Leeds

2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, Doris Brooke, Adam Cooper, John Cunningham, Mary Dinsdale, John Fenton, Arthur Kirby and Greg Turton

3. Guest Speaker- James Bailey, General Manager, White Rose Centre

3.1 James Bailey said that he would give an update about the cinema and the development plans relating to the centre. He noted that staff car parking could be a challenge particularly in the run up to Christmas. He said that the centre would not wish to lose car parking space. He said that it is intended to build an off site car park just behind Sainsburys before the cinema and restaurant is built. The car park will occupy the site of a building which will be demolished. This will be the staff car park, and would be located five minutes walk from the centre. The cinema would result in a loss of car parking spaces, but with the new staff car park, there would be no loss of car parking spaces. The new car park would be well lit. A lot of work had been carried out in planning the new car park and there had been extensive consultation with staff. A number of security measures will be implemented. In addition, the centre will appoint a travel plan co-ordinator to promote alternatives to car use which will include buses, cycles and car sharing. It is intended to work with staff, and James Bailey noted that it is easier to change how staff travel to the centre. Work on the new car park is intended to start in October 2014, with a view to completing it in February or March 2015. He acknowledged that the timetable might slip by up to two weeks. Work on the cinema will not start until the car park has been signed off. It is intended to open the cinema in late 2017, hopefully in time for Christmas. The cinema would be operated by Cineworld, who have already been signed up. This sits with the customer demographic of the White Rose Centre, which is family focussed. There would be six new restaurants. James Bailey noted that there is more interest in these than the number of units available, so the White Rose Centre can be selective in terms of operators of the restaurants. He added that from a business perspective, the White Rose Centre is performing strongly. However, James Bailey noted that if a new shopping centre is being built now, the ratio of leisure to retail would be larger than the ratio for the White Rose Centre. The new cinema will help to redress this balance.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Issues raised include the new cinema, the operation of bus services to the centre, job opportunities connected with the new developments, car parking at the centre, the food served by the new restaurants at the centre, traffic travelling to and from the centre, the use of zero hours contracts by tenants at the centre, disabled car parking at the centre, the possible provision of outdoor shops at the centre, whether the bus station would be relocated, the beehive at the centre, the availability of grants for local community groups and the possible provision of a rail link to the centre.

4. The Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 14th May 2015 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising – Christine Thornton noted that a suspect for the rape which had taken place on Beeston Road has been arrested in eastern Slovakia.

6. Police Report.

6.1 It was noted that no police were present at the meeting. Christine Thornton pointed out that the trial of a number of people accused of grooming had concluded and four people had been sentenced to a total of 51 years.

6.2 A member of the audience had been asked about people driving around the area of Cross Flatts Avenue, Cross Flatts Grove and Dalton Avenue with a total disregard for life. It was noted that cars were travelling at around 70 miles per hour down Dalton Avenue. Julie Bush noted that she lives on Dalton Avenue and had spoken to Adam Ogilvie about the provision of radar guns. She added that she has information from the council about speed monitoring in February. Richard Bell noted that there are a small number of people disregarding speed limits. Pauline Johnson noted that the cars drive so quickly that by the time she gets to the window, they have gone.

7. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

7.1 Mark Parry noted that as Greg Turton was unable to be present at the meeting, he had been asked to give the report. He noted that a meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee had taken place last week. Calendars

were being produced. Twelve local businesses would each choose a picture or logo, and would each buy 50 copies of the calendar, which would contain a section about the Beeston Plan. Mark Parry said that two sets of workshops would take place to give Forum members a better idea of the planning process. Two would be given by Leeds City Council whilst two would be given by the Forum's Planning Consultant, Shaun Hanson. Mark Parry added that he had sought ideas for a vision for Beeston. The Committee decided that ideas would be known as aims. The vision would simply be the phrase 'Lets Make Beeston Better' The aims are to improve the reputation of Beeston; by developing it as a proud, inclusive, ambitious community that is desirable to live in, prosperous to work in and supportive to develop in and to make Beeston a safe, clean and sustainable place; by promoting improved housing, better air quality, reduced noise and traffic. Mark Parry noted that he had asked members of the Neighbourhood Forum to provide details of their qualifications and experience. Anyone with an interest in becoming a member of the Neighbourhood Forum could speak to him. Mark Parry noted that Bill Birch has applied for a grant for the Neighbourhood Forum; this would pay for the Forum's consultant.

7.2 Mark Parry said that no meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum had been fixed, but noted that each task group had been allocated a committee member to lead it. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum would share a stall at the Beeston Festival with the Beeston Community Forum. The stall will promote the Neighbourhood Forum.

7.3 Robert Winfield pointed out that anyone wishing to join the Neighbourhood Forum who was not already a member could do so by ticking the box in the right hand most column on the attendance sheet. He added that the recent Neighbourhood Forum Committee meeting had authorised him to set up a twitter account and facebook group for the Neighbourhood Forum. He hoped to do this shortly, having been constrained from doing this so far by an exceptionally heavy workload, both in terms of his paid employment and spare time activities. Sean Sturman questioned the need for the Neighbourhood Forum to have a separate facebook page, noting that the Save Our Beeston Group has a facebook group with around 1500 members, which, he suggested could be used to publicise the Neighbourhood Forum's activities. He noted that 95% of the groups members are from this area. However, Christine Thornton noted that the Neighbourhood Forum and Save Our Beeston are separate organisations. Robert Winfield noted that he could use the Save Our Beeston group to publicise activities of the Beeston Community Forum and Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. He had indeed started to publicise meetings of the Beeston Community Forum, although he acknowledged that he had only done this in relation to the current meeting on the morning of the meeting due to the heavy commitments which he described earlier. He would do this earlier for future meetings.

8. Report of Committee Meeting held on 21st May 2015. Christine Thornton noted that she had been unable to be present at the meeting and accordingly asked Robert Winfield to make the report.

Robert Winfield noted that there had been a discussion as to whether it would be appropriate for the Forum to renew its Public Liability Insurance. The Committee had resolved that Robert Winfield would take appropriate advice, and the committee would then take a decision as to whether to renew the insurance. It was noted that Councillor Keith Wakefield would be due to appear at the Forum meeting on 12th November as a guest speaker. It was noted that he had accepted this invitation whilst he was the Leader of Leeds City Council. The Committee resolved to write to Councillor Wakefield asking whether in the circumstances it would be appropriate to transfer this invitation to his successor, Councillor Judith Blake. Robert Winfield noted that under correspondence, there had been significant discussion about aspects of the new Asda store on Old Lane. He had received an e mail from Alan Jones, who had just taken over as Asda's new Property Communications Manager with responsibility for the Beeston Store. He explained that he was aware of the issues which had arisen in relation to the construction of the new store and hoped that it would be possible to draw a line under what had happened, and seek to build a positive working relationship. Robert Winfield noted that there was a strong feeling amongst committee members, which he was sure would be shared by Forum members, that there could be no question of Asda being allowed to draw a line under the matters without acknowledging that their previous conduct had been unsatisfactory. There had been discussion about the possibility of inviting Alan Jones to a meeting of the Forum. The idea of organising special meeting of the Forum did not find favour amongst members of the Committee, which instead resolved to invite him to a Forum meeting at which the likely duration of the contribution from guest speakers already invited to attend the meeting would be short.

Robert Winfield noted that at the July Forum meeting would be hosting speakers dealing with forthcoming construction works by Yorkshire Water. The meeting agreed to a suggestion from Robert Winfield that we invite Mr Jones to the July meeting of the Forum.

Robert Winfield noted that we had also received a reply to our Freedom of Information Request dealing with aspects of the construction of the new Asda store. He would not read the full response, unless the meeting particularly wished him to do so, but noted that two aspects of the response particularly stand out. It was noted that we had asked for the date on which Asda had notified Leeds City Council that construction work would commence. Leeds City Council responded that they do not hold this information as notification of commencement is not a requirement of the planning process. The committee felt that this response was unsatisfactory. It was also noted that we had also asked for the date on which Leeds City Council gave approval for Asda to excavate the existing footpath located outside their property boundary. Leeds City Council said that the officer holding this information was on annual leave! Robert Winfield noted that there had also been discussion at the Committee as to whether the new Asda store is of a size which permits the opening of the store for longer than six hours on Sundays. It was agreed that Robert Winfield would clarify this issue with Asda.

Robert Winfield noted that there had also been a discussion about Beeston Village Community Centre. It was noted that the users Committee meeting which was due to have taken place on 18th May had been postponed. Robert Winfield said that he was able to say that this meeting would now take place at 4p.m on Monday 22nd June at Beeston Village Community Centre. He noted that a number of Committee members had been puzzled about the architects advice that a building which had been used successfully as a community centre for several years would cease to be viable within a period of 1 to 2 years. Robert Winfield pointed out that the outcome of the bid for lottery funding for a replacement community centre would be known by the end of the year. A planning application would then need to be submitted for any new building. Robert Winfield noted that the Committee had also discussed the issue of the safety of the footpaths around the building, particularly on dark evenings. Robert Winfield noted that although this issue would be addressed by any new building, this would be of little consolation to anyone who might suffer injury in the meantime. Robert Winfield noted that the committee had decided that he would raise this issue with Highways. Finally, Robert Winfield noted that there had been a discussion about the stall at the Beeston Festival.

Mark Parry referred to the committee's discussions about Public Liability Insurance. He noted that the unequivocal advice of Voluntary Action Leeds is that Public Liability Insurance is essential. Robert Winfield pointed out that a number of committee members believed that the public liability insurance had been taken out to cover activities undertaken in connection with the Neighbourhood Forum, before the Neighbourhood Forum was designated. Mark Parry expressed disagreement with this view. Robert Winfield proposed that the Public Liability Insurance be renewed. However, Richard Bell pointed out that the Forum had never previously taken out public liability insurance and that this takes up a significant proportion of the Forum's funds. Christine Thornton said that although this is the case, the insurance covers eventualities such as accidentally pouring tea over someone's hand. Mark Parry pointed out that insurance covers for situations which are likely never to happen, but would have serious consequences if they actually occurred. Any committee member owning their home could find the home at risk in the absence of public liability insurance. The resolution was put to the meeting and was passed by 19 votes to 1 with 4 abstentions.

With regard to Asda, a member of the audience noted that Asda had been given an inch and taken a yard. He asked whether someone gaining planning permission for a dog kennel would be able to build a shopping centre! Christine Thornton said that now that the Neighbourhood Forum is in existence, it would be able to deal with planning matters as it is a statutory body and as such must be recognised. Richard Bell noted that there are many problems in connection with enforcement and ensuring that developers fulfil promises. Christine Thornton said that she hoped that the Neighbourhood Forum would challenge decisions.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Alan Jones of Asda dealing with a number of concerns about the construction of the new Asda store on Old Lane. He noted that we had made reference to contractor vehicles parking on Oakhurst Avenue, in some cases dangerously. He noted that whilst there is permission for

contractors to park on Oakhurst Mount , the parking issues which we had raised had been cascaded to Asda's construction team to action. Any such incidents can be reported to site security, manned 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. With regards to the Considerate Constructors Scheme, the project was officially registered with the CCS on 2nd April and an inspection is due to take place on 8th June. Alan Jones added that condition 7 of the outline planning permission required a statement of construction practice. This was formally discharged last month. Alan Jones added that the minor variation to Asda's licensing conditions has been granted. This was a licensing application not a planning application . The variation was required due to tweaks to the internal sales floor. Internal layout is not covered by planning legislation so the application could not and did not include any changes above and beyond those already approved under the planning process. Alan Jones noted that we have been speaking to Asda's communications consultant HardHat. Alan Jones indicated that he would be happy to meet with the Forum in a manner conducive to the good working relationship which both organisations seek. He hoped to arrange a meeting between himself and the Forum Committee.

Robert Winfield noted that the Forum Committee has consistently opposed meetings between developers and the Committee, or other groups of Forum members on the basis that this is likely to lead to suspicions of behind the scenes deals between developers and the Committee, even if it is not the intention of the Committee to enter into such deals. He felt that the only basis on which we should be willing to meet Asda is at a public meeting which all members of the public are welcome to attend. Gohar Almass however felt that it would be a good idea for Asda to meet with the Committee. There was also a suggestion from the audience that the issues relating to the construction of the store will be resolved when the store is completed. Christine Thornton said that if Asda representatives attend a public meeting they would feel the wrath of Forum members and get a sense of the strong feeling of members of the public.

9.2 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from PCSO Kirsty Johnson explaining that she is now on restricted duties as she is four months pregnant , so will no longer be out and about in the area. She will then be off work for approximately nine months on maternity leave. She will continue to take a keen interest in what is going on in the area and will still be available on her e mail if anyone would like to contact her for assistance and advice. The meeting agreed to a proposal from John Peckham that we send our best wishes to Kirsty Johnson whom he described as an asset to the community.

9.3 Robert Winfield noted that he had received information from Councillor Angela Gabriel about the Community Committee meeting and workshop taking place on 10th June and the forthcoming Community Celebration event

10. The Beeston Festival. It was noted that the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum would be hosting a joint stall at the Festival ,which would take place on Saturday 6th June . Christine Thornton gave the information for the stall to Mark Parry. There was a discussion about a newsletter. It was agreed that Robert Winfield would send information about forthcoming guest speakers at Forum meetings to Richard Bell so that he could put together a simple newsletter.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that Bands in the Park would be taking place in Cross Flatts Park on the five Sundays commencing 21st June. There would also be a dog show on 5th July.

11.2 Eddie Leathem noted that he is a governor at Hugh Gaitskell School . There is a shortage of governors and asked anyone interested to speak to him .

11.3 Rosemary Casserley asked whether it is possible to get the hanging baskets of flowers watered. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that watering needed to stop so that the baskets can be taken down. She noted that the baskets belong to Beeston In Bloom, not Leeds City Council and are sponsored by individuals.

11.4 Roy Casserley noted that there is one street light on Southleigh Road and this is switched off at midnight. He wondered whether Angela Gabriel could take the issue back to Leeds City Council.

11.5 Steve Francis said that it appeared as though the arrangements for bin collection penalise regular attenders of the Forum . He noted that on Tuesday, the bin collection in his area had been missed. Christine Thornton ,

however noted that the bins on Cross Flatts Avenue had been emptied. Angela Gabriel noted that the bin round had been split from Robb Street so that the bins along Cross Flatts Grove between Robb Street and Dewsbury Road are now emptied on Saturdays , whilst the bins between Robb Street and Theodore Street are collected on Tuesdays. Unfortunately, as a result of an error, the collection dates were interchanged . She added that everything would be collected tomorrow to make up for this. She added that bins are now collected on a two weekly cycle alternating between green and black bins. She added that brown bins are also collected every two weeks. Steve Francis noted that bags which are outside bins should not be collected. Angela Gabriel , however pointed out that on this occasion everything will be collected. She noted that the changes to bin collection are intended to promote recycling.

11.6 It was noted that Edna Newton had made a donation of £150 to the Forum from the proceeds of her raffle