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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 2nd June 2016 Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Debate about the UK's membership of the European Union with speakers from Vote Leave and Britain Stronger In Europe
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2016
5. Any Other Business

(Please note that as a result of the decision of the Committee that substantially the whole of the meeting will be devoted to the EU debate, items which normally appear on the agenda for a Forum meeting will be held over until the next meeting. Councillor Judith Blake, the Leader of Leeds City Council who was to have been the guest speaker at the July Forum meeting, is no longer in a position to attend. We are actively seeking to host an alternative guest speaker, but confirmation was not available at the time of drafting this. Please see our website for announcements)

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 12th May 2016

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. W.J. Birch, Mr. D.C. Bottomley, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss P. Johnson, A. McGrath, Mrs. M. Munro, Councillor A. Ogilvie, PC B. Salmon (West Yorkshire Police) and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Bell, Arthur Kirby and Jeremy Morton. Christine Thornton noted that she had been advised by Councillor Angela Gabriel that she would be arriving late owing to her attendance at another meeting
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7th April 2016 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising
4. Police Report.
 - 4.1 PC Bronwen Salmon pointed out that she is based on Elland Road Police Station. She pointed out that she

would leave newsletters at the meeting. She referred to the crime figures, covering the period between 11th April and 11th May, which are described in the newsletter. There were five burglary dwellings, six burglary others (for example from sheds and garages), six thefts of motor vehicles, 19 thefts from motor vehicles, no robberies, no thefts from persons, no crimes involving interference with a motor vehicle and one instance of taking a motor vehicle without consent

4.2 PC Salmon noted that the rise in the number of thefts from motor vehicles is a matter of concern to the police. They have people in mind but, as of yet do not have sufficient evidence to prosecute. The police have been given an overtime budget to patrol the area when these crimes are occurring (midnight to 7 am). There had been no big problem in the last four shifts over the past few days so hopefully the problem is going away.

4.3 Sandra Burton asked what the difference is between stealing a motor vehicle and taking it without the owners consent. PC Salmon said that the latter applies to a situation in which someone breaks in to a motor vehicle but does not keep it. Theft involves the intention of permanently depriving the owner of the vehicle.

4.4 Bill Birch pointed out that he had his car broken into around three months ago by someone who got into his glove compartment and stole £8. He noted that he has CCTV and pointed out that three months later, the man committed an identical theft from his son's car. It is plain that the man has a device. He could see the lights flash. The man was in the car for 11 minutes. He broke into two cars before walking up the street. CCTV could not clearly identify the person responsible other than the fact that he is male. He suspects that someone is picking off cars to make money and said that this must be stopped. PC Salmon noted that the police are putting in extra patrols. Bill Birch said that the police should ask the suspect where he was at the particular time on the particular day. PC Salmon acknowledged that there are devices capable of opening certain types of vehicles in circulation.

4.5 Dennis Bottomley referred to speeding vehicles in the area. He noted that someone has a large grey Mercedes with a large engine. The car travels at 70 mph and everyone is complaining. PC Salmon wondered whether he had recorded the times at which he had seen this vehicle. Christine Thornton and Dennis Bottomley noted that the vehicle is travelling too quickly. PC Salmon noted that the police had undertaken a speeding exercise on Old Lane which had been publicised on the police's facebook page. This will be repeated on a monthly basis. Dennis Bottomley noted that the speeding occurs on Cross Flatts Avenue, Cross Flatts Grove, Theodore Street and Wooler Street. Christine Thornton wondered whether it might be possible for the police to undertake a speeding exercise in an evening, when the speeding occurs. PC Salmon noted that the first session had been organised in conjunction with Highways. She could see no reason why future sessions should not take place in an evening. Dennis Bottomley added that he had also seen a young man driving a motor cycle with no crash helmet. PC Salmon said that the police would pursue this matter if it is reported; if we can get a clear image, the team will progress the matter. The police will require evidence of the person on the bike at that time in order to prosecute.

4.6 Dennis Bottomley noted that when the police station was built at Elland Road, there was the intention to adjust the traffic lights at the bottom of Wesley Street. However, he had been sat waiting when no traffic is coming. Myra Munro said that the traffic lights allow five cars through at a time. PC Salmon said that this matter is not the responsibility of the police and suggested a complaint to Highways, which she noted is likely to carry more weight if it comes from residents rather than the police. Dennis Bottomley noted that the timing of the traffic lights needs to be sorted out; he felt that a filter right signal is required. He noted that there is already a filter left signal. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that someone had said on facebook that the zebra crossings are not brightly lit. The councillors are taking remedial action.

4.7 Christine Thornton pointed out that a thief had removed satellite navigation equipment from her car. She had not noticed this initially. She was given a crime number but no one visited her about this.

4.8 Bill Birch asked what the situation is with drug dealers. He noted that one neighbour had said that they came to the end of his street. A man parked the car opposite the neighbour's house. He was on and off the phone throwing things out of the window. Bill Birch phoned 111. He suspected that the man was waiting for someone to come for a deal. PC Salmon noted that drugs warrants are dealt with when the time is available. Calls are turned into intelligence reports which are matched either to a vehicle or a person. Drug dealers are normally

caught at the addresses where drugs are stored. This leads to longer sentences. PC Salmon noted that the police has had some success with cannabis farms and noted that there are some photos on the police website. If the police stop a car carrying drugs, they would deal with the matter. Bill Birch stressed that he has no proof that the man to whom he referred is a drug dealer; he was simply acting suspiciously. John Cunningham noted that he had seen younger children dealing drugs on pushbikes. They come close to Beeston Co-op cycling carelessly. Someone comes up, talk, then goes. Drug dealing also takes place close to Tommy Wass's . PC Salmon said that the police appreciate knowing about this, and noted that the police will have a stall at the Beeston Festival.

4.9 Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that there is a man sleeping on a triangle of wood in Cross Flatts Park. At around 9 am he gets up with his sleeping bag and goes away. Myrs Munro said that there are four such people there , they also come to the top end of the park

5. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum. Robert Winfield noted that there had been a meeting of the Committee the previous evening , on 11th May. In view of the fact that the AGM of the Neighbourhood Forum will take place on May 26th, he had declared his intentions in relation to seeking election as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Forum. He had reached the firm conclusion that the Neighbourhood Forum needs a Chairman who would be able to devote more time to the position than he will be able to, but added that he was unwilling to leave the Neighbourhood Forum without a Chairman , so would seek election to the position if no one else with the requisite skills and time come forward. Robert Winfield noted that Mark Parry, the Secretary of the Neighbourhood Forum has indicated that he will not seek re election to this position, or indeed to the Committee, so that a replacement would be required for him. Robert Winfield noted that there had been suggestions that the position of Secretary could be divided so as not to leave an individual with an excessive workload. This could be accomplished by means of an ordinary resolution of the Neighbourhood Forum .

Robert Winfield noted that the quorum for the Neighbourhood Forum is twenty. It is of the utmost importance that the meeting is quorate. Any person who lives, works, or carries on business in Beeston is welcome to join the Neighbourhood Forum. Their membership application would be ratified by the Committee before the AGM so that they would be considered as part of the quorum. Robert Winfield added that it was clear, in hindsight that the quorum level for the meetings had been fixed too high; accordingly, the AGM will consider a constitutional amendment which would reduce the quorum to ten. Robert Winfield noted that the Committee of the Neighbourhood Forum consists of nine members , of whom two have become somewhat infrequent attenders. Additionally, as previously mentioned, Mark Parry had indicated that he would not be seeking re election to the committee. Thus, the committee may well be reduced to six members , unless other people came forward. Because of this, there had been significant discussion at the Committee meeting the previous evening of two ideas; the suspension of the Neighbourhood Forum's activities for a period of perhaps one year, or the absorption of the Neighbourhood Forum into the Beeston Community Forum. The Committee had resolved that Robert Winfield discuss the situation with Ian Mackay, the Neighbourhood Planning Officer of . To this end , Robert Winfield had telephoned to seek such a conversation, but was informed that Ian Mackay was on annual leave. Robert Winfield reminded the meeting that the Neighbourhood Forum is a statutory body which is influential in terms of planning applications. He added that when the Neighbourhood Plan which will be written by the Neighbourhood Forum is approved by local residents in a referendum and is in place , any adjudication of any planning application in Beeston must consider the Neighbourhood Plan. Thus, the Neighbourhood Forum offers local residents what is perhaps the best opportunity to influence planning applications in the area.

Christine Thornton noted that the meeting had also considered a planning application for a large number of illuminated signs to be erected outside the White Hart public house. Christine Thornton felt that there were sufficient signs there already. The pub had been there for many years, possibly, indeed for a hundred years. Local people are aware that there is a pub there and the signs are not in keeping with the area. Colin Hendrick Ward noted that the pub would be closing for a few weeks in June for refurbishment. He had heard rumours that the pub would become a Weatherspoons but he rather doubted this. Ken Hewson noted that the reference number of the planning application is 16/02327/EU

6. Correspondence. Robert Winfield noted that he had been in contact with the organisations campaigning on either side of the EU referendum debate; Britain Stronger In Europe and Vote Leave in connection with the EU debate which would be taking place at the next Forum meeting on Thursday 2nd June. He noted that both

organisations had been requested to provide two speakers each. Vote Leave will be represented by Carl Chambers; they have yet to nominate their second speaker. Robert Winfield added that he has had an exchange of e mails with Britain Stronger In Europe. Whilst they are committed to providing two speakers, they had not, so far, nominated anyone.

7. The Beeston Festival- Saturday 4th June. Christine Thornton noted that the Forum will have a stall (comprising a pitch, table and two chairs) and distribute leaflets. She noted that Greg Turton is apparently still in possession of the Forum's gazebo. She added that we require volunteers to man the stall. Robert Winfield said that he should be available for most of the day. whilst Steve Francis said that he would be available.

8. Report of Committee meeting held on Thursday 21st April. Christine Thornton noted that the committee had discussed the implications of the proposed extension of the Residents Car Parking zone around Elland Road. She pointed out that at a meeting of the Neighbourhood Improvement Board, it was stated that a second letter would be sent to residents inside the proposed expanded zone, as the original letter failed to make it clear that there is a consultation process. Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that the next meeting of the Community Committee would be linked to a workshop dealing with highways. She noted that the last workshop, dealing with Environmental issues had been attended by only four people. The next Community Committee would take place on 15th June at Hugh Gaitskell Primary School. The event would start at 5p.m for 5.30p.m . The workshop will last for an hour and a half, and be followed by the official committee meeting which will start at 7p.m . Christine Thornton noted that the Committee meeting had discussed the Aspiring Communities planning application. We still do not know how or when the planning application will be considered

9. The meeting agreed to a resolution to authorise Christine Thornton to pass her powers and duties as Chairman of the Forum to Arthur Kirby on dates during the month of July to be determined by the Committee. Christine Thornton noted that she would be going away during July. Robert Winfield pointed out that the reason why this motion had been tabled is that under the Forum Constitution, only the Chairman may call a special meeting of the Committee at less than seven days notice. Robert Winfield noted that, particularly in view of the Aspiring Communities Planning application, there may be circumstances in which it would be deemed appropriate to hold a committee meeting at less than seven days notice. The resolution will enable such a meeting to be called, if necessary, during Christine Thornton's absence. Steve Francis noted that he will be unable to attend the July Forum meeting

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Christine Thornton noted that she had applied for a grant from the Community Committee to cover the Forum's running costs. The Forum had been granted £500, which was already in the bank

10.2 Ken Burton noted that he had recently taken a party of ten people around Holbeck Cemetery. A team of people from O2 were clearing footpaths

10.3 Dennis Bottomley noted that he always cleans up after his dog but that someone had stolen the red bin. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that there are five new bins for general waste in Cross Flatts Park.

10.4 Robert Winfield noted that he had received no reply to a letter to Bobby Viridi of the Leeds City Council highways Department asking the Department to provide a speaker for a future Forum meeting to discuss the proposed extension of the Residents parking zone around Elland Road . He proposed writing to Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council about this. Angela Gabriel noted that the Highways Department is under pressure. Many people are leaving ; most are going to the private sector where the pay is better. Many have taken early retirement which has required Leeds City Council to pay for less qualified people who require training. Robert Winfield's proposal was agreed

10.5 Sandra Burton referred to the state of the garden at 5 Grovehall Drive. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that she should mail her . She would then pass on the details to Dave Fisher of Leeds City Council . Christine Thornton noted that Leeds City Council are currently implementing enforcement orders in relation to a house where there had been rubbish in the garden , including debris from a refurbished bathroom, and a mattress , for months . Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that a householder can be required to clear debris from his garden, but cannot be compelled to plant things in a garden