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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 3rd August 2017 Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Ratification of new Neighbourhood Forum members
4. Guest Speaker- Rachel Benn, Beeston Library
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 6th July 2017
6. Police Report
7. Discussion about the Beeston Neighbourhood Plan
8. To consider and if thought fit pass the following amendment to the Constitution of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum .

That subject to the approval of Leeds City Council, the Beeston Neighbourhood Area shall be amended by adding to the present Beeston Neighbourhood Area the area in and around Stank Hall Barn which

i) is not currently included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council and

ii) will be included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council following the ward boundary changes to be implemented in May 2018

This amendment shall not be considered to have been passed unless two thirds of the members present and voting vote in favour of the resolution. In the event of the proposed amendment to the Neighbourhood Area not being approved by Leeds City Council for any reason, this proposed amendment shall not be implemented

9. To ratify the decision of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee to appoint Colin Hendrick Ward as Treasurer of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum
10. To ratify the decision of the Committee to co opt Rev Lindsey Pearson as a member of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum Committee
11. Report of the Committee meeting held on 13th July 2017
12. Correspondence
13. Possible Co-options to the Committee
14. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 6th July 2017

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the Chair), S. Akhtar, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. J. Birch, Mr. D.C. Bottomley, Mrs. M. Broadbent, Mr.

K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. A. Cooper, W. Cooper, Mrs B. Draper, Mr. S. Francis, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. J. Hook, Mr. P. Hutchinson, Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. E. Leathem, Mr. A. Mahmoon, A. McGrath, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Mr. J. Morton, Mrs. M. Munro, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. B. Orme, Mr. M. Parry, Rev. L. Pearson, Mrs. S. Price, Mrs. J. Walton, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. N. Zaman

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton noted that it is summer again! She welcomed the members present to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance .

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Bell, Arthur Kirby and Ken Hewson.

3. Guest Speaker- Christine Thornton introduced the guest speaker, Councillor Keith Wakefield, Chairman of 'Metro'. She noted that Chris Powell of First Leeds had been invited to attend , but had not arrived.

3.1 Keith Wakefield thanked the Forum for its invitation. He noted that he had attended the Forum as a guest speaker on about eight or nine occasions. He believed that when he last attended a Forum meeting, this would be the last time he would attend. When he stepped down as the Leader of Leeds City Council, he went into what he believed would be the Semi Retirement of the Chairmanship of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Committee . However, far from this being semi retirement, he had never received so many letters as he has in connection with transport. He suspected that some of those in attendance at the meeting will have responded to the transport consultation, which received 13000 responses. This shows the importance of transport to people, shows what is wrong and shows the challenges . He does not see transport in the sense of buses alone. Instead , transport should be seen in the sense of bus , train, car, walking and cycling. Keith Wakefield noted that he cycles. He added that one thing which he has learned in the past two years is that transport is an important component of the economy. It is important in getting people to hospitals, jobs and schools. This also has a massive social dimension; isolation is ended by easier transport. It is his aim to make Leeds the best city to get around in. Transport has a really big role in this challenge.

3.2 Keith Wakefield referred to rail. The good news is that for the first time in the country's history, there is devolution of franchises, such as Northern and Transpennine. This is administered by Rail North, a consortium of 37 local authorities in the North of England. There has been a growth in rail transport , with a 42% growth in the number of carriages. In addition, the use of Pacers will be ended in 2019. However, we have got a long way to go to bring back local railway lines which are vital for work.

3.3 With regard to buses, Keith Wakefield noted that issues relating to buses are more complex. However, three times as many people in Leeds travel to work by bus than by rail . There are 180 million bus trips per annum in Leeds . However, over the past 30 years since deregulation, bus patronage has halved. Patronage has however doubled in one area, London, which had never been affected by deregulation. The transport consultation highlighted the fact that most people want cheaper, more frequent and more reliable buses. The challenge in the document produced as a result of the consultation , which is considered by the Committee on the day after the meeting is to improve bus patronage by 100% . The capacity of the Park and Ride facility at Elland Road has been increased to 800 whilst another such facility had recently been opened at Temple Green. A number of rail car parks had also been extended whilst new railway stations will be opened at White Rose, , Thorpe Park and Kirkstall Forge Keith Wakefield then referred to the big elephant in the room. He argued that the Bus Bill will never increase patronage unless we look at the companies providing the service. He noted that First had failed in terms of punctuality, reliability and affordability. He noted that the Bus Bill brings back public accountability of bus services for the first time in 30 years. He noted that Metro does not run bus services, the bus companies do. He noted that First has 52% of the bus market in Leeds and Arriva has 30% . Other companies have a small market share. Keith Wakefield said that he believed that the best company is Transdev, which has free WiFi on comfortable buses illustrated by the 36 service to Harrogate. Keith Wakefield, however noted that we need an elected Mayor to get the powers specified in the bus bill. Keith Wakefield noted that it is intended to introduce 280 new Level 6 buses. Keith Wakefield noted that Leeds has serious issues in connection with air quality . This must be cleaned up by 2020. The new buses, to be introduced by First and Arriva are level 6 Euro Buses , which emit only 5% of the pollution of the pollution emitted by existing old buses. Every bus takes 70 cars off the road. Additionally, a lot more effort will be made to try to get people to cycle or walk. It is aimed to increase cycling and walking up to 10% . 60% of people coming into the city do so in cars. Dependence on cars is excessive We must encourage different ways of travel. If we look at motorways and other major routes such as the A61 and M621 , we see that major roads are clogged. We must put on better public transport and this is a challenge for colleagues over the years. We must make public transport more reliable and cheaper. Many people are saying that it is cheaper to take a taxi. We must make it easier to get on a bus, for example, by using an integrated card system for paying fares. Keith Wakefield referred to the M Card , which is the largest such scheme outside London. He noted that buses clog up if many passengers use cash. Passengers should , instead, be able to use a card or a mobile phone to make a payment . It is also important to help people to get real time information , so that they are aware of when a bus will be coming. It is possible, for example, to hold a mobile phone up to a bus stop post . Keith Wakefield noted that it is easier to use buses in Berlin , where cars are well down the hierarchy. It is easier to walk, cycle or take public transport around Berlin. We need something like that here.

3.4 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Dennis Bottomley referred to the former Saverstrip tickets , which, in his view, never took off. Several members present recalled buying such tickets . Keith Wakefield noted that there are attempts to introduce similar ticketing arrangements to the Oyster Card in London. A member of the audience noted that it is not possible to tender fares in cash on a London bus , and argued that we should learn from elsewhere. She acknowledged that tourists do not know the system. Keith Wakefield argued that smartcards are the future, and acknowledged that he sometimes gets caught out, and

recognises that he needs to get an oystercard . Technology is moving us all that way . He noted that Metro is working on mobile phone technology , in which use of public transport runs up a bill .

3.5 Mark Parry asked what plans the Combined Authority has to ease congestion. Will they , for example, discourage motorists . Keith Wakefield noted that the Combined Authority is looking at the problem the other way around. There had been a backlash against road charging when attempts had been made to introduce it. He argued that we need a good Park and Ride facility , and noted that it costs £2.70 per week to park a car at a Park and Ride facility. This is a lot better than penalising people . If we become a clean air zone, the government may say that we need to charge more for diesel. He acknowledged that he had bought the original argument that diesel is environmentally friendly, but he acknowledged that it is now known that Nitrogen Dioxide is dangerous. He noted that Volkswagen had lied about emission tests carried out on their diesel vehicles . In fact, one Volkswagen emits more Nitrogen Dioxide than a 40 ton lorry. It is staggering how we have been kept in the dark . Dennis Bottomley noted that diesel is efficient and that only 11% of the country is causing the problem . He recalled an incident in which within three minutes, he had to open emergency doors due to petrol fuels. Keith Wakefield said that Volkswagen and others had been dishonest , with their research. Governments will penalise diesel, then petrol. Volvo have announced that they will not build diesel or petrol cars, just electric and hybrid cars. The Combined Authority has a scheme under which 500 taxis are being converted to lower emission engines. Diesel is very damaging to the lungs .

3.6 Noor Zaman noted that he is a bus driver , and noted that the cheapest way to travel is the five for a fiver ticket at weekends, which , he noted, is not possible with a taxi .he added that one mishap causes Leeds to come to a standstill . He noted that he is a driver on the Wetherby route where the frequency of buses after 6pm is only one per hour . Keith Wakefield noted that the frequency of buses to Kippax, his ward, is only one per hour. He noted that First do not have sufficient reserve drivers , so that if a driver goes ill, a bus is not operated . The Combined Authority is speaking to First and emphasising the need for services to be reliable, cheaper and better managed. Unless they have a friendlier and more reliable service, people will not travel by bus .

3.7 Bill Birch said that there is a problem with Park and Ride in Beeston. Solutions to problems in the City Centre become our problem. It is possible to walk to the City Centre from the Elland Road Park and Ride facility . Solutions to problems relating to the city centre are all found in Beeston. Our environment has been degraded and people are fed up. Where is the foresight shown by Metro. Bill Birch predicted that self drive cars are the future. He asked why the city is not using the £175 million given to it for transport schemes to ask how we can facilitate self drive cars. Keith Wakefield noted that there has been a lot of talk about Tokyo in the Far East. He noted that electric buses are setting on fire and that there are some issues relating to electric cars. We must ensure that vehicles are to the best standards. First and Arrive are committed to this in relation to buses. Keith Wakefield added that Leeds will implement the Super Highways Connect scheme involving safe segregated cycling . The rest of the £175 million will go towards the building of new railway stations , and new buses. Hundreds of new buses will be introduced and electric buses have been trialled. He noted , however that in London £30 billion had been spent on Crossrail, whilst £60 billion would be spent on Crossrail Two. Bill Birch described this as a disgrace .

3.8 Adam Cooper noted that it is great news that Leeds United FC would be buying back its ground, but he was concerned that a Leeds City Councillor from elsewhere in the city had been speaking about development around the Elland Road area. This is good for the club, but he is concerned as a local resident . There had been no forethought about existing developments , for example the Park and Ride facility and the police station. He referred to the proposed railway station at the White Rose and wondered whether trains could stop at Elland Road. He added that we seem to be shifting the problem of pollution to Beeston. Parking issues relating to Elland Road become Beeston issues . People come from all over the country to Elland Road . Keith Wakefield said that this is a valid point which he has heard about other areas of the city. He noted that he had been promised by an officer that if the abortive NGT system had proceeded , there would have been a dedicated line to Elland Road. He noted that Leeds United FC have big plans. They are intending to sell their Thorpe Park training ground , which is out of the area so that children cannot get there . Leeds United FC has to modernise .The new owner is more community minded than any of his predecessors. He noted that when he goes to Elland Road he gets public transport from Leeds City Centre . Keith Wakefield noted that he is not an expert but said that there is a potential fortune to Elland Road. He noted that he is reminded by the Beeston and Holbeck Councillors of the need to improve public transport to Elland Road. Dennis Bottomley said that many people have said that it is impossible to build a station at Elland Road. Bill Birch noted that there is an empty viaduct which virtually reaches Elland Road. Keith Wakefield noted that technology is improving, and referred to Light Rail Transit. Technology is the answer to the future. John Hook noted that the reason for not building a station at Elland Road is that the Leeds to Manchester line earns a lot of money. It would be impractical to install another track like at Cottingley . He noted that on weekdays there are trains from Leeds to Manchester every half hour and every hour at weekends. Keith Wakefield noted that the concept of the Northern Powerhouse Railway has been around for seven years , having been promised by various governments. He had read Chris Grayling's recent comments . If we are serious about the Northern economy we need a separate Trans Pennine Route. The present Leeds to Manchester route is not fast and takes around an hour . He noted that the Prime Minister has promised to electrify the present Trans Pennine route. This cannot happen quickly enough. Network rail, which provides tracks are committed to more tracks including on the Calder Valley Line. Keith Wakefield noted that it takes around 1 hour 40 minutes to get to Blackburn, a journey of around 40 miles , at the same speed as was possible in 1870. There is a desperate need to invest in rail in the North .

3.9 Ken Burton referred to the cycle truck on Dewsbury Road and noted that we have lost a bus lane . Keith Wakefield acknowledged that he has not seen this , but noted that there is an east to west cycle route which is 29km in length , all of which is segregated on a footpath. Adam Cooper said that this is a nightmare. A member of the audience noted that fire engine had struggled to get through . Keith Wakefield said that he would have a look at this . Everyone supports safe segregated cycle routes , as cycling on the road . Myra

Munro asked whether anyone has tried walking on a footpath used by cyclists . Keith Wakefield says that he wants people to cycle safely . If we are encouraging children to cycle on bikes, parents must feel that they are safe . Dennis Bottomley noted that many cyclists do not use the cycle lanes between Pottery Fields and the Junction Pub . It is a very narrow road crossing over the motorway . Keith Wakefield said that the government had given the combined authority a grant as they had been good at encouraging cycling. He would want to ensure that it is as safe as possible . This is done in most other countries but we are behind most of Europe. Myra Munro suggested that we should educate cyclists .

3.10 A member of the audience queried frequent changes to bus routes. He noted that the 64 service formerly operated to Aberford but was then changed to operate only as far as Leeds City Centre. Keith Wakefield said that one problem with the way in which buses are operated is that First and Arriva run buses on a profit . This leads to an unpredictable service and to changes.

3.11 Bill Birch noted that HS2 is building a new rail station at Leeds at right angles to the existing track . What are the plans for highways and buildings when the large viaduct is built. Keith Wakefield noted that the Hilton Hotel and the former BT building will be demolished . The original route would have demolished the Parish Church. He added that we need a new way of moving traffic around . City Square is totally inefficient and is clogged between 7 am to 7p.m . Leeds Railway Station is expected to serve 72 million passengers by 2022; the largest railway station in the country outside London . The original plan for HS2 envisaged a station at Crown Point. The combined authority fought hard for an integrated station . Most people will benefit and we will avoid chaos when people arrive at the station . Bill Birch said that the loop around Leeds City Centre is the biggest roundabout in Europe , which is being turned into horseshoe by the partial closure of City Square. Keith Wakefield noted that the disability lobby (he noted that he has been in discussions with Tim McSharry) wanted a separate drop off for blind and disabled people . A member of the audience asked how this actually helps disabled people .

4. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 4th May 2017 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting .

5. Matter arising – Robert Winfield noted that the Forum meeting on 1st June was to have hosted Alastair Kay of Farm Foods. . Robert Winfield noted that on the day before the meeting (which was then expected to go ahead) , he received a phone call from Mr Kay explaining that in view of the recommendation of the Leeds City Council planning officers to reject the planning application by Farm Foods for the Sugar Mill/ Concourse House site , Farm Foods no longer had any interest in developing the site . No useful purpose would therefore be served by Alastair Kay's appearance at the Forum . Robert Winfield added that he learned on the morning of the intended meeting that there was no water supply to Beeston Village Community Centre. Following consultation with those members of the Committee available for consultation, a decision was taken to cancel the meeting. Three committee members (Robert Winfield, Bill Birch and Steve Francis) went to Beeston Village Community Centre to advise people who had turned up in the expectation of a meeting taking place of the situation, which was accepted amicably by everyone involved

6. Police report- It was noted that no representatives of the police were present

7. Neighbourhood Forum report – Robert Winfield noted that the last Committee meeting had been attended by Abbie Miladinovic of Leeds City Council. On a more disappointing note, Robert Winfield regretted to have to report the resignation from the Neighbourhood Forum Committee of Bill Birch. Bill Birch had noted that at the recent inquiry into the Aspiring Communities planning application, Leeds City Council had failed to defend the fact that the site is earmarked for housing in their latest plan. Should there be a contentious planning application following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, how could Leeds City Council be expected to defend the Neighbourhood Plan. Robert Winfield noted that he regretted the resignation of Bill Birch but understood the point which he is making. He noted that the Committee had resolved to write to Leeds City Council about this matter.

8. The Beeston Festival. It was noted that the Committee had resolved that the stall would concentrate on the Neighbourhood Forum . Christine Thornton said that we need people who are members of the Neighbourhood Forum to support Committee members to run the stall which will operate between 12p.m and 5 p.m . If we do not get enough assistance, we will have spent money for nothing , and we will be unable to support the Neighbourhood Forum . Mark Parry volunteered to help on the stall between 2.30p.m and 5 p.m . Christine Thornton noted that she runs another stall. Eddie Leatham volunteered to help for an hour . Christine Thornton noted that someone must set up the stall. We will be getting help from Abbie Miladinovic and a team of Planning Aid volunteers . Adam Cooper has taken a number of photographs of the local area . Adam Cooper said that he would be able to help for a couple of hours but was not certain as to when . Ash Mahmood said that Aspiring Communities could help with the setting up and dismantling of the stall .

9. Beeston Village Community Centre. Robert Winfield noted that the National Lottery Bid for the redevelopment of Beeston Village Community Centre had been approved in early May , but was subject to General Election purdah so that this could not be disclosed publicly until after polling day. Health for All (Leeds) would need to raise £200000 from sources other than the lottery. If this is not raised, the replacement community centre, which is intended to be a two storey building , will be completed as a single storey building. Beeston Village Community Centre will close to groups on 6th August, and close completely for demolition on 13th August. The building of the new community centre would be expected to take ten months although this timescale is subject to fluctuation. The Forum will therefore need a temporary venue for meetings whilst the redevelopment is taking place. The Committee had discussed two potential venues; St Mary's Church, which is available for hire at a cost of £18 per hour, significantly greater than the cost of hiring Beeston Village Community Centre, and the function room at the White Hart, which is available free of charge. Robert Winfield noted that the Committee had considered the meeting room at Elland Road police station but Robert Winfield noted that he had not

received a reply to the e mail which he had sent to Insp. Travis about this matter; additionally, when this was discussed at the Forum Committee, committee members felt that Forum members would not welcome the prospect of walking along Wesley Street late at night. Christine Thornton noted that she had visited the White Hart to inspect the function room and was pleasantly surprised. There are five steps leading up to the room, but a chairlift for use by anyone who has difficulties with steps. It is a long, narrow room with tables and chairs. It has recently been refurbished with a new carpet and chairs. There is a large urn for the making of tea. The Forum would bring its own tea and coffee. Robert Winfield noted the comments of Ken Hewson at the committee meeting about the possibility of noise disrupting Forum meetings if the function room is used. Christine Thornton noted that although she visited the venue at a time when the pub was quiet, she was satisfied that there would be no disruption of forum meetings as a result of noise. Myra Munro noted that the function room is not connected to the pub. Adam Cooper pointed out that there is a separate entrance. Dennis Bottomley wondered whether the management of the pub hope that Forum members would buy drinks there. Christine Thornton noted that alcohol is not allowed in the function room. Lindsey Pearson noted that the charges for the use of St Mary's Church go towards the upkeep of the hall. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that we would be able to apply for a grant from the Community Committee to cover these costs. It would be unfair to seek a cheap rate from St Mary's Church as they have running costs. It was agreed to leave the final decision about a temporary venue to the Committee.

10. Aspiring Communities Planning Application- Christine Thornton noted that the Planning Inspector has decided to approve the application, subject to a number of conditions. Christine Thornton pointed out that the Inspector's decision is final and no appeal is possible. Bill Birch noted that there is the theoretical possibility of a judicial review, but those bringing the review would need to raise £50000. Christine Thornton noted that the Committee had decided request a copy of the planning conditions. It is hoped that Leeds City Council will enforce them. Bill Birch noted that Leeds City Council and Aspiring Communities must agree the planning conditions and said that Beeston Community Forum must be a part of this process. Furthermore Leeds City Council should insist on the formation of a liaison committee involving Aspiring Communities and local residents so that residents can bring their concerns about the development and have an oversight of what is going on. He noted that such liaison committees are routinely established in connection with contentious planning applications, and noted that he had been on the 'wrong' side of liaison committees when he had worked for the Open Cast Executive. Christine Thornton asked Ash Mahmood whether the planning conditions had been drawn up. Ash Mahmood explained that the conditions are still in the process of being drawn up. Bill Birch noted that pre entry conditions need to be agreed; these must be fulfilled before the remaining conditions are implemented. St Anthony's School and the Save Our Beeston campaign should also be involved in any liaison committee. Christine Thornton asked Ash Mahmood whether there has been any meeting between Aspiring Communities and Leeds City Council. Ash Mahmood said that to the best of his knowledge no such meeting had taken place; the next step would be to speak to the planners. Ash Mahmood circulated the rough draft of a flyer which Aspiring Communities intends to circulate to local residents; this has not yet been delivered. Christine Thornton said that the circulation area for the leaflet must be wider than three streets. The meeting agreed (with two abstentions and no votes against) to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we write to the Chief Planning Officer to request that we be involved in the process of drawing up the planning conditions and that a liaison committee be established involving all stakeholder groups to discuss issues and problems involved in the construction and the operation of the development.

11. Correspondence. No correspondence was reported

12 Constitutional Resolution. The resolution was put to the meeting as follows:-

That the area around Stank Hall Barn which

is not currently included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council and

will be included in the Beeston and Holbeck Ward of Leeds City Council following the ward boundary changes to be implemented in May 2018

shall immediately be considered to be a part of Beeston for purposes connected with the constitution of the Beeston Community Forum in addition to the areas specified in clause 5a).3 of the constitution

Steve Franis proposed an amendment to clarify that in addition to the area around Stank Hall Barn, Stank Hall Barn itself should be included. This was agreed. The resolution was approved by the necessary two thirds majority

13. It was agreed to ratify the decision of the Forum Committee to co opt Rev Lindsey Pearson to the Forum Committee

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Dennis Bottomley referred to the absence of representatives of the police from the meeting. Christine Thornton noted that the police inspector is aware of the dates of Forum meetings, but understood that Insp. Alan Travis has now left his position., Robert Winfield observed that this presumably explains the lack of a response to his e mail about the possible use of the meeting room at Elland Road Police Station as a temporary venue for Forum meetings. Councillor Angela Gabriel suggested giving information about Forum meetings to Chief Superintendent Paul Money, and allowing the information to trickle down. Councillor Adam Ogilvie suggested using the generic e mail address for the Inner South Neighbourhood Policing Team. Robert Winfield noted that he had used this address to prevent the police attending the cancelled Forum meeting on 1st June

14.2 Adam Cooper noted that he had raised concerns in relation to shifting problems relating to Elland Road to us. He felt that local

residents must be consulted . Angela Gabriel felt that Leeds United FC must take responsibility for fans parking in our area

14.3 Bill Birch noted that there had been a couple of strange occurrences recently; a gang of youths attacking Rowland Road Working Mens Club with stones and fireworks and two large police vans on Wesley Street looking for a man wearing a pink shirt

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that as Beeston Village Community Centre has now closed for redevelopment, the Forum meetings held on 7th September 2017, 5th October 2017 , 2nd November 2017 (joint meeting of the Beeston Community Forum and the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum) and 7th December 2017 (the AGM of the Beeston Community Forum) will now be held at the Function Room, White Hart, 45 Town Street, Beeston, LS11 8BZ