

**Chair:** Christine Thornton, 40 Cross Flatts Avenue, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 7BG. Tel 0113 270 0875

**Secretary:** Mr Robert Winfield, 7 Allenby Gardens, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 5RW. Tel 0113 271 6985

**E mail** [robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com](mailto:robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com) **Forum Website-** [www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk](http://www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk)

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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

### Beeston Forum General Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

#### Agenda

#### 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

#### 2. Apologies for absence

#### 3. Guest Speakers-

**Izabella Astraszkievicz-** Lead Officer, Transition, governance and capacity, Leeds City Council Childrens Services

**Sara Harris,** Learning Improvement Advisor, Leeds City Council Childrens Services

**Viv Buckland,** Head of Service- strategic development and investment strategy, performance and commissioning, Leeds City Council Childrens Services

**Lisa Leonard-** Head Teacher, St Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School

**Mr C. Lees;** Head Teacher, Beeston Primary School

**Margaret Beesley,** Head Teacher, Hugh Gaitskell Primary School

#### 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013

#### 5. Police Report

#### 6. Report of the subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston

#### 7. Report of Committee meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

#### 8. Correspondence

#### 9. Any Other Business

**Please note that the text of any constitutional amendments to be considered at the Forum AGM on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December must be published at the next Forum meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Attendance:-** Christine Thornton (in the chair) Mr. R. Bell, Mr. D. Blackburn, Mrs J. Blackburn, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mrs. M. Brennan, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. S. Francis, Mrs. E. Gardner, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, Mr. R. Hunt, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. A Kirby, Mr. A. Mahmood, Mrs. M. Mason, Miss. E. Newton, Mrs. C. Smith, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. G. Turton, Mrs. V. Weller and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and apologised for the fact that no refreshments would be served at the end of the meeting as a result of the kitchen being locked.

2. Apologies for absence were received from John Cockburn, Councillor Angela Gabriel, Councillor Adam Ogilvie, John Peckham and Noor Zaman.

3. Christine Thornton introduced the guest speakers; Rt. Hon Hilary Benn, MP and Ian Mackay, of Leeds City Council. It was agreed that Ian Mackay would speak first.

4. Ian Mackay thanked the Forum for its invitation and explained that he works in the City Development Department of Leeds City Council and leads on the issue of Neighbourhood Planning . He said that he would speak about the context and stages of neighbourhood planning and about delivering a successful Neighbourhood Plan. He said that there is no point in undertaking a neighbourhood plan if it does not make a difference. He would also speak about the lessons learned so far. He explained that it would be a good idea if Hilary Benn made a few remarks about neighbourhood planning because Ian Mackay and Hilary Benn had each attended a Parliamentary Reception on localism the previous evening, and positive messages had come from the reception. The comments about neighbourhood planning had been positive and neighbourhood planning is here to stay. Ian Mackay added that neighbourhood planning is about doing things and delivering projects and changed. Ian Mackay noted that Leeds is much further ahead than most local authority areas in the country. In addition, Planning Aid has said that Leeds City Council offers some of the best support for neighbourhood planning in the country. He added that one of the reasons why Leeds City Council supports Neighbourhood Planning is that the principles of neighbourhood planning are sound; involving local communities influencing planning and coming up with ideas in partnership with the council and businesses. This involves doing things differently to how they have been done in the past.

Ian Mackay noted that there have been twenty designations in Leeds. These are mainly parished areas such as Wetherby, Otley and Boston Spa. There are nineteen other areas in Leeds seeking designation including Beeston, Holbeck, Hyde Park, Seacroft and New Wortley. These are broadly at the same stage. Some are relatively advanced whilst others are at early stages. However, Ian Mackay argued that it is a strength for the Beeston application to be at an early stage, because the application would be in a position to benefit from the knowledge and experience which had been gained so far. .

Ian Mackay pointed out that Neighbourhood Planning is a new right which was introduced by the Localism Act. This offers the right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for a defined Neighbourhood Area which is agreed in association with the local authority. He noted that the steering group for the Beeston Neighbourhood Plan had submitted a suggested Neighbourhood Area which seems good. Within an area, a Neighbourhood Plan can, in theory decide where a new development can take place and what it would look like. A plan can also influence non planning issues. Ian Mackay felt that small projects , which could be small environmental improvements or something more significant. Ian Mackay felt this is the key for Beeston. He added that they key to a neighbourhood plan is social economic and environmental sustainability. He noted that Neighbourhood Planning has a place in planning policy.

Ian Mackay said that the context is that Beeston has a planning history, as well as many opportunities and challenges. He said that the beginning of neighbourhood planning is the most important stage. We must be clear as to what we wish to get out of a neighbourhood plan. He noted that a suburb of Rotherham had produced a neighbourhood plan with one project; to deliver an allotment. Ian Mackay felt this was a missed opportunity and that a plan could have delivered more. He contrasted this with the neighbourhood plan for Aireborough, Leeds, which covers Guiseley and Yeadon. He noted that those drawing up the neighbourhood plan had looked at every possible planning and non planning opportunity, notably housing, retail, green space, town centres, jobs, training and the environment. He said that any application for a neighbourhood plan from Beeston should be a Beeston made plan He noted that it is the practice for Leeds City Council to advertise the plan for six weeks and obtain representations. Leeds City Council would then consult with the Chair of the Area Committee covering the neighbourhood area as well as local ward councillors. The plan would then proceed to designation; that is, the designation of the Beeston Neighbourhood Area/Forum. The Neighbourhood Forum must include a minimum of 21 people who must live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area. Ian Mackay said that the carrying out business category can include elected representatives and the third sector. The Beeston Community Forum would submit an application for designation which would be advertised for a six week period during which representations are invited. The designation of the neighbourhood Forum should follow. Ian Mackay pointed out that no neighbourhood forums have so far been designated in Leeds and that all interest so far has come from parish and town councils. He added that the level of interest in Leeds is far greater than the level of interest in any other place in the North of England. Ian Mackay referred to the difficult choices which the city will have to make in relation to housing, retail, green space and employment. Community relations are good. Ian Mackay referred to the opportunities which neighbourhood planning brings. He noted that Leeds City Council has been proactive in urban areas, and had provided resources to assist the process of neighbourhood planning. However, some local authorities have taken a different view of neighbourhood planning, and have taken some time to appreciate the opportunities available from neighbourhood planning. He noted that on the previous evening, he had attended a cross party event dealing with neighbourhood planning at the House of Commons. He was pleased about the cross party support for neighbourhood planning expressed at this event. He said that neighbourhood planning is here to stay. .

Ian Mackay noted that the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan represents a new way of working for all. It is not about the Council preparing a plan; instead residents prepare a plan for themselves, and come up with a vision and ideas which local residents want in the plan. In the past the Council would have prepared a plan, consulted the community about this and taken representations from interested parties. With neighbourhood planning, this has been turned on its head. Ian Mackay reassured local residents that they will not be on their own. In a neighbourhood plan, the residents prepare a neighbourhood plan and consult about it. The residents consult businesses, for example Yorkshire Water. Anyone who carries out business in the area would be consulted.

The final two stages of implementing the neighbourhood plan are examination and the referendum. The neighbourhood plan is subjected to an independent examination which is organised and paid for by the Council. The examiner would be agreed with those sponsoring the

Neighbourhood Plan. If the plan passes the examination, the examiner will recommend a referendum to the Council. The question is a straightforward ; one 'Do you want Leeds City Council to make planning decisions based on the content of the Neighbourhood Plan' . So far, there have been three such referendums in the country, each of which have produced a yes vote.

Ian Mackay said that he would guess that Forum members would want to know how to make a neighbourhood plan work and to deliver a successful neighbourhood plan. There are a number of basic conditions which Ian Mackay cannot stress enough. The neighbourhood plan must conform with the Council's planning policies and the national planning policy framework. The plan must also comply with human rights and equality legislation. It must promote economic, environmental and social sustainability. Ian Mackay added that he cannot stress the need to raise awareness of neighbourhood planning in Beeston enough. This can be done by means of social media, posters , banners and flyers. People must know about this. Additionally, the neighbourhood forum must be open, inclusive and transparent. Voters are more likely to vote yes in the referendum if they are involved.

Ian Mackay explained that there are many people with the right skills, knowledge and expertise who could help with the establishment of the Neighbourhood Plan. Why pay for a consultant or for technical work when someone from the community can undertake this work at no cost. In connection with the question , 'Why does Beeston need Neighbourhood Plan', Ian Mackay acknowledged that Forum members know Beeston far better than he does. He asked what would businesses and stakeholders want from the neighbourhood plan. It is the community's plan in the broadest sense of the . It is not the Beeston Community Forum's Neighbourhood Plan , but the Beeston community's neighbourhood plan. Ian Mackay added that many Parish Councils have made the mistake of saying that the neighbourhood plan covering their area is their neighbourhood plan. He added that a lot of work needs to be done at the early stages; Leeds City Council can provide support. Ian Mackay noted that he had attended a Committee meeting of the Beeston Community Forum and suggested that the Forum might undertake a SWOT analysis. This is a fun exercise at the start of the process. We need to consider things such as what are the issues, what makes Beeston tick. This exercise can be undertaken at a number of stages in the preparation. Ian Mackay added that early consultation and engagement is important. He added that Planning Aid can advise, attend events and offer support. He noted that few people have the skills to carry out a proper consultation , particularly knowing what to do with the results of the consultation

Ian Mackay advocated a skills audit in order to understand what people can contribute, such as taking photographs , writing reports and arranging meetings. Ian Mackay noted that the Holbeck Christmas Fair had performed a valuable function in encouraging people to sign up for the neighbourhood forum. Ian Mackay felt that one person must be the leader and noted that this is the difference between success and failure. This individual must, he felt, be a resident of the Neighbourhood Area.

Ian Mackay then addressed the issue of evidence. He stressed that this is not what members of the Beeston Forum want, but what Beeston needs. These are two different things. The Examiner will look for evidence but it is only fair that those seeking to set up a neighbourhood plan will not need to provide the same level of evidence as that required for council planning documents. This is generally recognised by the examiners. Ian Mackay praised Robert Winfield for producing 'fantastic minutes' . He noted that the quality of minutes, the governance of the Neighbourhood Forum and the recording of decisions is important. A neighbourhood plan should be about delivering change. It is good if we can identify deliverable projects and how they can be delivered. Ian Mackay added that neighbourhood planning can and should be used as a funding tool. A neighbourhood plan can be used to bid for funding, and also put forward a long term vision and aspirations. A voter in the neighbourhood area is one audience for those framing a neighbourhood plan. In addition, a Development Management Officer will have the Neighbourhood Plan on his desk and will assess planning applications against the Neighbourhood Plan. Thus, the clarity of the Neighbourhood Plan is important. Ian Mackay said that a Council has a duty to support local residents in preparing a neighbourhood plan; however, it is left to individual local authorities to decide how to do this . In Leeds, the neighbourhood planning team works with Locality and Area Management Teams, and also uses planning and other resources in order to give joined up support. One a neighbourhood forum is designated it can apply for funding, including up to £7000 through the Locality website, which gives information in plain English. It is also possible to apply for support from Planning Aid. Groups can receive up to £10000 worth of consultancy support from a Planning Aid Officer, and unlimited access to volunteers.

5. Hilary Benn took the opportunity to make a number of remarks about neighbourhood planning. He said that he was delighted when Robert Winfield informed him that Ian Mackay would also be attending the present meeting of the Forum. He noted that the Forum had set up a subgroup to deal with this. Hilary Benn added that Neighbourhood Planning is about enabling communities to have some say over how they change, grow and develop. He noted that planning can be passive, but also pointed out that large organisations such as Tesco and Asda. Hilary Benn said that this will be a chance for the Community to say 'Do we want to shape our community; do we want a say?' A neighbourhood plan will enable local residents to determine what they wish to see in a community. The neighbourhood plan must draw on the whole community. The public would take responsibility and must vote on the Neighbourhood Plan in a Referendum. Hilary Benn added that passive planning is not good and he noted that people say 'I don't like this'. He suggested that if people do not like something, they should get stuck in.

Hilary Benn then addressed the issue of Housing Development. He noted that he recently attended a Leeds City Council Roadshow about new housing, which is a big issue. He noted that there is a waiting list and overcrowding. Hilary Benn noted that 80% of people accept that we need new housing and 40% of people would be happy to build new housing near where they live. Hilary Benn noted that councils are under a legal obligation to identify a five year land supply for housing. If a council fails to do this, the Planning Inspectorate can determine this. A neighbourhood plan gives a community the chance to say where housing should and should not go. Some areas need to be preserved. He referred to a neighbourhood plan in Tame, Oxfordshire where there had been a big debate about new housing. It

was agreed that 70 new houses need to be built. If you had started out by asking what chance there is of getting the local community to agree to that, people would have said that there is no chance and that housing would be imposed on local communities who would have no say in the matter. Hilary Benn noted that the setting up of a neighbourhood plan involves a considerable amount of hard work and commitment and effort but this needs to be done as Neighbourhood Planning is a better way of doing things. A local community would ward off things which it does not want.

6. The meeting then opened up to questions from the floor.

6.1 Doris Brooke noted that Leeds City Council has no money for housing and asked what the point of planning is. Hilary Benn said that Leeds City Council has announced plans to build 800 new council houses which is the largest house building programme in a generation. He noted that this is part of a PFI scheme to build houses in Little London, Beeston Hill and Holbeck, and that on top of that, Leeds City Council have found the resources for 400 new houses. Hilary Benn noted that the last Labour government had changed the rules in relation to the Housing Revenue Account to allow borrowing against existing housing stock. This is positive; encouraging development.

6.2 Doris Brooke referred to the closure of four day centres and asked whether Leeds City Council can afford to keep them open. Hilary Benn said that council funding from central government had been cut by 30% and in 2016 there would be a cut of 14-15%. Hilary Benn added that those currently in the day centres which will be closed will get provision elsewhere. Investment in housing is essential for the future of the city and is a basic human need. Hilary Benn pointed out that he sees this in his surgeries. He noted that government is about taking difficult decisions. Doris Brooke said that day centres are important, particularly in these areas where there is a large number of elderly and disabled people, but there seems to be no money for them. Hilary Benn said that there are huge, and rising costs falling on the council for social care. People are provided for in lots of different ways. The Council is putting more money into social care due to rising demand, but other things have to go. Housing is a capital investment and the Council had lobbied the government and secured the PFI funds.

6.3 John Hodgson noted that there would be 21 members in the Neighbourhood Forum. He noted that since 1990, this area has been studied by universities, Dr Barnardos and even by theology students. Anyone looking at the reports will find little difference between them. He also said that on paper, the Localism Act is good. However, he felt that the Councillors should be included amongst the 21 members of the Neighbourhood Forum. He noted that anyone with an interest in the area (for example, people carrying out business) are able to serve. He wondered whether there would always be more residents than non residents. John Hodgson felt that people living in an area should be there when decisions are made. He noted that a planner had worked for five days in order to produce the constitution. He is worried about this situation and felt that decisions should not be taken too far from ordinary people. He noted that there are many intelligent people in the area, including some with degrees. He added that the problems which were identified by the reports produced about this area still exist; in particular, there is a revolving door population in the LS11 postal district. We need a settled community. Ian Mackay said that he would not say that the neighbourhood planning process is perfect and it may not be right for every area but its success would depend on the time, energy and commitment put into the process. It was noted that a Neighbourhood Forum would allow local residents, business and others to represent the community. Ian Mackay said that five days had not been spent writing the constitution. He noted that he had read the reports to which John Hodgson referred and noted that the reports can be used as evidence to obtain benefits from the planning process. He noted that the reports were prepared ten years ago, but during that time, the planning policy framework has changed significantly. There is now a national framework and Neighbourhood Planning had turned planning on its head. The neighbourhood forum must be about residents but people living in the area cannot deliver a successful neighbourhood plan on their own. We need people who are involved in business. This had been borne out in the three neighbourhood planning referendums which have so far taken place. In each case, the examiners had said that the strength of the plans is the support from local businesses, which had helped local residents to get what they want. Businesses can also provide funding; a factor which should not be underestimated. With regard to business representation on the neighbourhood forum, those involved would need to come to some sort of agreement as to what is appropriate representation. This may, for example, be 15 residents and five business representatives. Ian Mackay also stressed that 21 is the minimum number of members for a neighbourhood forum. He added that the constitution of a neighbourhood forum is important and that local residents can benefit from all the work which is undertaken. He added that there have been fantastic constitutions prepared by neighbourhood forums in places similar to Beeston. He suggested that the best bits of these could be used to form part of the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum constitution. He added that the progress towards a Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan is a little more advanced than the process in Beeston but he pointed out that although the independent advisor had worked for five days in Holbeck, only one of these days was spent dealing with the constitution. John Hodgson observed that charities and councils have little money, but that local residents can apply for money. He felt that this is a two way thing; a council needs people but also the people needs councillors (who are elected by the people) to be involved. Ian Mackay noted that he has assisted communities to get funding. He added that this is about communities coming together. A strong neighbourhood plan is the way to do this and he would recommend that the community focusses on that.

6.4 Greg Turton pointed out that the steering committee is anxious to apply for grants. He is aware of the headings but also noted that grants can only be sought once a neighbourhood forum is designated. He asked whether they must wait until the end of the consultation period. Ian Mackay said that this is the case. He had assisted Seacroft with their successful application. He added that he can advise in relation to key words and phrases which can be used in relation to the application. However, there is no need for a group to wait until it has support; a lot of work can be done in advance. He had looked at the Beeston Forum website and described this as fantastic. Greg Turton noted that he had suggested a 35 member Neighbourhood Forum. Ian Mackay said that funding and support are available to prepare the neighbourhood plan and can be agreed once the neighbourhood forum is designated. There is also separate funding available

if a group feels that it would struggle to have the neighbourhood forum designated. If this applies, Ian Mackay suggested that we should let him know, and he would then apply for support through Locality. This is well organised. Greg Turton felt that we would need grant aid, not consultancy aid. Ian Mackay agreed with this.

7. Christine Thornton suggested that as we were discussing the issue of Neighbourhood Planning, it would be appropriate to take the report of the subgroup dealing with the neighbourhood plan

7.1 Greg Turton said that the subgroup had met before the last meeting of the Forum and produced a timetable for various actions. Members of the subgroup have been given various tasks and targets. Richard Bell had produced a submission dealing with the designated area, whilst Greg Turton had produced a paper for Leeds City Council explaining why the Beeston Forum Area is appropriate for the Neighbourhood Plan. There is also a section explaining why the Beeston Community Forum is an appropriate organisation to sponsor the plan. Ian Mackay is progressing through the consultation. Greg Turton explained that he would produce the hard copy for a leaflet. This will explain the Neighbourhood planning process, the benefits of neighbourhood planning. He added that the consultation process is about finding out what Beeston people think about Beeston. Residents and other stakeholders will be given the chance to volunteer. Greg Turton explained that the subgroup will need to consider the size of the leaflet and approach a printer for costings. It would also be necessary to find a designer for the leaflet. Richard Bell said that he would be in a position to put the leaflet into a good format. He felt that this would take up until Christmas. He hoped that the results of the consultation would come back quickly. The group will also need to identify volunteers and put in place a constitution. The subgroup had also identified areas for grants. Richard Bell said he is delighted that Ian Mackay will help. He added that the group is now registered with Locality, to whom a grant application would be sent. Ash Mahmood asked whether we would need any assistance with leaflet design. Ian Mackay said that this is how neighbourhood planning should work. Ian Mackay said that there is no better way of understanding Neighbourhood Planning than going to another meeting. The team dealing with the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan would be organising a meeting at 11.30p.m on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at St Matthews Church, Holbeck. Ian Mackay would be attending. Ian Mackay suggested that the Beeston and Holbeck groups could work together.

8. Hilary Benn then spoke about issues unrelated to Neighbourhood Planning. He thanked the Forum for its invitation and updated the Forum about a number of issues. In connection with the proposed all weather football pitch at Cockburn High School, Hilary Benn noted that there were representations about the angle and glare of the floodlights. As a result of this, the plans were revisited. Hilary Benn contacted Leeds City Council who would ensure that the angle of the lights is changed so that the glare would not affect local residents. In connection with the possible closure of Hunslet and Morley Fire Stations, Hilary Benn noted that he had succeeded in averting this. He had met representatives of the Fire Brigades Union. Hunslet and Morley Fire Stations would remain open, although Hunslet has lost one pump. Hilary Benn noted that the issue of housing has already been dealt with. In connection with the proposals for the Ice Pak site, Hilary Benn noted that he had been to see the site. He explained that he has concerns about parking and the impact of the proposals on the community. There must be continuing and proper consultation as David Congreve has acknowledged. Hilary Benn will also look into the issue of Stank Hall Barn which he acknowledged is one of the oldest pieces of heritage in the area. It is a listed building but it is in a sorry state. He noted that a Friends Group had been formed and Hilary Benn is happy to support this. He noted that there is a meeting at Stank Hall Barn at 3.30p.m on the day following the meeting. Hilary Benn noted that Stank Hall Barn is one of a number of buildings in Leeds which is of important architectural and historical interest. Another such building is the first White Cloth 'Hall in Kirkgate. part of which had collapsed. Hilary Benn noted that there is a scheme for the whole row of buildings. He paid tribute to Leeds Civic Trust and English Heritage for raising awareness of the relevant issues, campaigning about them and funding.

Hilary Benn noted that Asda has won the Asda / Teco store wars, in connection with the planning applications for stores on Old Lane. He noted that a lot of consideration had been given to the impact of the proposals on the Co-op. Hilary Benn said that it had been right to take this into account. He also noted that Parliament had been recalled early to debate the situation in Syria. He noted that neither of the resolutions which had been put to the House of Commons had been carried. It is good that the economy is beginning to grow. However, Hilary Benn explained that he is conscious of how difficult things are for many people, in view of the rising cost of food and energy. There have been few increases in wages and in many cases, real wages have fallen.

9.1 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst the issues raised are the privatisation of Royal Mail, the provision of Old Peoples homes, the free concessionary travel available to pensioners, the current situation in Syria

10. Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013. Ash Mahmood pointed out that there are a number of references in the minutes to comments which had been described as having been made by his brother, Yasir Mahmood. The comments had, in fact been made by him. Subject to this matter, the minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the minutes.

11. Correspondence.

11.1 Robert Winfield noted that he had a lengthy correspondence with a local resident, John Cockburn, who is a resident of the Heath Estate, regarding the issue of the consultation relating to the proposal to charge for residents car parking. Robert Winfield noted that in view of the pressures on time, he would not be able to report the correspondence in detail. However, he pointed out that Mr Cockburn (who said that he would be unable to attend the meeting because he would be looking after his children) had made what he felt are a number of reasonable points regarding flaws in the consultation process. Robert Winfield proposed that we write to Leeds City Council expressing agreement with the points made by Mr Cockburn. Richard Bell expressed concerns that the Forum is acting as an advocate for individuals who do not attend our meetings. Robert Winfield pointed out that the views put forward by Mr Cockburn are reasonable,

and felt that we should support them whether they had been put forward by Mr Cockburn or by a person who attends the Forum more regularly. John Hodgson said that there had been a statement by the councillors that the residents parking scheme affecting Wesley Street and the Sunnyviews applies on match days and events only. He felt that the consultation process is another done deal. He added that people will be affected if the section 106 agreement relating to the police station goes ahead. John Hodgson wondered whether people want to pay a tax which does not even guarantee a parking place. Christine Thornton noted that there is no entitlement to park on the highway. Mary Mason asked why people should need to pay £75 to park outside their house. It was agreed to write to Leeds City Council in support of the concerns expressed by Mr Cockburn.

11.2 Christine Thornton noted that Tim Flanagan, who had been a guest speaker at the last Forum meeting, had telephoned her to ask whether the Forum could support the planning application relating to the White Rose Centre. Christine Thornton had made clear that she would need to put this to the Forum. Richard Bell said that the proposals would increase the amenities in this area and we should support the application. Greg Turton noted that people were generally in favour of the proposal. It was agreed to support the application.

11.3 Christine Thornton had received a telephone call from Stuart Robinson of International Fun Fairs who was currently organising a 'seaside' event in Millennium Square. He had not previously heard about the Park and Ride proposal at Elland Road. Christine Thornton gave him the name of Richard Lewis.

## 12. Any Other Business

12.1 Robert Winfield noted that the Committee had decided that the January 2014 Forum meeting would take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014

12.2 Steve Francis referred to the expansion in places at Beeston Primary School, of which he is the Chair of Governors. As a result of having to use the staff car park for an assembly hall 8 car parking spaces would be lost. The car parking spaces would be relocated at no inconvenience to local residents. The new development would go across a field to the right of the school. The size of the hall would be increased and there would be a new block.

12.3 Ash Mahmood wondered whether local residents had thought about the facilities which would be included in the proposed development by Aspiring Communities. Richard Bell asked what the management structure of the new development be like if the development goes ahead. Ash Mahmood said that he wants all local residents on board. If locals do not come on board, how would we say we want particular services? Christine Thornton noted that Aspiring Communities would be organising an open day at Beeston Village Community Centre at 4p.m on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Ash Mahmood said that all providers of services, agencies and government organisations in the area, for example Beeston Action for Families had been invited. It is hoped that they would gain a better understanding of the services so they can better consult the community.