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## **BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM**

### **Beeston Forum General Meeting - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016**
- 4. Police Report**
- 5. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan (longer discussion including contributions from members of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum)**
- 6. Report of the Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016**
- 7. Correspondence**
- 8. Aspiring Communities Planning Application**
- 9. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Attendance:- Mr A. Kirby (in the chair in the absence of Christine Thornton) , Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs J Birch, Mr. D.C. Bottomley, Mrs D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mrs. J. Bush, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Mr. E. Leathem, Mrs. M. Munro, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Rev L. Pearson, PCSO S. Robinson (West Yorkshire Police, Mr. G. Smith, Mrs. C. Smith, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Acting Chairman's Opening Remarks- Arthur Kirby welcomed those present to the meeting and noted that he is standing in for Christine Thornton, who is on holiday

2. Apologies for absence were received from Adam Cooper, John Cunningham, Steve Francis and Christine Thornton

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016. Arthur Kirby noted that most of the meeting had been devoted to a debate about the UK's future membership of the EU , involving Richard Corbett MEP , who advocated the UKs continued membership of the EU , and Carl Chambers , who advocated that the UK should leave the EU. Arthur Kirby noted that we are all aware of the outcome of the meeting . He praised the 'superb minutes' of the meeting produced by Robert Winfield. Sandra Burton said it had been a very civilised meeting. Greg Turton said that it had been a very good quality debate, in which both speakers were very knowledgeable and had put forward their case very powerfully. He said he was glad that he had attended. Arthur Kirby said that he was glad to see Greg Turton at a meeting; he was aware that he had recently been unwell. The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting

4. Arthur Kirby introduced the Guest Speaker; Bobby Viridi of the Leeds City Council Highways Department , who would speak about the proposed extension of the residents car parking scheme around Elland Road

4.1 Bobby Virdi outlined the background to the proposals; the new Police Headquarters on Elland Road had taken up lots of car parking space and it was noted that the parking, thus displaced, might affect surrounding areas. It was therefore proposed that this situation would be mitigated by introducing a match day only permit scheme. He added that Forum members will probably have received a leaflet setting out information about the proposals and asking for comments. This had been sent to all houses in the area of the proposed scheme. Arthur Kirby noted that he had not received such a leaflet. Bobby Virdi said councillors and council officers had identified the areas to be covered by the proposals. Thus, the proposed area includes Town Street, Cross Flatts down to Theodore Street, the Malverns, the Recreations and some parts of Wortley, notably the Highfields and the area around the Dragon Hotel. 4400 leaflets were sent out, which generated 35 responses. Arthur Kirby asked why the leaflets had not been circulated to other areas of Beeston. Bobby Virdi said that Leeds City Council had to define an area with a cut off point; this judgement was made in conjunction with councillors and officers. It would have been possible to extend the proposed zone to Dewsbury Road, but that would have been extreme. Eddie Leatham said that even areas which are not part of the proposed extended zone would be affected, as on street parking would be likely to increase, so that some consultation is required. Bobby Virdi said that residents in the area to be covered by the proposed scheme had complained that they were unable to park their cars. He accepted that it is natural that the introduction of residents only parking schemes do lead to transference of traffic but there is only so far Leeds City Council can go with consultation.

4.2 Bobby Virdi pointed out that a legally enforceable Traffic Regulation Order is required to put in place a residents parking scheme. There is a legal requirement to advertise the scheme, to put up street notices in all streets affected by the proposals, and allow representations, including objections to the scheme. He noted that there had been a number of objections from residents in the Cross Flatts Area, close to Cross Flatts Park, on the basis that there are no parking issues in this area.

4.3 Dennis Bottomley, who noted that he lives within the area covered by the proposals, noted that parking is expensive at Elland Road, and said that if a particular area is included in a residents parking zone, traffic will move to another area. He said that the proposals would have been better if the proposed area had reached as far as Dewsbury Road. Bobby Virdi noted that Leeds City Council had looked at this. He noted that there is currently no scheme, just proposals. He would go back and say that the consensus is that the proposed area to be covered by the scheme does not go far enough.

4.4 Stuart Casserley asked what provisions exist around Elland Road for people to park; in particular, will the arrangements relating to the Park and Ride facility, which does not operate on a Saturday, be changed. Bobby Virdi noted that the Park and Ride facility is used for parking space on match days and that Leeds United FC charge for parking. Stuart Casserley wondered whether Leeds City Council receives some of this money. Bobby Virdi pointed out that the scheme arose due to the building of the police station, which had resulted in a loss of parking space, which gave rise to a need for mitigation measures. There is a need to see where cars park.

4.5 Bill Birch said that Leeds City Council had created this problem by selling the police station in Leeds City Centre and building the replacement police station on Elland Road. This had resulted in a reduction of the number of available car parking spaces from 4200 to 2700. He noted that Beeston residents will live within the proposed parking zone, in which case visitors get fined, or outside it, in which case residents would see increased parking. He added that Leeds City Council exploits us, and asked what would happen when the ice rink is built. Would there be match day parking when events are held at the Ice Rink? He noted that Leeds City Council had received a fortune from Beeston from money paid by developers under section 106 agreements, but that not a penny had been spent for the benefit of Beeston residents. Bobby Virdi said that he deals with traffic issues and that if planning approves something, it is out of his hands. We must make things better for residents. Bill Birch said that Leeds United FC should have built a multi storey car park. We were told that this would be too expensive, but the police station has a multi storey car park.

4.6 Julie Bush suggested that fans should be brought into the Park and Ride facility. Removing parking from the streets is all well and good but there is nothing to replace it. Bobby Virdi noted that Parking Services would police the scheme. PCSO Sharon Robinson noted that buses bring fans into the ground and wondered whether this can be increased. Stuart Casserley suggested that Metro could be encouraged to run a park and Ride in reverse. Leeds City Council could apply pressure to do this. However, Bobby Virdi said that we must deal with the situation as it is. Julie Bush asked which council department we would go to. Bobby Virdi suggested that we should approach Leeds United FC and Metro. He added that the duty of his department is to manage them in terms of parking but he could liaise with Metro with suggestions. He added that Leeds United FC is a private company and the building of a multi storey car park is up to them. They may not have the funds to do this. Dennis Bottomley said that bussing fans into Elland Road is right. He added that car drivers will get as close as possible to the stadium without paying. Bobby Virdi acknowledged that transference of vehicles is normal with permit schemes as the demand for on street parking is transferred.

4.7 Mark Parry said that we must reduce the number of cars coming into the area, which adds to pollution. More car parking at Elland Road means that more traffic is sucked in. If he holds a party at his house which leads to a large number of parked cars, someone will complain about the situation. He added that St James's Park Newcastle has cheap season tickets. Bobby Virdi suggested taking these matters up with Leeds United FC. He added that Elland Road crowds are currently relatively low, but could increase if the club becomes more successful. Current crowds are around 20000 but 40000 crowds would have an impact.

4.8 Rosemary Casserley noted that there are double yellow lines at Headingley Stadium. She asked what is the difference between South Leeds and North Leeds. Bobby Virdi said that double yellow lines are going in at most junctions to stop obstructive parking. Julie Bush wondered whether this would actually stop them, and noted that it is dangerous to turn off Dewsbury Road into the Cross Flatts area. Bobby Virdi said that this is down to enforcement by Parking Services. When there is a match on, residents could ask for enforcement by Parking Services.

4.9 Bill Birch noted that the figures show that Leeds United FC have given Leeds City Council £300000, and the police have given

£10000 in respect of the police station. This has been wasted on the Park and Ride facility, but should have been used to address the reduction in parking spaces. He said that the council is using money on pet schemes, not on what residents need. Bobby Viridi reminded Forum members that the proposed scheme relates to the police station, not to the football ground. We must strike a balance in terms of what is right for the area. He added that Cottingley is covered by the permit scheme; it gets parking for the Drysalts.

4.10 Stuart Casserley asked whether yellow lines would protect grass verges and footpaths. He noted that there is often parking on footpaths. Bobby Viridi said that if the highway is adopted, the double yellow lines cover the area between the kerb and the back of the footpath.

4.11 John Hook noted that we have got the Park and Ride Scheme which everyone complains is not being used. In cities such as Cardiff, Oxford and Edinburgh, there are typically four Park and Ride facilities. When he travels to Cardiff, the first thing to do is to go to the Park and Ride. All the local businesses open up their car parks. He would get on a bus; there would be four routes to the venue of the match. When the match is finished, he gets on the bus outside the stadium to return. He said that in Leeds, we have embraced Park and Ride half heartedly, whilst building a massive police station which had resulted in car parking being lost. In Leeds, the Park and Ride facility is less than two miles from the City Centre; indeed many people walk from Elland Road stadium to the railway station. We need a proper system, and a railway station at Elland Road, which, he acknowledged, would cost money. He reiterated that there are four park and ride installations in some towns and cities which are smaller than Leeds. Oxford, he noted is a university town, with many students coming in and going out, whilst the centre of Cambridge is paved, with all traffic going on the outside. He noted that the M621 and M62 are frequently blocked, and suggested that people should look at the Armley gyratory on match days. He observed that you 'might as well have a picnic'. Bobby Viridi acknowledged that we need a more accessible Park and Ride, and that people coming off motorways should go to a Park and Ride facility straight away. If we are putting a scheme in, we are also encouraging people not to come in by car. If there is nowhere to park, this might deter people from coming in by car and encourage public transport.

4.12 Rosemary Casserley noted that there is a lot of parking on grass verges where there are double yellow lines. No one seems to be responsible or worried. She therefore cannot see how yellow lines on roundabouts will stop parking on a roundabout. How will this be enforced? The current system is not enforced. PCSO Robinson said that the police issue tickets for parking on double yellow lines and parking too close. Rosemary Casserley said that she has informed the police and the council but that no one bothers. Bobby Viridi acknowledged that there is a problem with enforcement. When putting in a scheme there are big implications. For a scheme to work, it is necessary to work in conjunction with Parking Services. Rosemary Casserley wondered whether we really want to tell visitors to Leeds that they are not welcome, they should go away, and we do not want their money. We should be helping visitors and we must work with Leeds City Council to provide more car parking, for example, new Park and Ride facilities. Bobby Viridi said that there should be more parking available but Leeds United FC could say that they do not wish to provide this. Rosemary Casserley. Bobby Viridi observed that now there is a police station at Elland Road, he has to do something. He has a duty to look after parking and see what is the best for residents. There are some downsides and we must strike a balance in terms of the area covered.

4.13 Julie Bush said that if there is a cut off area for the scheme, then she would benefit from the introduction of permits, but parking would be dispersed into a much wider area. However, she feels like people at the meeting are addressing the wrong person. She wondered whether we can speak to the person responsible for transport or planning on Leeds City Council. Rosemary Casserley noted that two railway stations have recently opened in the North of Leeds including Kirkstall Forge. Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that the Inner South Leeds Community Committee recently organised a meeting, which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> June to discuss Highways issues. Eight people from Beeston had attended the meeting, which had taken place at Hugh Gaitskell School and had been advertised on the Save Our Beeston website. The meeting heard from Nick Hunt, of the Leeds City Council Highways Department and there had been an opportunity for a wider discussion. Julie Bush wondered whether they could attend a future meeting of the Forum.

4.14 Greg Turton said that we should encourage people to take alternative forms of transport, and we are not putting measures in place to encourage people to do this. We must realise that various stakeholders need to be got together and talked through the problem. Leeds United FC has reduced the number of its car parks, and thus cannot accommodate its customers. They are effectively allowing customers to park in an area within a one mile radius of the stadium. This is unsatisfactory. The council should bring this to bear on Leeds United FC who must co-operate with the stakeholders. He added that we need a summit of residents, Leeds City Council, Leeds United FC and the police to bring the various stakeholders together. Greg Turton added that we must consider the remarks made by Mark Parry about pollution. He noted that we will be vulnerable on the issue of air quality.

4.15 Robert Winfield pointed out that we could accommodate a guest speaker at the October meeting. He noted that Councillor Judith Blake, the Leader of Leeds City Council (who was originally due to have been a guest speaker at the present meeting but had to withdraw due to her involvement in a meeting in London) had also confirmed that she would not be able to attend the October meeting. With regard to suggestions that the forum invite a representative of Leeds United FC to attend the Forum, he confirmed that he had, at the request of the Committee of the Forum invited Massimo Cellino to the last forum AGM. Robert Winfield noted that he never received a reply to the letter, nor candidly, did he expect to receive a reply. He also noted that many people had described Mr Cellino in more colourful language than he would be willing to use at meetings of the Forum. Julie Bush said that we should prepare an agenda of items which need to be discussed at the meeting. Colin Hendrick Ward suggested that stakeholders could bring pressure to bear on Mr Cellino. Councillor Adam Ogilvie suggested inviting Martin Farrington, the Director of City Development. He noted that his responsibilities cover Highways, planning and city development. He would be a more worthwhile invitee than the Head of Highways. Greg Turton pointed out that Leeds United FC have recently appointed a new Chief Executive. It was also agreed that we suggest to Martin Farrington that he seeks to bring the stakeholders together.

4.16 Julie Bush asked Bobby Viridi when he is looking to bring in the new scheme. Bobby Viridi noted that it is necessary to introduce a legal order by means which involve street notices and representations. Any objections would result in the introduction of the scheme being delayed. If there are any objections, he would need to write a report to the Chief Highways Officer and present the objections which are then upheld or overruled. Any negative comments are treated as objections and reported to the Highways Board by due process. The scheme will not be implemented until September and objections would be likely to lead to a delay of one month. Bill Birch wondered whether objections from people living outside the area would be able to object. Bobby Viridi confirmed that they are able to object. The meeting agreed to a proposal that we invite Martin Farrington to the October meeting, and write to the various stakeholders along the lines agreed

## 5. Police Report-

5.1 PCSO Sharon Robinson noted that she has been covering the area for two to three months. She also covers Cottingley and Holbeck. She then dealt with the crime figures for the period between 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July. There were 16 crimes including four burglary dwellings (in Cross Flatts Crescent, Heath Place, Jessamine Avenue and Preston Parade) There were two Burglary Others, one of which involved an out building in Atha Street. There was another burglary in the Cross Flatts Area in which the thief broke the window and was then disturbed. Other crimes include criminal damage as follows

- I) in Heath Crescent involving stones being removed from a pond,
- II) at Sugar Mill on Oakhurst Road involving graffiti and smashed windows; anti social behaviour by youths
- III) in Cross Flatts Grove involving damage to a vehicle which had a window smashed-
- IV) Damage to a vehicle roof on Cross Flatts Grove no one has been caught, but there are suspicions that the two incidents on Cross Flatts Grove are the work of the same person.
- V) Damage to a sapling tree at a community centre on Waincliffe Place ) ,

There was one theft from a vehicle, on Allenby Road; enquiries are ongoing. Thefts of motor vehicles had taken place on Allenby Road, Waincliffe Drive and Barkly Place). Julie Bush noted that her car had been broken into twice in the past month. She had reported this and had been given a crime number. She had not seen the police. Julie Bush said that details of thefts from vehicles had been listed on the Save Our Beeston facebook page. She added that people use Wooler Avenue for access to commit crime. Three other people had also said that their car had been stolen. PCSO Robinson noted that she used to work at Middleton and Belle Isle. Sometimes, seven crimes take place in a street but only two of them were reported. If crime is not reported, it is not possible to do anything about it. PCSO Robinson noted that no one had been caught for the burglary dwellings. In one case, a window was broken, the thief grabbed something which is not a high value, there was no CCTV and thus no evidence. There was an instance of arson on Grovehall Drive but there are no further details on the system. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that this involved three girls setting a confer hedge on fire. Myra Munro said that a friend of hers had called the fire brigade

5.2 PCSO Robinson noted that a man has been arrested for an attempt to pull the Co-op cash machine from its hinges. She added that Anti Social behaviour with bikes is a nightmare.

5.3 PCSO Robinson asked whether Forum members have any priorities in terms of crime. Dennis Bottomley noted that cars race around Cross Flatts Grove, Cross Flatts Avenue, Dalton Avenue and Wooler Street, at around 3.30p.m in the afternoon, and also during the night. he added that we cannot sit and wait and suggested that the police should take reasonable opportunities to pass through the area. It is sometimes impossible to get registrations because of the speed involved. Although there is a 20mph speed limit, the vehicles sometimes go very fast. He feared that someone will be killed.

5.4 Bill Birch noted that a neighbour on Grovehall Parade had seen suspicious behaviour involving drug dealing. He noted that there is CCTV next door. A silver car went down to a point. Someone walked up to the car and then ran away. There was then a man circling on a bicycle. He approached the car, and then went off. This suspicious activity was reported on 101. he gave the police the registration number of the black car involved after looking at CCTV. PcsO Robinson said that she would give Bill Birch her direct e mail address

5.5 Julie Bush asks why the police come along with flashing lights. She says that this alerts criminals who then run away. PCSO Robinson noted that the use of lights is required unless a Detective Chief Inspector consents to them not being used. She will mention the issue. Julie Bush pointed out that the crimes occur in the middle of the night. PCSO Robinson noted that there is a considerable amount of traffic in the area, even at 4 am.

5.6 PCSO Robinson noted that she had brought a number of copies of the police newsletter

5.7 Arthur Kirby noted that the 101 non emergency police number is a nightmare. PCSO Robinson noted that this service is answered in the same way as the 999 emergency service is. If a 999 call comes in, that takes precedence. Some people, she noted dial 999 when this is not essential. 999 is for life and death matters. She noted that some people will abuse the 999 service.

6. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan. Robert Winfield noted that since he gave the last report, at the May Forum meeting, the Neighbourhood Forum had held its AGM. Robert Winfield had been re elected as The Chairman. A committee meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> June to discuss future plans. Robert Winfield noted that the committee will be drawing up a budget and applying for the grants which are available to Neighbourhood Forums. It is envisaged that there will be more workshops with our planning advisor

Shaun Hanson and it is also possible that leaflets will be circulated in the area in order to publicise the work of the Neighbourhood Plan. Robert Winfield had attended a Neighbourhood planning workshop at Leeds Beckett University on 12<sup>th</sup> June. This presented an opportunity to meet up with other groups involved in Neighbourhood planning . Additionally, Robert Winfield noted that he and Arthur Kirby had visited the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July . It was noted that Leeds City Council regards the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum as one of the most successful neighbourhood forums . Robert Winfield noted that a longer discussion about Neighbourhood planning is envisaged to take place at the next Forum meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August, and that there had been suggestions that it would be appropriate to invite guest speakers for the longer sessions . Accordingly, the meeting agreed to a resolution that the Chairman of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum be invited to the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August in this capacity .

7. Report of Committee meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June. Robert Winfield noted that the committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May had been dominated by a discussion about the Forum's stall at the Beeston Festival and the Aspiring Communities Planning application . At the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June, there was a discussion about Beeston Village Community Centre

8. Correspondence- Robert Winfield recalled that the Forum had, under the Freedom of Information Act, requested correspondence between Leeds City Council and Aspiring Communities about their planning application, and had received a document in excess of 100 pages in length. The Forum had questioned a number of redactions which had been made, and had appealed to the Information Commissioners Office when Leeds City Council had declined to disclose the redacted information. The Information Commissioners Office had issued a lengthy adjudication which Robert Winfield acknowledged he had not had the chance to study the adjudication in detail but it appeared as though Leeds City Council had been requested to identify the members of the steering Committee set up by Aspiring Committees (which is, in any event public knowledge) , but they ruled that the identity of the official of Hunslet Hawks RLFC who had dealt with Aspiring Communities could remain confidential. Robert Winfield suggested that the matter could be considered by the Committee . The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we write to Hunslet Hawks asking them to identify the official and explaining the controversial nature of the Aspiring Communities planning application

#### 9. Any Other Business

9.1 (When the minutes were presented to the following meeting for approval , Bill Birch questioned the accuracy of some of the figures in the paragraph. After checking the document from which the figures were taken ,corrections were made to two of the figures. The corrected figures are in red) Bill Birch noted that the committee had received details of section 106 agreements (under which a developer enters into agreements to finance certain things) relating to Beeston.. Bill Birch noted that £800000 had been raised from section 106 agreements relating to developments in Beeston but there is nothing for the benefit of the community . He added that Asda has given Leeds City Council £189194 'towards public transport or other environmental improvements within the vicinity of the development or elsewhere within the administrative area of the council . He added that money has been spent on the Park and Ride facility which people never wanted. He described the situation as a scandal. Julie Bush wondered whether this can be discussed at the October Forum meeting. Bill Birch added that he is no defender of Leeds United FC , particularly the present regime , but he noted that Leeds United FC had put in around £313000 . A total of £26135 had been contributed towards the monitoring of the travel plan. Bill Birch asked whose travel plan and what is it about ? Angela Gabriel suggested that we could raise our concerns with Martin Farrington. This was agreed. Robert Winfield noted that he will add the document describing section 106 payments and the document produced by Bill Birch to the Forum website assuming that it is possible to do so (he knew of no reason to believe that it is impossible

9.2 Dennis Bottomley criticised Aspiring Communities , saying that they do nothing to support the community and only come to Forum meetings when they want planning permission

9.3 Rev Lindsey Pearson noted that the clock at St Mary's Church is not working . She noted that colleagues at the church had been unable to fix the clock, which, she noted is an old clock which is contemporary to the church building. The church had funded someone to make a report and had identified the actions necessary to put the clock right together with the cost. The church must now raise the funds to repair the clock, and it would help if people say that they want the clock working. It is impossible to see the clock when worshipping in the church. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that he e mails a copy of the minute dealing with this matter to Lindsey Pearson

9.4 Julie Bush referred to the discussions which had taken place about the routing of the inner ring road to stop traffic coming into the City Centre. She feared that this could cut off Beeston and Holbeck. It was agreed to add this concern to the letter to Martin Farrington. Bill Birch noted that it is intended to close part of City Square . Julie Bush said that this would increase the amount of traffic through the Armley gyratory