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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 4th July 2013

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

2. Apologies for absence

3. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 6th June 2013

4. Police Report

5. Discussion about a possible Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston including a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) in connection with the area

6. Correspondence

7. Report of Committee meetings held on 16th May 2013, 18th June 2013 (Special Meeting) and 20th June 2013

8. Discussion about the possible introduction of charges for residents' car parking

9. Any Other Business

Please note that the Guest Speaker for this meeting was to have been Councillor Keith Wakefield, Leader of Leeds City Council. As Councillor Wakefield has had to withdraw from the meeting, owing to his involvement in a meeting away from Leeds, the meeting will proceed with no guest speaker.

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 6th June 2013

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Bell, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Councillor D. Congreve, Mrs. M. Cooke, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. M. Dominguez, M. Hobson, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A Kirby, J. Leithead, Mr. Y. Mahmood, Mrs. M. Mason, PC P. McDonald (West Yorkshire Police), A. McGrath, PCSO D. Metcalfe (West Yorkshire Police), Miss. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. J. Peckham, Mrs. C. Stevens, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Special Constable M. Watkins (West Yorkshire Police), Mr. P. Whitehead and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present on what she noted was a lovely evening

2. Guest Speakers- Christine Thornton introduced a number of guest speakers dealing with the proposals for a Park and Ride Scheme at Elland Road. A separate note of the discussion which took place has been produced.

3. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 2nd May 2013 .

3.1 John Peckham noted that his name is not included in the list of those attending the meeting despite him having been recorded in the minutes as having made a remark. Robert Winfield noted that several people who attended the meeting had not signed the attendance sheet; he emphasised the importance of members present signing the attendance sheet, pointing out that any inaccuracy in the details of those attending the meeting renders the minutes inaccurate.

3.2 Pauline Johnson noted that in paragraph 6.9 of the minutes, she is recorded as having said that money had been spent on buses, trolleybuses and hybrid buses, and that Arriva and First Bus both own hybrid buses. She pointed out that she did not make these remarks.

3.3 Subject to these matters, the minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Councillor David Congreve noted that he had undertaken to let the Forum know of any developments in relation to the current important planning applications. In this connection, he pointed out that at 1.30p.m on June 20th, the South and West Plans Panel of Leeds City Council would be holding a meeting at Leeds Civic Hall at which it is likely that there will be a pre application hearing in connection with the plans

by Aspiring Communities for the former Ice Pak site on Barkly Road. He noted that the Forum can have one or more people representing them at the meeting in order to voice concerns or refer to positive aspects of the plan. People making such representations are allocated the same amount of time (15 minutes) as those presenting the plans. He stressed that we will need to wait for the agenda to be published before it is known for certain whether this matter will be discussed. He said that things may change, depending on whether the Chair of the Panel has been briefed about the matter. He added that the planning applications by Asda and Tesco may also be determined at the same meeting. David Congreve stressed that he is not speaking about any particular application, but he noted that where officers recommend the approval of a planning application, opponents of the application are allocated a maximum of three minutes to explain their opposition. Where the recommendation is for a refusal of the application, the applicants are allocated three minutes to explain why the application should be approved. No one has the right to comment on an application without stating whether they support or oppose it. David Congreve said that it should be known for certain whether the applications will be on the agenda by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Robert Winfield pointed out that he had written to Zeb Ahmed of Aspiring Communities at the request of the Committee seeking clarification of a number of aspects of their plans. In view of the pressures of time, he would not read Zeb Ahmed's letter, but would make the letter, together with his own letter to which Zeb Ahmed was responding available for inspection by Forum members after the meeting. John Hodgson said that he had got one tale from Aspiring Communities, then discovered that we had not been told the right tale. He noted that the set of plans displayed on the notice board at Beeston Village Community Centre were different from those which had been presented at a previous meeting of the Forum meeting. He noted that the plans envisage a large car park, but that none of the local mosques have a large car park. He noted that the muslim faith makes a big thing of funerals and added that he had never had the chance to find out exactly what is being proposed for the site. David Congreve pointed out that pre Application presentations are becoming more common, particularly for major developments. Applicants present proposals to the panel and are given a 15 minute slot. The public have the opportunity to hear what is being proposed, and there will also be written reports. David Coingreve stressed that he is speaking generally, rather than referring to any specific planning application, but he pointed out that things can change from the pre application stage to the actual planning application as a result of representations from councillors and members of the public. Members of the panel may also wish to see changes. The pre application gives people the opportunity to make representations. Changes can be made, even on the day before the panel meeting at which the planning application is considered. Community representatives can hear what is said and comment about what is said. However, any comments must relate to planning issues. No one will know the exact plans until a planning application is submitted. David Congreve added that he is due to have a briefing (he noted that councillors are briefed about larger developments and planning applications). Robert Winfield recalled that at the request of the last Forum meeting, he has written to Asda and Tesco to seek their confirmation that they remain committed to their plans for a store in Beeston if they are granted appropriate planning permission. Asda and Tesco had each reaffirmed their commitment to implementing their plans. David Congreve pointed out that a person speaking at a pre application stage must be a representative of the community. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Christine Thornton that the committee decides who shall represent the Forum at the meeting on 20th June. John Hodgson noted that as the meeting is a public meeting, any member of the public may attend.

4.2 John Peckham wondered whether there had been any response to our concerns about traffic accidents on Dewsbury Road. Robert Winfield said that his letter about the mater had been passed to the Leeds City Council Officer responsible for Highways in this area, who had not yet responded. He would pursue a response.

4.3 A member of the audience pointed out that she had not received minutes of the meeting organised by Aspiring Communities on 9th January about their plans for the former Ice Pak building on Barkly Road. Robert Winfield noted that there had been two meetings dealing with the plans by Aspiring Communities.; the Forum meeting in January and Aspiring Communities own meeting several days afterwards. He noted that he had been unable to attend the Aspiring Communities meeting as a result of work commitments. He noted that the constitution of the Forum requires minutes to be taken of all forum meetings; the taking of minutes at meetings organised by Aspiring Communities is a matter for them. Greg Turton recalled that Zeb Ahmed had promised to produce a minute of his own organisation's meeting. Robert Winfield agreed to pursue this matter.

5. Police Report- PC Pat McDonald responded to concerns about the policing of the Aspiring Communities meeting in January. He said that the police attended the meeting simply to find out what is going on. It is normal practice for the police to take notes at such meetings, and there is nothing sinister in this. There have also been issues in relation to the security of the building. With regard to local priorities, these are unchanged. With regard to Anti Social behaviour and the use of motorbikes in Cross Flatts Park, there is a heightened risk in the current better weather. With regard to nuisance motorbikes in Gipsy Lane and Middleton Woods; PC McDonald noted that there are two off road bikers dealing with this, with a third in training. He noted that the PCSOs are acting on information relating to the ownership of the bikes. John Peckham noted that a bike user is going up and down Cross Flatts Road. This is legal but there are issues about the manner of driving (I.e above the speed limit). PC McDonald pointed out that the police have the powers to seize a legally owned bicycle if its owner is acting in an anti social manner. PC McDonald pointed out that due to the better weather, there is an increased risk of sneak in burglaries, and asked people to ensure that windows are closed and doors locked. There have been issues with a group of youths engaging in Anti Social Behaviour involving bike riding on the Parkwood Estate. There have been 13 burglary dwellings, 19 'burglary others', 11 thefts from motor vehicles, 2 thefts of motor vehicles and 17 instances of criminal damage, for example damage to houses, vehicles or pavements. PC McDonald took the opportunity to introduce Special Constable Mike Watkins who had volunteered to work in this area. Anyone wanting to know more about volunteering should ask him.

6. Beeston Festival Stall- Christine Thornton noted that the Forum will be having a stall at the Beeston Festival which will take place on Saturday 8th June. Greg Turton noted that he had bought a gazebo, utilising a cut price offer from Tesco. A newsletter had been prepared, and there would be two small displays, one about the Forum, the other about a neighbourhood plan for Beeston. Three or four committee members would be setting up the stall from 10.30 am to 11 am. He hoped that people would be able to give one hour to hand out newsletters.

7. Deferral of agenda items. Christine Thornton explained that the agenda items dealing with Correspondence and the report of the Committee meeting held on 20th June would be deferred to the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business- Manny Dominguez suggested inviting a speaker dealing with the so called 'Bedroom Tax'