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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting – 4th September 2014 Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speaker- Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, Member of Parliament for Leeds Central**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 7th August 2014**
- 5. Police Report**
- 6. Report of the subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston**
- 7. Report of the Special Committee meeting held on Thursday 21st August 2014**
- 8. Correspondence**
- 9. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7th August 2014

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) , Mr. W.J. Birch, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. S. Casserley, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. S. Francis, Mr. P. Goodfield, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss P. Johnson, Mrs. D. Kenny, D. McGough, Mr. J. Morton, Miss E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Rev L. Pearson, Mr. A. Scopes, Mr. F. Swift and Mr.R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and said 'Welcome to August' adding that she cannot believe that they year is almost three quarters over
2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Congreve, Mary Dinsdale, Councillor Angela Gabriel, Arthur Kirby, Mary Mason, John Peckham and Greg Turton. In addition PCSO Kirsty Johnson had sent an e mail explaining that she would be unable to attend the meeting, and setting out crime statistics and other information about crimes in the area in the event that no other member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team was able to attend. Robert Winfield noted that David Congreve had advised him that it would be unlikely that he would be attending any of the usual monthly meetings of the forum as a result of his duties as Lord Mayor of Leeds. The Lord Mayor has however accepted an invitation to attend the Forum's AGM in December.
3. Guest Speaker- Christine Thornton introduced the Guest Speaker, Councillor Keith Wakefield, Leader of Leeds City Council
 - 3.1 Keith Wakefield commenced his remarks by saying that it would be useful to make some remarks about what he feels are achievements over the past 12 months and challenges over the next 12 months. Firstly, he noted that it is now one month after the Tour de France. Keith Wakefield noted that the response to the Tour from people in Leeds and Yorkshire to him over the past 4 to 5 weeks has been amazing. He noted that it was the biggest sporting event ever in the North of England, and the people of Leeds responded. There were crowds of 300000 people in The Headrow, and four million elsewhere in Yorkshire. Keith Wakefield noted that he had been lucky to get in the car at the front of the race. He was thus able to see all the crowds and also the accident to Mark Cavendish. This showed that Harrogate, Leeds and Yorkshire can put on a big event and support it. Keith Wakefield noted that 2000 journalists covered the Tour de France which was watched by around three billion people throughout the world. As a marketing exercise for Leeds, it had worked

superbly; Keith Wakefield noted that journalists from France and Italy had never seen such crowds. A third of people had changed their opinion as to what Leeds and Yorkshire is like, whilst a quarter of people want to visit Leeds or Yorkshire. Keith Wakefield added that a friend living in Italy had been proud to see a successful event in Yorkshire and had even worn a Leeds United FC shirt in Rome! This proves that we can put forward a world class event. The event had been followed by the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Keith Wakefield added that the Leeds Arena has also been an achievement. He noted that the Sports Personality of the Year had been broadcast from the Arena which had also hosted a Grand Depart event. He added that Leeds is the capital of Yorkshire and has one of the best arenas in the world. The Arena has superb acoustics and a good design. He is proud that it is local authority led. It has put Leeds on the map.

Keith Wakefield added that after 11 years, we have now got the PFI Housing project in Holbeck. We have been waiting 11 years for such housing improvements, and the work has now started. There is also the South Bank development. Keith Wakefield said that if we get this right we will be able to transform the South of the City which has lagged behind. This is a scheme to bring jobs, investment and new homes. There is also the Tetley Scheme in which Councillor Adam Ogilvie is involved, as well as the new HS2 station. Two colleges are going into the area and there is some demand for a new arts centre using the area's industrial legacy. Keith Wakefield suggested that the Forum might wish to hear about some of the plans and aspirations for this area at a future meeting. He added that the area needs regeneration. The ambition is for a school, a community arts centre, and a park. This would be a properly integrated development. The aim is for families with children to live in the City Centre. Although this happens on the continent of Europe, this does not happen in the UK, although young professionals live in the city centre.

Turning to challenges, Keith Wakefield noted that this is the fourth year of grant reductions, and £200 million will be cut. 43% of the council's income from the government is being cut by 2015. He added that this is 'an incredible blow' to services particularly children's services and adult social care. The Health Service and Adult Social Care are working together. This is a big shift in health service philosophy. Keith Wakefield noted that he had been born in 1948, the same year in which the NHS had been instituted. He noted that up until now, the NHS has been about putting sick people into institutions, but people are not happy to go into hospital. He noted that half the money of the NHS is spent on the last year of people's lives. The new view is that we should not institutionalise care and that we should instead seek to keep people who are ill in the community in which they live. This is a massive challenge against a background of cuts. Keith Wakefield noted that £650 million needs to be cut from the NHS in Leeds over the next ten years, but at the same time we are bringing about the biggest transformation in the NHS since 1948. Keith Wakefield said that he would be interested to know whether this is coming out into the community. He noted that he and Councillor Adam Ogilvie are involved at the centre. Institutions which we have known will be closed down. Keith Wakefield added that people generally are living a lot longer. In the next 20 years the number of over 65s will grow by 44%, whilst the number of over 80s will grow by 100%. Eight million people will live until the age of 100; Keith Wakefield explained that he is looking forward to this. Keith Wakefield asked how we would deal with that situation on limited resources. He added that each age group has different care needs. He added that the over 60s are far more active and involved than in former days. Formerly, this was the life expectancy of a person. Now people are living a lot longer. He noted however that the life expectancy in Beeston and Holbeck is 11 years shorter than the life expectancy in other areas of Leeds.

Keith Wakefield then turned to the issue of transport. He said that we have not cracked this issue in this city or country for over 20 years. He said that since the provision of bus services was privatised in 1986, we have not seen a decent bus service. In Kippax, which he represents on Leeds City Council, there is one bus per hour. Moreover, it takes the bus 50 minutes to travel from Kippax to Leeds, on a route which goes through Garforth and Colton. This is, he said, not good enough in the 21st century. He asked why we cannot run our own transport system and use the moneys given to us under the devolution of powers. He added that we are now close to achieving the introduction of quality contracts. This would enable local authorities to do something about transport and buses for the first time since 1986. Keith Wakefield felt that we need to do something about transport.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst issues raised were care in the community, the current situation with Leeds Market, particularly in view of the closure of the market car park, sixth form provision in the area, the provision of a cycle track between Leeds and Bradford, the possible operation of bus services to Elland Road Football Ground for the benefit of fans, the forthcoming relocation of the Leeds Tourist Information Office, car parking at Elland Road and Leeds City Railway Station, the imposition of charges for evening and weekend parking

3.3 Bill Birch noted that when Councillor Richard Lewis spoke about the win win situation in relation to the Elland Road Park and Ride scheme, the Beeston Forum had argued that it would be a lose lose situation. He recalled that the Forum had forecast that either the facility would be overused, leading to pollution in the area, or underused, in which case Leeds City Council would lose £2.8 million. On initial impressions, Bill Birch said that it looks as though Leeds City Council has lost £2.8 million. He noted that on one day, the facility had been used by 94 cars and on another day by just 96 cars. Richard Lewis had predicted that the use of the facility would rise after the school holidays end, but Bill Birch argued that this prediction lacks credibility as the facility would be unlikely to be used by traffic relating to schools. Keith Wakefield noted that the King Lane Park and Ride facility had taken two years to prove itself. Bill Birch, however pointed out that this is located at the outer edge of the city. The Elland Road facility is relatively close to the city centre and is thus effectively a park and walk scheme. Keith Wakefield said that no one disagrees with the concept of a Park and Ride if it is accompanied by a good bus service. He felt that there would be a more balanced opportunity to debate the viability of the Park and Ride facility next year. He noted that the Park and Ride facilities in York are brilliant. Bill Birch pointed out that these are at the edge of the city. Keith Wakefield said that there would be three or four park and ride locations in the City of Leeds. We will see whether this works and whether we get the right hours and the right transport system. This will test whether it is a good idea. Bill Birch said that First Leeds had said that a park and ride facility at Elland Road would not work. Bill Birch felt that such a facility would be better located at Tingley.

Keith Wakefield acknowledged that modern public transport must be alongside park and ride facilities. Bill Birch repeated his view that Elland Road is the wrong place for such a facility. Edna Newton said that Boar Lane is a nightmare, and also said that anyone working at the Infirmary would not use the park and ride facility as they would be faced with a walk across Leeds City Centre after getting off the associated bus.

4. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on Thursday 3rd July 2014 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matter Arising – Robert Winfield referred to the remarks made by Councillor Angela Gabriel (minuted in paragraph 8.1) about the possibility of Beeston Village Community Centre being demolished and replaced by a new building. Robert Winfield noted that he attended a meeting of the Beeston Village Community Centre Users Committee on 24th July and was given an assurance that if any fundamental alterations to the building are being considered, there would be a meeting of all users of the building so that users can be consulted before any decisions are taken.

6. Police Report. As no member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team was present at the meeting, Robert Winfield read the e mail from PCSO Kirsty Johnson regarding crime statistics and details of crimes. Dealing with crime statistics, there were three burglary dwellings during the period 3rd July 2014 to 7th August 2014, compared with 5 in the comparable period last year (3rd July to 7th August 2013), there were two burglary others (sheds etc.) during the same period (3rd July to 7th August 2014) compared with seven during the same period last year. There was one instance of criminal damage, compared with 13 in the same period last year, there were 17 theft other (gardens etc) compared with 22 in the same period last year, there were 9 thefts from vehicles compared with 5 in the same period last year, there were no thefts of motor vehicles, compared with 3 in the same period last year. The total number of crimes including other crimes during the period 3rd July to 7th August was 55 compared with 86 for the equivalent period last year. The number of crimes overall has fallen quite dramatically. PCSO Johnson said that it is worth noting that all the burglaries were sneak ins where a door or window has been left open or unlocked; people have probably been enjoying the pleasant weather but it is always worth checking that everything is locked up before a householder goes out or goes to bed and even if you are just in your back garden or upstairs. The 'theft other' includes thefts from shops and also 'make offs' from petrol stations, but there have been a number of thefts of flowers from gardens. PCSO Johnson asked Forum members to let the police know if anyone is suspicious. The only area where there has been an increase is 'theft from motor vehicles'; three of these have been due to a smashed window and five believed that their vehicles had been left secure, so that there is possibly some kind of device being used to enter these vehicles. The main message is that if a vehicle looks as though there is nothing of value left in it, it is much less likely to get broken into. The main things being stolen are, as ever satellite navigation systems so that it is worth vehicle owners getting into the habit of taking satellite navigation systems out of their vehicles, whenever it is parked up, but also taking the holder out and wiping the windscreen where it is attached. Thieves tend to believe that a satellite navigation system is stored in the vehicle unless all signs of it are removed. PCSO Johnson asked that if there are any questions from the Forum, Forum members could contact her at Kirsty.Johnson@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk. Christine Thornton referred to the e mail address given by Sgt. Arrowsuch at the last meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

7. Report of the Subgroup dealing with Neighbourhood Planning. Mark Parry noted that a Special Meeting of the Forum Committee to be held on 21st August would look at a draft of the Constitution for the Neighbourhood Forum

8. Report of Committee meeting held on 17th July 2014. Robert Winfield noted that he had chaired the meeting in the absence of both Christine Thornton and Richard Bell. The bulk of the meeting had been taken up with a wide ranging discussion about Neighbourhood Planning. There was also a discussion of a letter from Mark Thomas of Tesco Stores Limited (this would be dealt with under correspondence). There was also discussion of an e mail from Naz Maroof of Aspiring Communities asking whether we would be interested in a further visit to their premises at Barkly Road following the visit undertaken by himself and Christine Thornton. Steve Francis expressed an interest in making such a visit. Dennis Bottonley pointed out that he gets the impression that Aspiring Communities do not wish people to see inside their premises. However, Christine Thornton noted that when she and Robert Winfield visited the premises, they did see inside the buildings.

9. Correspondence;-

9.1 Robert Winfield had been forwarded an e mail from Zareen Rahman of Zendum, the Architects to Aspiring Communities, to Jillian Rann of the Leeds City Council Development Department following a meeting at the Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre. Mr Rahman said that he feels that the scheme had progressed significantly, and had taken on board the concerns which had been raised by local residents, planning and colleagues in Highways. He explained that a summary of the main changes is as follows

- I. a significant reduction of the scale and footprint of the development to a quarter of the size
- II. usable floor area reduced from 4390 square metres as per the original planning application to 2000 square metres
- III. car parking increased from 86 to 189 car parking spaces with basement car parking
- IV. 3 motorcycle and around 15 cycling spaces. The main high bay warehouse will be retained with new extensions forming an L shape around the warehouse
- V. ground floor with main sports hall and a community centre and supporting accommodation
- VI. first floor with Islamic centre, multi faith centre and ancillary accommodation
- VII. mezzanine level containing plant room only

Christine Thornton noted that the revised scheme is of limited size. Councillor Adam Ogilvie pointed out that he and Angela Gabriel had been asked to meet with Aspiring Communities and Representatives of the Planning Department. He noted that after they agreed to this

meeting, Aspiring Communities told them of the much reduced scale of their revised plans. Adam Ogilvie said that he emphasised the importance of Aspiring Communities consulting with the community. Christine Thornton said that she has been led to understand that there would be no minaret and catering and no weddings and funerals at the premises. Adam Ogilvie noted that there will be an increase in the number of car parking spaces. Christine Thornton said that nothing is set in concrete until a planning application is submitted.

9.2 Robert Winfield read a letter from Philip Bartram of Asda Stores Limited concerning their plans for the new store at Old Lane. Robert Winfield recalled that Asda had submitted a planning application for longer opening and delivery hours for their store in breach of undertakings which had been given to the Forum to induce it to withdraw the holding objection which the Forum had originally submitted to the plans. Philip Bartram noted that as the Property Communications Manager covering Beeston, Chris Clarke, the Chief Executive of Asda (to whom the Forum's original letter had been addressed) had asked him to reply on his behalf. Philip Bartram said that he clearly noted our concerns about Asda having submitted a planning application for extended opening and delivery hours at the Old Lane store. He noted that he has been involved in Asda's plans for Beeston from the start, and has been party to various discussions with the Beeston Community Forum, as well as many other local residents and stakeholders. As such, Philip Bartram explained that he is in no doubt as to how deeply involved with the Community the Forum is, and how much time and effort was put into considering Asda's initial new store proposal.

Philip Bartram added that as much as the concerns regarding the potential of extending opening and delivery hours are fully acknowledged, he would stress very strongly that previous undertakings not to open 24 hours a day or deliver between 11p.m and 7 a.m were made, at that time, with complete integrity. Any written assurances from Asda or from Asda's consultants were given in good faith and with no intention, when those assurances were undertaken to deviate from the situation. Philip Bartram added that the Asda store on Old Lane was first converted from a Netto store in 2011 and feedback from local people was extremely positive. Philip Bartram said that Asda's further plans to improve shopping on the site are a direct reflection of local views and the needs and expectations of local shoppers, as made clear to Asda by these shoppers.

Philip Bartram added that he notes our comments around concern from some local councillors and residents. He added that people's views are entirely their prerogative, but it is important to reiterate that the proposed improved offer for local consumers including more freedom in when people shop, along with having many products on the shelves when they do so is a direct benefit to Beeston residents. With regard to the councillors; as elected representatives they will make their feelings known through the due process, on behalf of constituents.

Philip Bartram emphasised once again that at the time the earlier assurances relating to opening and delivery hours were given, there was no intention to deviate from them, but Asda has an obligation to meet customers needs. He added that this is certainly the case with a popular store such as Beeston which has already become an integral part of the lives of many Beeston residents, whether Asda employees or customers. Philip Bartram concluded by saying that there is the democratic planning process to work through in relation to this matter. Asda does not make the decision as to whether or not opening or delivery hours are extended; they apply for such and hope that consent is granted.

Councillor Adam Ogilvie pointed out that he, David Congreve and Angela Gabriel had met with Asda, reiterated the views which had been raised and said that Asda's intentions are not acceptable. The Councillors made clear that the community does not want this. John Cunningham pointed out that when Asda are talking about deliveries at 6 am, this is little different from the Co-op where deliveries take place at 4.30 am to 5 am. Robert Winfield said that he has two points in relation to Philip Bartram's letter. Firstly, in view of the fact that Asda are now seeking to go back on assurances which they had given to the Forum, he was disappointed that Asda had not contacted the Forum to inform them of their intention to do so. Secondly, he noted that Philip Bartram's letter asserts that there is a groundswell of public opinion in favour of extended opening and delivery hours. Robert Winfield said that in view of this comment, he had visited the Public Access website to see how many comments there were in favour of extended opening and delivery hours. There were absolutely no such comments. Robert Winfield said that this sharply contradicts Philip Bartram's assertion that public opinion in the area supports extended delivery and opening hours. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we write to Asda and the Leeds City Council Planning Department expressing these views. John Hodgson asked whether Asda have given a start date for the building of the new store. Robert Winfield pointed out that Asda require the planning permission which they are now seeking before they can construct the new store. John Hodgson noted that Asda had made a number of commitments to secure the planning permission, rather than Tesco. Robert Winfield said that he would read the minutes of the special Forum meeting held on 28th June 2012, which had been attended by representatives of Asda and Tesco, to check what undertakings had been given. Doris Kenny said that she had heard that construction was about to start. Adam Ogilvie confirmed that planning permission has to be given before this can occur.

9.3 Robert Winfield referred to correspondence which he had with Mark Thomas of Tesco Stores Limited. He had been informed by Tesco that following the refusal of planning permission for a store on land owned by Tesco at Old Lane, it was virtually certain that the land would be sold, as Tesco had ruled out an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the refusal of planning permission, or making a fresh planning application for the land. Robert Winfield had then been requested by the Committee to write to Mark Thomas pointing out that the Forum has suggested an investigation into the housing needs of Beeston, and that there had been discussions with the Joseph Rowntree Trust as to whether they could assist with such an investigation. Mark Thomas replied, saying that he will discuss the housing aspect with his colleagues in Tesco's property and planning team and revert to us. He added that he would be rally interested to know whether the Beeston Forum believes that more homes are required in Beeston. He also asked whether Forum members believe that homes on the Tesco site would be a welcome addition. Dennis Bottomley said that he understood that the site is up for sale. Pauline Johnson noted that the Yorkshire Evening Post had reported the fact that the site had been put up for sale. Adam Ogilvie said that he had spoken to Tesco who had confirmed that the site is up for sale.

9.4 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Councillor Peter Gruen, who had originally e mailed Greg Turton , asking us whether we would like to make a response to Leeds City Council's Draft Core Strategy. We had responded by saying that a significant number of objectors to the planning application by Aspiring Communities for their site on Barkly Road had made clear that they would prefer that the site is used for housing. Additionally , in view of the fact that the City of Leeds has a requirement for 70000 new houses , the site at Old Lane currently owned by Tesco Stores Limited (they were refused planning permission for a new store on the site) may come under consideration for housing. In view of this, the Neighbourhood Forum which is in the process of being set up may wish to make a site allocation. Peter Gruen responded by saying that he will make sure that the Chief Planning Officer is aware of our response, and he thinks that it is excellent that the Beeston Community Forum is taking such an active role in the process.

10. Any Other Business.

10.1 Pauline Johnson noted that when she had been in the Merrion Centre around one month ago, Crimestoppers had given her a number of cards about fraud , dealing with social engineering, bogus traders and courier fraud. She would place some cards on the table for Forum members to take .

10.2 Dennis Bottomley noted that around two weeks ago, a local resident had put a set of speakers on their doorstep , and had turned their stereo on full blast, this had rattled windows up to three hundred yards away. Dennis Bottomley added that he had not been able to hear his television. He had phoned 101 and was told to contact Leeds City Council. Pauline Johnson noted that she has encountered the same problem. Christine Thornton suggested contacting the Noise Abatement Department of the Council. Dennis Bottomley said that she had spoken to the resident concerned , but he suspected that other people dare not do this. Pauline Johnson noted that the noise had seemed to stop and she wondered whether other residents had spoken to the person responsible. Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that if there is a noise nuisance, Leeds City Council will send someone to investigate. He recalled a similar noise nuisance resulting from a rave taking place at 3 am. He called the police and they came out.

10.3 Ken Burton pointed out that on 17th August, the Beeston Local History Society is putting on a display of Beeston History in the local library. He noted that there is a programme of events for the Beeston Local History Society including guest speakers as follows (all meetings start at 8p.m and take place at St Mary's Parish Centre using the back entrance)

September 8th. Leeds's First Electric Trams – speaker Ken Burton

October 13th -'Handbags and Purses'- Speaker Margaret Speak

November 10th -'Ann Lister of Shibden Hall'- Pat Osborne

December 15th- Social evening for members only

February 9th 'Do You Know Your Leeds' Frank Goddard

March 9th – 'Memories of another Community- Halesowen' – Vernon Jones

April 13th- 'Thackray Medical Museum'- Betty Smithson

May 11th Annual General Meeting

10.4 Doris Kenny said that she had been to an exhibition to see Tetley's new museum and described this as a load of rubbish. She said that the cafe had been packed out and there was nothing else in the rooms. There were bits of cracked pottery with a potters wheel. She could not get on to the third or fourth floor and remarked that it is a good job that the exhibition as free. The exhibition had been built up as marvellous but there was nothing in it.

10.5 Philip Goodfield said that on the day before the meeting, he had been involved in a Cross Flatts Park initiative supported by Hunslet Hawks RLFC and Aspiring Communities. The object of the event is to bring children together tyo undertake sporting activities. He described the event, which involved 30 to 40 children, as fantastic. It will take place every Monday and Wednesday during August close to the Maud Avenue entrance to the park. Christine Thornton said that this event had been a well kept secret although she did see children playing football in the park. Philip Goodfield noted that the event had been advertised on South Leeds Life and that the children involved knew about it, as they went. The event was advertised as being for children aged 12 to 16 , but anyone from the age of 7 to 8 can turn up. Philip Goodfield asked for the minutes to refer to his view that the event reflected the diversity of our fantastic community.