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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 5th January 2017

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers
 - a) Chris Darley, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, Nick Child , Barmston Developments
 - b) Morag Wright, Digital Angels
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 3rd November 2016
5. Police Report
6. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan
7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 17th November 2016 and the decisions taken in lieu of a committee meeting in December
8. The Forum to determine whether the holding objections to planning applications by Asda Stores Limited will remain in force
9. Correspondence
10. Possible Co-options to the Committee
11. Any Other Business

Minutes meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 3rd November 2016

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) , D. Bakra, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. J. Birch, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mrs. M. Broadbent, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. A. Cooper, Mr. J. Cunningham, , Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr C. Hendrick Ward, Mr. J. Hook, Mr. K. Hewson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. E. Leatham, Mrs. D. McGuigan, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr.J. Peckham, and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks – Christine Thornton thanked the members present for their attendance and noted that the weather was 'a bit nippy'
2. Apologies for absence were received from Arthur Kirby and Myra Munro. Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that Myra Munro had asked her to bring tickets and prizes for the raffle
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 6th October 2016 were accepted as a fair and accurate

record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. Police Report

4.1 PCSO Sharon Robinson noted that there have been three burglary dwellings including one shed burglary and one break in to a garden. In neither case has the criminal been detected. There have been two instances of criminal damage. In one case, bricks were thrown through house windows on Town Street; also wheeliebins have been set on fire. The matter is ongoing. Local youths are involved. She added that there have been three thefts from within houses. These are not regarded as burglaries as the thief obtained genuine access to the house. There have been two thefts from motor vehicles. There is an ongoing issue on Waincliffe Place involving two properties. The police are introducing target hardening , and the local crime prevention officer is involved. CCTV is being introduced in order to detect fireworks in letterboxes. PCSO Sharon Robinson noted that the new Crime Reduction Officer was hoping to be present at the meeting . PCSO Robinson added that she would be prepared to visit households who believe that their properties are not secure enough . She could advise on the best course of action, for example, chop a few hedges down to make the area more open, lay down gravel so that anyone entering the property will make a crunching noise. Other measures include the installation of security lights and dummy CCTV . PCSO Robinson recalled that she had recently attended a presentation involving an officer who had recently spoken to burglars in prison. The presentation included a video in which the burglar explained which houses he would burgle . If a household has overflowing bins, this would be regarded as evidence of wealth, making the household more likely to be burgled. However, the existence of a rubber dog bone or ball would indicate that the household is likely to have a dog. This will make the house less likely to be burgled . PCSO Robinson said that everyone is a target in today's society .

4.2 The meeting opened up to questions and comments from the audience . Dennis Bottomley pointed out that many members of South Leeds Conservative Club keep allotments , but many items have been stolen. PCSO Robinson noted that padlocks have been ripped off . However, some PCSOs have been given keys for access to the allotments at any time and this issue is being addressed . In addition, there are passing patrols but resources are low . However, more PCSO s are coming on duty . They will try to have a key when on night duty so that they can come through. Dennis Bottomley pointed out that the allotments have been vandalised and cameras installed have been stolen. PCSO Robinson said that she would look into this. Christine Thornton asked whether the criminals involved are stealing or vandalising. PCSO Robinson said they are doing both. She acknowledged that a lot of pride and work had been put into the allotments.

4.3 John Cunningham asked about the prostitution crackdown in Holbeck . He notes that he goes there every Sunday to bring newspapers to an elderly couple. PCSO Sharon Robinson pointed out that the managed area operates between 7p.m and 7 am , and that all residents have been given a dedicated mobile telephone number to call . Where prostitutes operate outside the terms set in connection with the managed zone, an officer will move them on, and also speak to the prostitutes involved. She noted that all the prostitutes are allowed to do is pick up a person . They cannot do anything else. Twelve hours is long enough . They should not be doing anything at 9 am . She noted that offenders are given a first warning, a second warning then a Home Office caution , followed by arrest and court. Anyone seeing prostitutes operating illegally can call 101. Angela Gabriel pointed out that that the mobile phone number 0753 430 9568 gives access to the PCSO on duty . Robert Winfield pointed out that this number would be included in the minutes for the meeting, but added that as the December Forum meeting will be the AGM, the minutes of the present Forum meeting will not fall due for approval until January.

5. The Beeston Neighbourhood Forum- Robert Winfield referred to the Neighbourhood Forum's Bank account . As Unity Bank, with whom the Forum currently has its bank account, had insisted on the imposition of monthly charges , the Neighbourhood Forum Committee has taken a decision to close the account. Moneys will be paid into the account of the Beeston Community Forum pending the opening of a new account. Robert Winfield noted that enquiries have been made of a number of banks. Unfortunately, HSBC , with which the Beeston Community Forum has its account, appears to be insisting on credit checking all members of the Committee, including those who will not be signatories on the account. . This, Robert Winfield said, is unnecessary and intrusive. Robert Winfield had also made enquiries of Santander, with whom he banks personally. Unfortunately, identifying a suitable account had proved to be more difficult than nailing jelly , or getting blood out of a stone .

Robert Winfield pointed out that following the discussion about the relationship between the two Forums which had taken place at the last Forum meeting, the Neighbourhood Forum Committee discussed the matters at its last Committee meeting. The meeting resolved that Robert Winfield would write a paper which would be circulated to the members of the two committees and also to Ian Mackay, the Neighbourhood Planning Officer for Leeds City Council . Following the circulation of the paper, Ken Hewson raised a number of concerns. As a result of these concerns and following a telephone conversation with Ian Mackay, Robert Winfield redrafted the paper. The redrafted version is appended to the agenda for the Forum meeting . Robert Winfield noted that the first section of the paper explains why a full legal merger between the two organisations (that is, an arrangement in which the two Forums legally become one organisation) is impractical. However, there was a strong consensus in favour of the two Forums working so closely together that for most practical purposes they function as though they are one organisation . The paper sets out how this can happen. Robert Winfield noted that there are four members of the Beeston Community Forum Committee who are not currently members of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee. Robert Winfield noted that this position may change at next month's AGM of the Beeston Community Forum when all committee positions are subject to re election. However, there is a possibility that the two committees could have identical membership, although this would depend critically on the willingness of the member of the Community Forum Committee who are not currently members of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee to serve on the latter.

Robert Winfield pointed out that the paper envisages four joint meetings of the two Forums, which would take place in February, May, August and November . The May meeting could incorporate the AGM of the Neighbourhood Forum, or, alternatively, should the members of the Neighbourhood Forum so decide, there could be a separate meeting for the Neighbourhood Forum AGM. It is envisaged that there would be no guest speakers, except speakers relating to Neighbourhood Planning , except for short presentations which cannot practically be accommodated at another Forum meeting.

Robert Winfield noted that a number of Neighbourhood Forum members had doubted the need for a constitutional amendment. Robert Winfield noted that there had been a considerable amount of litigation in relation to Neighbourhood Plans, although he noted that Leeds City Council has won its court case relating to the Linton Neighbourhood Plan. He said that a developer who fears losing a significant amount of money as a result of the implementation of a neighbourhood plan is bound to try to find legal technicalities upon which the plan could be invalidated. Robert Winfield noted that this justifies a constitutional amendment which places beyond any doubt that joint Forum meetings are permitted by the constitutions of the two Forums . He pointed out that notice that such an amendment would be considered has been set out in the agenda for the current meeting .

Robert Winfield noted that the Neighbourhood Forum Committee has taken a decision to cancel the Neighbourhood Forum meeting scheduled for Thursday 24th November and replace this with a brief meeting, to follow the Beeston Community Forum AGM on 1st December which will consider the constitutional amendment and other arrangements to enable the two Forums to work more closely together .

Dennis Bottomley wondered whether the Forum had agreed this at its last meeting. Robert Winfield noted that the last Forum meeting had agreed in principle that the two Forums should work together. The current meeting has considered the detailed arrangements. Robert Winfield noted that this is a minimalist approach , and that an arrangement which would require more complex constitutional amendments would have been feasible . Christine Thornton supported an approach which keeps the arrangements simple. She noted that there is a feeling that there are simply too many meetings . If we want the Neighbourhood Forum moving we must put our money where our mouth is .

Robert Winfield proposed a resolution as follows :-

- i) that subject to the constitutional amendments for which notice has been given being passed, joint meetings of the two Forums shall take place in February, May, August and November.
- ii) That this arrangement may, in exceptional circumstances , be amended by agreement between the committees of the two Forums
- iii) That International Fun Fairs be invited as a guest speaker to the February meeting , but there shall otherwise be no guest speakers at the joint Forum meetings other than speakers related to

Neighbourhood Planning , or short presentations which cannot practically take place at another meeting

The resolution was passed .

6. Report of Committee meetings held on 15th September 2016 and 20th October 2016. Christine Thornton reported that the meeting on 15th September had discussed joint meetings of the two Forums and there was also a brief discussion about preparations for the Forum AGM. The Committee meeting intended to be held on 20th October was abandoned as there was no quorum of members present

7. Correspondence- None had been received

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Rev Lindsey Pearson said that a Murder Mystery Evening would take place at St. Mary's Church on Saturday 12th November . There will be a bar. Those present would work out who had committed the murder, then find out. Prizes will be given to the winners . This will be a fun event. Admission would be £5 which would include a meal. Lifts would be available for those requiring them. A Christmas Fair will take place at St Mary's Church on Saturday 26th November between 10 am and 2pm. Cakes will be served and Father Christmas will be in attendance!

8.2 Rev Lindsey Pearson noted that the Beeston Christmas lights will be switched on other early evening of Thursday 1st December . Those wishing to attend the Forum AGM could come a little earlier! Carols will be sung and the Salvation Army Band would be in attendance. Following the switching on, burgers, sausages and drinks will be served in the hall .

8.3 Christine Thornton said that the Holbeck Christmas Market will take place at St Matthews on 3rd December between 11p.m and 3p.m. The Holbeck Christmas lights would be switched on on the following evening and this will be followed by the serving of food at St Matthews. There would be fireworks at Holbeck Working Mens Club on 5th November. On 10th November, Santa Claus will appear at Holbeck Working Mens Club 2p.m to 4p.m. There is a £1 charge for each child to include a gift . There will be a Christmas fair at the Railway Arches in Holbeck between 12p.m and 4p.m on 4th December

8.4 There will be professional wrestling at Holbeck Working Mens Club at 7.30p.m on 3rd December

8.5 A lantern festival will take place on Friday 9th December in Cross Flatts Park . Refreshments are served from 5.45p.m with a start at 6.30p.m

8.6 A member of the audience wondered whether there has been any news about the planned demolition of garages close to Beeston Village Community Centre . Councillor Angela Gabriel said that consultation would start about the demolition and making good the boundary wall . Residents of two houses which are affected by the plans will be visited . Questions were asked as to whether rubbish can be cleared in the garages.

8.7 Eddie Leatham, who is a governor of Hugh Gaitskell School noted that there had been a meeting with the school about Beeston Village Community Centre . Robert Winfield noted that Leeds City Council has granted planning permission for the building of the replacement community centre, subject to various conditions, none of which appears to him to be particularly onerous . Robert Winfield noted that one of the planning conditions is a requirement to build a footpath between the car parking space and the building . Robert Winfield hoped that there would be a footpath leading from St Anthony's Drive to the building . He added that a meeting of the 'Users Committee for the Community Centre would take place at 3p.m on Monday 14th November. Christine Thornton expressed concern about the incidence of leaves on paths which can become quite dangerous

8.8 Robert Winfield noted that prior to the start of the meeting , he had spoken to Councillor Angela Gabriel, who had suggested a get well letter for Myra Munro. He was happy to endorse this suggestion . Christine Thornton suggested organising flowers. She would require Myra Munro's address

8.9 Christine Thornton expressed her thanks to Mark Parry for taking the minutes at the last meeting of the Forum Meeting