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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - 6th February 2014

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers- i) Stewart Robinson, International Fun Fairs
ii) Martin Wright, Leeds City Council, who shall speak about the future of the fair
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 2nd January 2014
5. Police Report
6. Report of the subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston
7. Report of Committee meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2014
- 8.. Correspondence
9. Possible Co-options to the Committee
10. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 2nd January 2014

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. J.K. Adamson, Mr. R. Bell, Insp. C. Bowen (West Yorkshire Police), Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, F. Cruickshank, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. S. Gawthorpe, Mr. P. Goodfield, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, G. Lee, Mr. A. Mahmood, Mrs. M. Mason, A. McGrath, Mr. J. Morton, Mr. M. Parry, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. F. Swift, I.R. Turner and Mr R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting, wished them a Happy New Year and expressed the hope that 2014 would be all Forum members wish it to be.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mary Dinsdale, John Fenton, Councillors Angela Gabriel and Adam Ogilvie and Greg Turton

3. Guest Speaker- Philip Lewer, Chair, South and East Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group. 3. Guest Speaker- Philip Lewer, Chair, NHS Leeds South and East Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group.

3.1 Christine Thornton introduced Philip Lewer, who noted that he had handed out booklets to members of the audience. He pointed out that under the previous Labour Government, there were Primary Care Trusts. One Primary Care Trust covered the whole of Leeds. The present government decided that the NHS was too driven by managers, and should be more driven by doctors. The government therefore created Clinical Commissioning Groups, of which there are three in Leeds. Philip Lewer noted that Beeston is a part of the South and East Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group. He noted that his organisation spends a substantial amount of money on behalf of the public buying services from hospitals and other organisations. He noted that his organisation spends £347 million. Adding up the expenditure of the three CCGs in Leeds, it is apparent that Leeds spends over £1 billion on healthcare (hospitals and other services). The CCG does not

employ doctors, who are instead employed by NHS England, which has a regional body in West Yorkshire. The NHS takes decisions about doctors' contracts or other issues. The NHS has had a slight year on year increase in its budget, but this will come to an end. Philip Lower pointed out that generally, people are living longer and using the NHS more. Money is not keeping up with this demand. Philip Lower pointed out that life expectancy is increasing and that children born today may well live to over 100 years. This is something to be celebrated; however people may live longer with long term conditions.

Philip Lower asked the audience whether any of them had recently visited doctors; those expressing an opinion felt that the visit had been okay. Philip Lower noted that Leeds South and East CCG has a board, which he chairs. He is not a doctor, but a lay chair; however the other CCGs in Leeds each have clinical chairs. Leeds South and East CCG has a Chief Clinical Officer; Dr Andy Harris, who is a GP. He works for the CCG for three days per week and in surgery for the remaining two .

Philip Lower noted that in our community, Leeds South and East, there are more people in hospital for alcohol related liver diseases than other areas. Should this be a priority? Should the NHS seek to stop people drinking or work with the council to prevent the issue of alcohol licences. He noted that life expectancy for women in this area is 70-73; the equivalent figure for Tadcaster is 80-83; a ten year gap. Only 25% of children in the Leeds South and East Area are classed as healthy, compared with 34% of people in Leeds as a whole. The number of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is higher than average. He recalled that he had asked young people about their opinion of the implications of the fact that there are more older people than young people. They had expressed the opinion that more money should be spent on younger people as their lives are ahead of them. In fact, we are spending more money on older people as there are more of them. He added that there will be many challenges ahead for the NHS with people living longer. People have high expectations of the NHS and the cost and further funding of the NHS will be the biggest challenge.

Philip Lower urged the audience to think and look at the challenges for the NHS in Leeds. Leeds hospitals are also regional centres and have specific medical expertise.

He noted that Leeds is a regional centre and people come from a wide area to use NHS facilities in Leeds. He noted that NHS Leeds South and East CCG commissions care from surrounding hospitals. He pointed out that a Cottage Hospital is different from a specialist unit. He asked members of the audience to look at how the CCG spends its money in the leaflets which he had circulated. He noted that the CCG is a membership organisation. It does not make a profit. A CCG has a constitution and must consult with its GPs in order to change the constitution. The constitution is on the web page. He noted that 257000 people live in the catchment area of the Leeds South and East CCG. There is a Patient Advisory Group which is made up of patients some of whom are experts in their own care.

The Patient Assurance Group is consulted on a regular basis. There is also a patient forum, full details of which are set out in the leaflet. He noted that a meeting of the Patient Forum is coming up soon, and added that he would send the Secretary of the Forum details of public meetings.

Philip Lower noted that the government has published a discussion document 'Call to Action' which is similar to challenges made to other public services. Questions which need to be addressed, include whether we have hospitals in the right place, whether we are using them properly and whether we are using them all the time. Philip Lower added that the government wants all people over a certain age to have a named doctor who is responsible for co-ordinating the care of the individual. Philip Lower said that there will be a big debate about aspects of the NHS, in relation to issues such as how many casualty departments there should be, and what kind of hospitals. Should these be fully equipped for an emergency, or somewhere where a patient can be seen. He expected that this would be an ongoing debate. However, he noted that there needs to be a balance between local centres and regional NHS centres.

Philip Lower asked the members of the audience whether anyone had experience of using the 111 service. This was described as rubbish by a member of the audience. The ambulance service is also facing many challenges and the number of people calling 999 is increasing.

Philip Lower noted that his family had brought him up to cherish the NHS, and as a result of this feels passionately about the NHS. Other countries have different healthcare systems to the NHS.

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst issues raised were the treatment of patients with dignity and respect, how patients who fail to turn up for appointments are dealt with, the cost of operations, the impact of lifestyle on long term health , the deployment of the ambulance service and working with Leeds City Council

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 7th November 2013. Pauline Johnson noted that paragraph 6.2 of the minutes dealt with the fact that proposals for a 20 mph speed limit in parts of Beeston had been deposited in Morley Library, not Beeston Library. The minutes stated that 'The staff at the library knew nothing about this proposal which Pauline Johnson described as ridiculous'. Pauline Johnson made it clear that she was describing the fact that the details had been sent to Morley Library rather than to Beeston Library as ridiculous. Subject to this matter , the minutes were agreed as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising.

5.1 Bill Birch referred to the discussion about Beeston Campaign For Affordable Housing (BCAH) which had been recorded in paragraph 6.1 of the minutes. He noted that he had had a discussion with his colleagues in BCAH who were unhappy about the organisation being construed as a secret group. He would be happy to exchange a list of members. John Hodgson noted that it is strange

that on the South Leeds Life website, which claims to be non-political, there is a reference to a sinister group. He added that it is strange that someone who is attending Beeston Forum meetings is talking about sinister groups. He noted that the Forum is the second longest established group in South Leeds and he also asked why Bill Birch was described as a former Conservative Candidate for Leeds City Council, when he had last stood for Leeds City Council as an independent. He noted that Councillor David Congreve had complained about the structure of the proposed building. John Hodgson noted that Jeremy Morton, the author of the South Leeds Life Article is (as John Hodgson acknowledged he has every right to be) an active participant on a committee which wants the planning application to go through, but had written the article as though he has no such interest. John Hodgson added that he took offence to what he described as the slurring of Bill Birch. Jeremy Morton acknowledged that John Hodgson was alluding to his article on the South Leeds Life website. He said that he does not recall having used the word sinister. He noted that his article had referred to the discussion which had taken place at the November Forum meeting, and pointed out that he had received a leaflet from an organisation which he had not previously heard of. He stressed that he had not intended to make critical comments about Bill Birch, and apologised for not referring to the fact that Bill Birch had been an independent candidate for Leeds City Council. He noted that the South Leeds Life blog is a community blog with a comments section. John Hodgson noted that he did not receive the letter from the Councillors about the planning application. He said that 1500 people would be likely to travel up Wesley Street to the proposed facility. He added that he had seen four people die in an accident on Wesley Street. John Hodgson said that he would bore people to death about Wesley Street but noted that it is a main route out of the area. He would not sit there quietly and refrain from raising the point. He added that he would support anyone bringing communities together, but added that no one talks about the catering businesses which were proposed.

6. Police Report. Insp. Chris Bowen noted that he had been unable to attend the Forum AGM in the previous month. He noted that the crime figures are very good; however, there has been an increase in the number of 'distraction burglaries' of which there had been one on St Anthony's Drive and one on the Waincliffes. Such distraction burglaries involve the burglar seeking to persuade the householder that he is a representative of the Public Services. Chris Bowen suggested that if a householder who has not booked anyone to visit them, or does not know that anyone is visiting them, should not allow anyone into the house. He also said that residents should never feel embarrassed to inform the police about such bogus individuals. He noted that many of these bogus officials are professionals who are good at persuading people that they are genuine. It is important that the police know so they can remove the burglars from the streets. If a caller is legitimate, they would not object to a householder verifying their bona fides. Insp. Bowen noted that the police are focussing their enquiries on the Cardinals and the Waincliffes as the Ring Road is close by and offers a fast exit route from the area. He suspected that the bogus officials are travelling criminals. Insp. Bowen said that the police are making efforts to set up a cold calling zone, under which no one would be allowed to knock on doors unless they had been previously booked, in the area. He felt that this would give confidence to people who might otherwise be scared. He noted that he had been in discussions with Trading Standards about a cold calling zone but acknowledged that this takes time. Additionally, the police are undertaking security work in relation to sheds in the Cardinals and Waincliffes area. The police have secured funding for alarms in sheds in this area. If this works, the police would be in a position to secure funding for other areas. Insp. Bowen noted that there had been a robbery at the White Hart Public House and noted that two people accused of this crime are currently on remand at Armley Jail.

6.1 John Peckham noted that the Police Helicopter had recently been flying over Beeston at 4 a.m to 4.30 a.m and had indeed woken him up. He wondered what this was about. Insp. Chris Bowen said that he had not been informed, but presumed that this had been in connection with apprehending a burglar.

6.2 A member of the audience wondered what is happening with Winstons. Chris Bowen noted that on 20th November, the Police executed a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act and arrested 29 people (he suggested that Forum members could check the Yorkshire Post for the exact facts in this connection); additionally three people who are accused of running a brothel are on bail. Insp. Bowen said that he would love to close Winstons down, but under present legislation, there is not enough evidence available to go for closure. He is however working with police and council solicitors; however under present legislation, it is necessary to prove that those in charge of the building are controlling prostitutes. This is hard to prove, but Insp. Bowen is not giving up. However, he noted that the legislation will shortly change. Under the new legislation, the police already have enough evidence to go for closure; however, Insp. Bowen acknowledged that there is a possibility that the legislation may change before its enactment. He noted that Winstons had been boarded up whilst the police had been in control of the building to enable them to search it properly; a process which took 2 to 3 days.

6.3 Doris Brooke noted that a lady who lives opposite her daughter (on Thirlmere Gardens) has had graffiti sprayed on her wall twice. She wonders whether anyone else has been affected by this. Insp. Bowen said that he is not aware of the problem, and wondered whether the victims of the crime have contacted police. He added that the PCSOs have not mentioned this issue and he would therefore mention this to the PCSOs.

7. Report of Subgroup Dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston. Robert Winfield noted that in view of Greg Turton's anticipated absence from the meeting, Greg Turton had set out details of a number of important developments in an e mail. The designated area passed through the consultation process on 27th December. A press release dealing with the Neighbourhood Plan was sent out and has appeared on the South Leeds Life website and the Beeston Parish magazine. The leaflet to be distributed in the area is under preparation. Greg Turton will be meeting with Ian Mackay to make a grant application in relation to writing the neighbourhood plan. Four members of the Committee (Greg Turton, Arthur Kirby, Robert Winfield and Christine Thornton) had attended a meeting of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum. Greg Turton pointed out that the meeting was very useful as Holbeck are ahead of Beeston in the process and is about to register the Neighbourhood Forum and its constitution. Robert Winfield added that the meeting had been very useful; he noted that Holbeck (which has a significantly smaller population than Beeston) has a Neighbourhood Forum of 50 members. Robert Winfield

recalled that this includes around 31 residents and 19 people carrying on business in the area. Robert Winfield felt that the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum may well have a larger membership. Additionally, the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum had discussed a draft constitution which could form the basis for a Constitution for the Beeston Neighbourhood Forum.

8. Report of recent Committee meetings. Christine Thornton noted that the Committee had discussed the Neighbourhood Plan, Forward Planning and Speakers, preparations for the Forum AGM and documentation connected with the AGM. The Committee had also drafted the Forum's letter of objection to the planning application by Aspiring Communities for the former Ice Pak factory. Robert Winfield dealt with the issue of guest speakers. He noted that Stewart Robinson of International Fun Fairs would be the guest speaker at the February meeting. He added that a difficult situation resulting from two guest speakers each wanting to attend the July Forum meeting had been resolved by one of the guest speakers agreeing to switch dates. Robert Winfield noted that Councillor James Lewis, the Chairman of Metro had agreed to attend the October meeting. It is hoped that officers of Metro, and Graham Riley of First Leeds would be able to attend the same meeting, which would also deal with the Elland Road Park and Ride facility, which will then be operating. Robert Winfield hoped that Mark Burns Williamson, the Police and Crime Commissioner would still be in a position to attend the July meeting, as his office had indicated. Insp. Chris Bowen had agreed to attend the same meeting as a guest speaker. Robert Winfield added that following the Committee meeting he had overlooked making a proposal to invite speakers dealing with the White Rose Shopping Centre, which is particularly significant in view of the fact that the owners of the centre have been granted planning permission for its expansion. Robert Winfield had agreed with Christine Thornton that such an invitation be issued.

9. Correspondence- Robert Winfield had received an e mail, through the Beeston Forum website from Paul Raper about the Beeston School field. Mr Raper asks why local residents have not been informed about any planning changes to Beeston School Field, which, he noted had recently been covered in ash or road covering. He felt that local residents should have been informed about this. Mark Parry noted that he had seen this, but was unaware of the reasons for the covering of the playing field. Christine Thornton suggested that this is in connection with the creation of a car park. It was agreed that Robert Winfield e mail the head of Beeston Primary School about the matter.

10. Any Other Business-

10.1 Planning Application by Aspiring Communities for former Ice Pak Factory-

Robert Winfield noted that the deadline for the submission of representations relating to the Planning Application had been extended to 127th January as a result of a number of notices in the area around the site giving details of the planning application having been torn down, and having to be replaced. In practice, it is possible to make representations about a planning application at any time until it is determined. Philip Goodfield noted that he had been a regular attender at meetings of the Beeston Forum in the early 2000s, but had not attended a Forum meeting for some time, because he has been busy organising sports. He said that it saddened him that the Beeston Community Forum had objected to the application, and that the letter of objection stated that in the judgement of the Forum, there are sufficient sporting facilities in the area. He said that he cannot believe that the Beeston Forum believes this. He noted that South Leeds Sports Centre was absolutely needed. He noted that Aspiring Communities had offered indoor sporting facilities, and said that there is a lack of accessible community indoor sporting facilities in the area. He felt that South Leeds Stadium and the local school halls are not accessible to the community. He said that he had known John Hodgson and Jeremy Morton for years, and said it is sad that the two of them are at loggerheads over this issue. He noted that he had learned a lot of information about the planning application from the South Leeds Life website, which, he said, had performed a fantastic job. Not all local residents can come to the Beeston Forum to debate issues. He added that he had never heard of Beeston Campaign for Affordable Housing. He said that efforts to build affordable homes in the area are commendable; however, no developer wants to build homes in Beeston. Aspiring Communities are not disputing that they plan to build a mosque; he noted that there are a lot of different views inside Islam, just as there are a lot of different views inside Christianity. He noted that there elements of the muslim faith which would not build a mosque which is open to the community as a whole. Philip Goodfield added that he has had no direct contact with Aspiring Communities but the organisation clearly has a desire to bring communities together. He said that the debate within the Beeston Forum had been one sided and said that he is saddened that a number of people in Beeston feel the way they do about the application.

10.2 John Hodgson noted that he has known Philip Goodfield for many years and said that he agrees with much of what he had said. He recalled that he had been happy to stand outside South Leds Sports Centre to protest about plans to close it. However, he felt that we should go back to what was said by David Congreve about objections to the application. He recalled that Ash Mahmood had spoken about bringing youth together and Zeb Ahmed had told the pre planning hearing that Aspiring Communities were putting their money where their mouth is. He suggested that Philip Goodfield should consider the comments made by Leeds City Council Officers about the planning application. John Hodgson added that the planning application identified a number of stages to the proposed development, and pointed out that each stage is subject to the availability of finance. He recalled that a councillor who attended the pre planning hearing had expressed concerns about the exit at the back of the building. John Hodgson acknowledged that we need sports facilities but that there is a question as to where they are located.

10.3 Ash Mahmood responded to a number of concerns which had been expressed about the planning application. Firstly, in response to a member of the audience who had pointed out that a number of supporters of the application had made multiple posts on the Public Access Website, he noted that a number of people click to post their comments a number of times because they are unsure as to whether their remarks have been posted. He noted that the Leeds City Council Planning Department is in the process of removing such duplicate comments. He added that there would be no rear entry to the building. He added that the catering aspect of the plans would be a small

scale business involving two or three people and one transit van. With regard to weddings and similar functions, this would be addressed in contracts which stipulate that the weddings would be attended by only 400 people and that there would be no other activities. Ash Mahmood added that there is a large misconception that the site could be developed for housing. Before Aspiring Communities purchased the site the previous owners had secured planning permission for the building of 23 houses. However, they sold the site and Aspiring Communities purchased it. No one building houses wants to build houses on this site. With regard to the madrasa, Aspiring Communities has already stated that the building will be an Islamic Learning Centre. He added that there is a misconception that people would be coming to the development from the other side of Cross Flatts Park, but this will not happen. Similarly, Ash Mahmood responded to suggestions that 400 people would be at the building all day by saying that this will not happen. Similarly, events involving 1500 people would take place only once per year. Ash Mahmood acknowledged that there were fears that events would coincide with children entering or leaving nearby schools, but pointed out that events would not clash with school times or peak hours.

10.4 A member of the audience referred to the letter sent to local residents by the Beeston and Holbeck Councillors. He felt that the letter had not been circulated to residents living adjacent to the site but had been sent to people living further away. He suggested writing to the councillors to seek an explanation; the meeting agreed that Robert Winfield would write to the Councillors about this matter.

10.5 A member of the audience referred to the John Charles Centre, Soccer City and the Indoor Five a Side pitch and said that it is wrong to say that there are no sports facilities in the area. He added that he had endured noise and disruption from the site for a period of 20 years. He noted that the plans envisage a car park which will accommodate 80 cars. He added that this is supposed to be a community centre. He understood that a community centre is for local people.

10.6 Philip Goodfield said that if you live next door to an industrial area, trucks and vans cause a different type of disruption to any disruption caused by a community centre hosting events. He added that on most days, this will be quiet, although he acknowledged that on Friday lunchtimes things will be busy. With regard to local sporting facilities, Soccer City is a commercial operation, and he noted that he is involved in the running of a community sports club, which, he pointed out, cannot afford to hire the facility. The John Charles Centre is also a commercial operation, and costs associated with booking this are considerable. He wished that this is actually a community based facility, although he noted that this has links with Hunslet Hawks Rugby League Club.

10.7 Philip Goodfield noted that the promoters of the planning application had opened their arms to the community and had asked them to be involved in the development of the facility and events. They aim to increase diversity and bring people together. He added that children benefit from being educated in a multi racial primary school, and said that this is what the promoters are seeking to generate. A member of the audience asked why children are not joining Hunslet Boys Club. Philip Goodfield pointed out that this is in Hunslet and there is a need for facilities in Beeston.

10.8 Bill Birch noted that the planning system had taken a series of one off decisions about planning applications in and around Beeston. Amongst planning applications which had been approved relatively recently are:-

- I) A large car park for De Puy on the playing field for Hugh Gaitskell School
- II) The doubling of the size of Beeston Primary School leading to huge traffic
- III) the new police station to be built on a large car park close to Elland Road football ground
- IV) the Park and Ride facility at Elland Road
- V) two double deck hotels planned for the junction of Elland Road and Lowfields Road
- VI) planning permission for a new Asda store on Old Lane
- VII) planning permission for the expansion of the White Rose Centre
- VIII) proposals for an Ice Rink at Elland Road

10.9 Bill Birch felt that when planning applications are determined, no account is taken of the effect of all the planning applications which have been granted on Beeston. Dealing with the Aspiring Communities planning application, he felt that there should be proper assessments of traffic noise and air quality in the context of the whole of South Leeds.

Jeremy Morton acknowledged that he is a member of the Steering Group established by Aspiring Communities following their planning application. He pointed out that he serves in a private capacity, not on behalf of any organisation with which he is connected. He supports the Aspiring Communities application for the same reasons as were given by Philip Goodfield. Ash Mahmood had suggested the steering group and he had volunteered. The steering group is not a closed group.

10.10 Ash Mahmood noted that traffic is a large concern in connection with the application. He noted that an independent company, Amey, which is approved by both Leeds City Council and nationally had looked at traffic data relating to Friday prayers at mosques in South Leeds and other areas. Peak hour traffic hours and Elland Road traffic hours had also been considered. As a result of these surveys, it is considered that the impact of the development on local traffic will meet the criteria laid down by Leeds City Council. With regard to noise, Aspiring Communities had given guarantees to Leeds City Council. With regard to five a side football and catering, Ash Mahmood said that Leeds City Council would ensure that the building would have soundproofing and that there would be minimal disruption to local residents. Leeds City Council would also ensure compliance with Air quality regulations. If he were a local resident, he would want to ensure that he is not woken up or disrupted by noise. All concerns will be addressed. Ash Mahmood said that if we do not come together, how do we understand each other. If people do not talk, how can Aspiring Communities fulfil and address their concerns. A member of the audience noted that the planning application envisages that the facility will be open until 10p.m

