

Chair: Christine Thornton, 40 Cross Flatts Avenue, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 7BG. Tel 0113 270 0875

Secretary: Mr Robert Winfield, 7 Allenby Gardens, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 5RW. Tel 0113 271 6985

E mail robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com Forum Website- www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk

find us on Facebook at 'Beeston Community Forum'



BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting – 6th November 2014 Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers
 - i) Sue Watson, Leeds United FC
 - ii) Pat McGeever, Director, Health for All (Leeds)
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 7th August 2014
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 4th September 2014
6. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on Thursday 2nd October 2014
7. Police Report
8. Report of the subgroup dealing with a Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston
- 9.. Report of the Committee meeting held on Thursday 16th October 2014
10. Correspondence
11. The Annual General Meeting- Thursday 4th December 2014
- 12 Any Other Business

Members of the Forum are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Forum will take place at 7.30p.m on Thursday 4th December 2014 at Beeston Village Community Centre. Officers and members of the Committee wishing to remain in office are required to seek re election. Anyone considering seeking election to the Committee is more than welcome to speak to any committee member. Committee members must be residents of Beeston (as defined by the Constitution of the Beeston Forum)

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

Attendance:-Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. J. Adamson, Mr. R. Almond, Mr. R. Bell, Mr. D. Belton, Mrs. J. Belton, Mrs. C. Best, Mrs. S. Best, Mr.W.J. Birch, Mrs. J. Birch, Mr. S. Casserley, Mrs. R. Casserley, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. B. Flynn, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mrs. S. Gawthorpe, Mr. J. Hook, A. Hussain, Mr. Hussain, Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A. Mahmood, A. McGrath, Miss. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. L. Senior, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Mr.G. Wainwright, Mr. R. Whitehead, Mr.R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. N. Zaman

1. Chairman's opening remarks - Christine Thornton welcomed those present at the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. She hoped that Forum members have had a nice summer and enjoyed the weather
2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Congreve, John Cunningham, Arthur Kirby and Mary Mason

3. Police Report.

3.1 It was noted that PCSO Rooks had asked to give the police report as early as possible in the meeting in order the he could go back on patrol. PCSO Rooks noted that since the recent changes in police areas, the area covered by the Neighbourhood Policing Team now includes the Southleigh and Parkwood estates, so that crime statistics will change. PCSO Rooks outlined the crime statistics for the period since the last Forum meeting. There have been four burglary dwellings and four burglary others (that is, burglaries from buildings such as garages) . PCSO Rooks noted that a person has been arrested and charged for these crimes. There have been seven thefts from motor vehicles (two people have been arrested and charged). There has been one theft of a motor vehicle , which is linked to a burglary dwelling. The situation has otherwise been quiet; there is nothing to report other then the fire in the city centre which has had no direct impact on residents of Beeston.

3.2 Greg Turton noted that there have been complaints for several months about speeding cars in the Cross Flatts area but nothing seems to be done about this. PCSO Rooks said that he would pass these comments onto the traffic team ; they will pursue the cars involved and are aware of a number of offenders. The matter will be pursued by the courts. It was noted that the police have looked at the issue of speed humps before. Greg Turton recalled that several months ago, a PCSO had said that the police would be getting speed indicator devices but he had seen none. PCSO Rooks said that a Speed Indicator Device had been used severe months ago. He noted that this is a board powered by batteries. Unfortunately , this cannot be used in prosecutions and had proved to be less effective then first thought. Greg Turton asked how many prosecutions there had been.PCSO Rooks said that there are two cases in the Beeston area (involving high performance cars) coming to the courts. Greg Turton asked whether cars can be impounded. It was noted that speeding can constitute anti social behaviour , but speeding is not necessarily Anti Social Behaviour. PCSO Rooks said that whether speeding constitutes Anti Social Behaviour depends on how the driver is driving. If this is Anti Social Behaviour, two warnings are issued , and the car of the offender is then taken away. PCSO Rooks stressed that speeding is an offence. Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that he has raised this issue with Insp. Chris Bowen as this matter is of growing concern to local residents. What can they do? He noted that much of the Cross Flatts Area is a 20 mph zone.

3.3 Richard Bell noted that there had been a double fatality involving a crash on Old Lane. The occupants of the other vehicle involved had kept their car running. Richard Bell wondered whether this is correct. PCSO Rooks said that the police had made an appeal for witnesses. The occupant of the other car involved had made off . PCSO Rooks noted that the case is ongoing so that there are difficulties involved in divulging information. He noted that the case will be publicised in the Yorkshire Evening Post when it comes to court.

3.4 Rosemary Casserley noted that there has been an increase in the number of cars parked on pavements and pointed out that in certain parts of Beeston, this is expected. She noted that in some instances, parking on the pavement in the Southleigh Estate causes an obstruction. She wondered whether the police can put something on the cars involved. PCSO Rooks noted that the houses in this area have driveways. He noted that if it is possible to get a double pushchair past a car parked on a pavement, this is okay. The police will intervene if a parked car causes an obstruction . Rosemary Casserley noted that there are problems with vans parking off corners, notably on Westland Square. There are difficulties in crossing as people are unsighted. In addition , Southleigh Road is bad. PCSO Rooks said that he would pass on these comments.

3.5 Bill Birch noted that in the past few days , there have been a number of instances of people collecting money due to a window cleaner before the actual window cleaner can come to collect it . The matter had been reported to the police, who advised that technically, no offence had been committed. Bill Birch wondered whether it is an offence to impersonate someone else. PCSO Rooks said that he would look into this.

3.6 Noor Zaman noted that PCSO Rooks said that seven cars had been broken into. He wondered whether this includes one instance where a car which had caught fire. PCSO Rooks said that there had been six instances of arson involving motor vehicles, although there see some rumours saying that the figure is 20 to 50. One officer is looking into this matter; the cases are linked. There are two suspects, but more evidence is required before they can be arrested. Noor Zaman said that his nieces car was amongst those burnt out. He had phoned the police but no one came; there were cameras next door, but the police did not bother . PCSO Rooks said that the police inspector had ensured that he is aware of the instances of arson. He added that all inquiries are being pursued . Noor Zaman said that some of the later instances of arson would have been stopped if the earlier ones had been properly investigated. The police had not made a good response. PCSO Rooks asked Noor Zaman whether he would like a telephone call. Noor Zaman indicated that he would.

3.7 Pauline Johnson referred to the issue of speeding in the Cross Flatts Area and noted that this involves motorbikes as well as cars. Mary Dinsdale noted that she had just spoken to an officer. She had found the recent open day enjoyable and had learned a lot. She asked whether this would be repeated. PCSO Rooks said there would be a further open day next summer.

4. Guest Speaker - Christine Thornton introduced the guest speaker, Councillor James Lewis, Chairman of 'Metro'. It was noted that Graham Riley of First Leeds, who had also been invited as a guest speaker, had not arrived at the meeting,

4.1 James Lewis commenced his remarks by saying that Metro is the transport authority for West Yorkshire. It provides information about infrastructure such as bus stations and bus stops. It also supports a relatively small number of bus services where services are needed but are not commercially viable. This represents around 18% of bus services throughout West Yorkshire, mainly services at evenings and weekends. The equivalent figure for Leeds is lower. Metro also runs the concessionary scheme for old and young people. It also coordinates the metrocard and works with local councils in relation to improving transport infrastructure.

4.2 James Lewis noted that when he had been invited to the Forum, he had been asked to make a number of remarks about the Elland Road Park and Ride facility. He noted that this had opened in July in time for the Tour de France. If it had not been for the Tour de France, the facility would probably have been opened in the autumn. The facility has been slack over the summer, but since schools returned from their holidays, the facility has been used by between 100 and 200 cars per day. The number of cars using the facility is predicted to grow over the next few months. It is intended to look at the operation of the facility; where cars using it are coming from, how they are getting there and whether there are any problems on the roads. The facility is being opened later in the evening due to feedback. It is intended that in the run up to Christmas it is intended to work with City Centre Management and shopping centres to determine whether shoppers will wish to use the facility. James Lewis noted that there have been wildly successful park and ride facilities, but these are lined to railways. Elland Road is the first facility involving buses. James Lewis acknowledged that this is a learning curve. It is hoped to install further facilities in Tingley and at Pontefract Lane.

4.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst issues raised were the changes to the 74 bus service and the abolition of the 74a service, the cost of travelling by bus, the possible introduction of a ticket similar to the Oyster Card, increases in off peak fares on Northern Rail, the lack of bus connections between Cottingley and Beeston

4.3 Stuart Casserley asked why buses from the Elland Road Park and Ride facility do not pass the railway station. He suggested that this could attract patronage from businessmen, none of whom are reluctant to walk. James Lewis said that he would look into this when the operation of the facility is reviewed.

4.4 Bill Birch pointed out that the Beeston Community Forum opposed the Park and Ride facility as have our councillors. He noted that the scheme has so far cost £2 million. If the scheme does not work, the council will lose money; if it does work, it will cause pollution in this area. He asked how many cars are required for the scheme to break even and how much money has the scheme lost. James Lewis pointed out that the £2 million cost includes an access road, and that day to day running costs are met by First. He added that First pays Metro for a licence to operate the bus service which they run as a commercial proposition for five years. First have accepted the commercial risks associated with the bus services. Bill Birch noted that taxpayers have paid £2 million and asked how that money will be coming back to taxpayers. This is not a commercial enterprise and the money had been spent against our wishes. Any profit from the scheme would go to First Bus. James Lewis said that Metro will not see a penny of any bus fares. Bill Birch said that it would be fair if a park and ride facility is located on the edge of the city, but this is in Beeston, a situation which Bill Birch described as completely crazy. James Lewis said that this is a question of where traffic and congestion come from. We have not carried out that research. Bill Birch asked when the research would be carried out, and whether the results would be notified to the Forum. He suggested a time frame of six months. James Lewis said that the research would be carried out when the facility is better used. Greg Turton noted that he had been told that the break even figure would be 700 cars. James Lewis noted that there are two car parks, each with a capacity of 400 cars. He added that he is unsure as to where the figure of 700 cars comes from. Greg Turton said that it is his recollection that the figure comes from First Bus. Noor Zaman noted that the bus services finish at 7pm but the facility is now open until 9pm. He asked how this works out. James Lewis said that users of the facility can use the 51 and 52 service buses operating along Elland Road. Noor Zaman nevertheless noted that it is impossible to use the Park and Ride bus services.

4.5 Pauline Johnson noted that many of the bus services using the Elland Road Park and Ride facility are empty. She had seen five passengers on a bus on the previous day, there are sometimes three passengers, but the majority of the buses are carrying no passengers. She asked who pays for this, and would this result in increases fares or reductions in other bus services. James Lewis noted that First Bus have bought the licence for this service and plans to build the business. Pauline Johnson noted that if the buses connected with the Elland Road Park and Ride facility were a service bus, it would be discontinued. James Lewis said that Metro would subsidise normal service buses with five passengers. He added that Elland Road is the first time there has been a bus based park and ride scheme. This is a learning curve and we would not get it right first time. Edna Newton asked how much it costs to use the Park and Ride facility. James Lewis noted that this costs £2.70 return with a discount card. Edna Newton said that the facility had been widely criticised for being too close to the City Centre. When the Tour de France was taking place, it has been impossible to get into Leeds City Centre.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 7th August 2014. Christine Thornton noted that the minutes had not been approved by the last meeting. She pointed out that the minutes document circulated at the meeting incorporated two copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September. Accordingly, the minutes could not be approved .

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 4th September 2014. Richard Bell and Doris Brooke explained that they had not made remarks attributed to them in paragraph 10.1 of the minutes. Robert Winfield said that he would investigate this, by reference to his notes of the meeting on which the minutes are based. There were no other comments about the accuracy of the minutes.

7. Matters arising . Councillor Adam Ogilvie noted that following the last meeting of the Forum, he had asked about the waiting time in relation to the bulky waste service, and was told 4 to 5 weeks. It was noted that the service is operated by three crews and has a high level of demand . Adam Ogilvie added that Leeds City Council is working with other organisations to ensure that as much material is reused as possible. He added that this is currently a city wide service but will shortly come under the jurisdiction of the Area Committee. Adam Ogilvie hoped that at this time, it might be possible to make improvements to the waiting time. Christine Thornton noted that she had heard a rumour that the service might go. Adam Ogilvie reassured her that it would not. Richard Bell referred to the difficulty which he has had in telephoning council departments. He noted that a lot of information is not available on the Leeds City Council website and that callers to Leeds City Council are required to call a central switchboard. Bill Birch said that the Leeds City Council website is often unavailable. Ash Mahmood referred to plans to clean up a ginnel close to the site owned by Aspiring Communities on Barkly Road. There would be a clean up of the local area ; Aspiring Communities would assist with the provision of skips.

8. Report of Subcommittee dealing with the Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston. Greg Turton noted that we have been in contact with local residents through leaflets. However, schools have been contacted in June but nothing has been heard from them. In July, shops and small businesses in the area were leafleted. It is now intended to leaflet large companies. It was noted that in July , a number of Forum members had attended a Neighbourhood Planning Conference in Leeds City Centre. The conference was also attended by Nick Boles, the Government minister responsible for Neighbourhood Planning who said he was pleased with how strongly Leeds is supporting Neighbourhood Planning; he said that Leeds had been leading the country in this respect. Greg Turton added that Nick Boles had recognised the difficulties faced by people wishing to set up neighbourhood plans in urban areas where there are no parish councils. He announced that the grant available to organisations setting up a neighbourhood plan in non parished areas would be increased to £14000. The grant available to parished areas would remain at £7000. Greg Turton noted that our one group had discussed our budget. We had been granted £3000 of which £1200 has been spent on leaflets and publicity. We will draw up estimates for the number of meetings , comprising full meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum, Committee meetings. Subject to the neighbourhood forum being designated, we would estimate the number of meetings required before the General Election. Greg Turton noted that we require consent to spend funds from the grant after December. There has been some discussion, though not in serious detail, about a trip to an area with a neighbourhood plan. It was noted that there are two areas in Wolverhampton with Neighbourhood plans ; one inner city, the other more rural. There is also the Balsall Green area of Birmingham which is a multicultural area , and a forerunner in terms of neighbourhood planning, similar to Holbeck . Unlike Holbeck, a neighbourhood plan is now in place. Greg Turton reported that the application for the designation of the Beeston Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted on 22nd September. The application included a number of supporting documents , including a Statement of Case , details as to how the legislation governing neighbourhood plans has been satisfied , a draft Constitution and a membership list. The membership list identifies 55 members of whom 48 are qualified by residence in the area, 10 members own businesses in the area, five members work in the area and there are also two councillors. Greg Turton noted that the formal consultation process would start on 3rd October. Formal notices describing the consultation process would be posted at various locations in Beeston including at the back of the hall where the meeting as taking place. Notices are being placed at Snipper Clarke Hairdresses, Beeston Road, Mark McDonnell, Butcher, Beeston Road, St Mary's Community Notice Board, Beeston Village Medical Centre, Beeston Village Community Centre , Nichols Fish and Chip Shop, Dewsbury Road, Whitegates Estate Agents, Dewsbury Road, N & D Parker Newsagents , Cross Flatts Grove, St Andrews Hall and Beeston Co-op . Local residents would be able to make comments ; Greg Turton hoped that members of the Forum would make supportive comments. The consultation period would end on 14th November . It was hoped that a decision about the application would be made in late November or early December. If the decision is favourable, we can put into place plans for bringing the neighbourhood forum together. Greg Turton noted that we had looked at the returns from the questionnaires; he noted that Robert Winfield would write a report detailing the responses. The issues would be added to the agenda for a meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum when this is set up. Christine Thornton noted that the issues identified include litter, crime, anti social behaviour, absentee landlords and a lack of pride in the area.

9. Report of Committee meeting held on Thursday 18th September 2014. Christine Thornton noted that this had considered forward planning and speakers, the Neighbourhood Plan and correspondence . The correspondence would be reported to the Forum under the section dealing with correspondence . Robert Winfield had also reported the latest meeting of the Beeston Village Community Centre Users Committee.

10 Correspondence

10.1 Robert Winfield noted they he ha received a letter from Philip Bartram of Asda Stores Limited in connection with Asda 's action in applying for delivery and opening hours which were at variance with an undertaking which Asda had previously given to the Forum when applying for Planning permission for the new store. He apologised for Asda's oversight in not notifying the Forum of its intentions prior to lodging the planning permission and insisted that Asda's action in applying for longer delivery and opening hours is driven by the needs of customers and follows consultation with customers. Robert Winfield noted that when he raised the letter at the recent committee meeting , a number of Committee members were adamant that no one from Asda had spoken to them.

10.2 Robert Winfield noted that he received an e mail from Victoria Hinchliff Walker of the Leeds City Council Planning Department explaining that Asda has applied for planning permission to build a petrol filling station on the site of the proposed store. This will be a two pump operation and be automated (not manned and no kiosk).

10.3 Robert Winfield noted that he had received several e mails relating to the Aspiring Communities site. Firstly , he had received an e mail from John Adamson , who lives near to the site expressing concerns about flytipping on the site. He has also been e mailed by Charles McGrath , a resident of Barkly Road who asked whether Jews, Sikhs Hindus and adherents of other religions would be allowed to use the facilities at the new development , which is claimed to be multi faith. He also asked who would pay for the construction of the proposed underground car park which would have 89 spaces. Robert Winfield noted that Ash Mahmood of Aspiring Communities was present at the meeting and hoped that he would be in a position to respond to these queries under Any Other business.

11. Planning Application relating to Cockburn School. Robert Winfield noted that following a discussion at the last meeting of the Forum, he had been instructed to object to a planning application for a new footpath at Cockburn School. He duly lodged a holding objection to the application but had been prevented from sending a further e mail as a result of a combination of lengthy hours at work and difficulties with his computer system. Robert Winfield then received an e mail from Peter Nuttall who is responsible for Community relations at Cockburn School , which addressed most if not all the points considered at the last meeting of the Forum. The matter was discussed by the Forum Committee which resolved that the present meeting of the forum would determine whether to withdraw the holding objection or to send a further letter explanation our substantive grounds for an objection. Robert Winfield noted that Peter Nuttall had intended to be present at the current meeting , but had then sent an e mail explaining that he would be unable to be resent due to a family bereavement. Robert Winfield then read the e mail from Peter Nuttall as follows :-

Please see the document, below which will explain to you the purposes for which this school has applied for planning permission for a footpath, within the boundaries of the school site. As you will see when you have read the document there will be no increase in traffic on the Southleigh Estate, it is not the intention of the school to bus primary school children to the temporary school site at Cockburn (common sense alone should have told the residents, and other objectors, that there is no room on the narrow roads of the Southleigh Estate for a bus) and there is no intention to use the path as an everyday exit from the school. This is simply a measure to increase ease of passage within the school grounds, and to act as an emergency exit, should such a need arise. I believe there has been some confusion over this proposal, probably because the council (not the school) decided to post notices during the school holidays - when I myself of course was on holiday and wasn't aware of this move until informed by the Chair of the Southleigh Residents' Association. I have informed the local residents' association of this at its last meeting and I mean to attend the next meeting of your group, which I believe takes place on the last Thursday of each month, and have informed both Cllr. Gabriel and Cllr. Ogilvy of this intention - I will be happy to answer questions then if necessary.

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR PATH TO SIDE GATE OF PLAYING FIELDS.

Statement to the Southleigh Residents' Association (abridged)

First of all I would like to point out that this committee, as well as the local residents, were not informed about the proposed path, because I myself was not aware that planning permission had been applied for. This was done not by the school but by the council on the 22nd August. Some residents have pointed out that they were on holiday at the time – so was I and was unaware that the council would be moving so fast. But let me first of all explain why the school feels that it needs a footpath, before I move on to the particular objections raised by local residents.

1 As you will be aware, Gipsy Lane is very congested when school finishes at 2.45, with parents picking up children, the school buses and all 1100 plus of the students leaving through one gate. We have two gates, but we have now had to lock both gates and build a pedestrian access gate because parents and taxi drivers insisted on driving onto the school site whilst the children were leaving. This was a distinct hazard, especially when mixed up with the school buses. Thus all the students leave through one exit at the same time. This is not satisfactory, but is necessary.

2 In addition to this some of you will be aware that because of the population bulge we have had to take an extra 70 students in year seven. This is not a bump that will move through the school, but a permanent population increase – in other words by 2020 every year group will have an extra 70 pupils, about 350 altogether giving the school a population of nearly 1550 thus adding to the congestion on Gipsy Lane. This is not the fault of the school.

3 In case of an emergency necessitating the evacuation of the school these entrances would be unable to cope if there was a need to empty the school quickly. One of the objectors raised the point that when the gas main near the end of

Gipsy Lane exploded no one was able to leave the estate. This also applied to the students, as we had no alternative exit from the school. This path would provide such an exit in an emergency.

4 In addition, we also have to consider contingencies in the case of the school being attacked either by a lone person or a group of people – this is a growing danger and one that we should be aware of. Some of you might scoff at this, but I should point out that senior school staff have had, for a number of years, a special alert code to be used over their radios should such a threat occur.

5 At present there is, as stated before, only one exit from the school. The footpath – and I stress the word footpath - to the gates down by the side of the field would provide a second exit from the building in an emergency, as well as easing the progress of students from one part of the fields to another. As there is already a path of sorts this development is merely to make it more permanent.

6 Originally we were just going to build an internal footpath, but the council advised that we needed planning permission in case Sport England objected. As it happens they are quite happy with the proposal. As this is a minor development we saw no need to inform the residents, in the same way that you wouldn't inform the school if you built a garage. I would just like to examine some of the objections that have been raised, in no particular order.

A) Extra vehicles travelling through the estate. Whilst we cannot stop anyone from using a public road, there is no intention of extra vehicles connected to the school using the estate

B) "There is no turning circle for a bus" – the school has no intention of sending a bus down any of the roads on the estate, and residents must surely be aware that their roads are not wide enough for this

C) The path will run alongside the back fences of houses. It will indeed, but its use will be quite infrequent, and I don't think that residents' privacy will be invaded any more than it is at present when the fields are in use. After all, if your garden backs on to school playing fields you must expect people to wander about on them

D) This is entirely an on site provision, and in the same way that we do not inform residents of alterations to classrooms, laboratories or air conditioning plants, we do not inform them of additional on site footpaths, several of which have been added to the site in the last year, as it doesn't concern them.

E) Thus, most, if not all, of the objectors appear to think the following:-

i) New primary school pupils will be dropped off at the gate by bus.

ii) Parents will drop off and pick up children from the playing field gates

lii) In the morning we envisage that most vehicles will turn in the junction of Southleigh Avenue and Southleigh Grove..... to drop off children"

iv) "It will be used by primary school children until their new school is ready in 2015/16."

v) "I have been informed that the children are to be brought by bus and travel along Southleigh Road"

This is NOT the case, and residents have been mischievously misinformed that it is so. The bus bringing the primary school children will travel from the old Sports Centre site to the front of the main school building on Gipsy Lane and drop the children off on site, at a different time from that when our own students arrive and leave. There is no intention of making reception class children walk the considerable distance from the gates on Southleigh Avenue to the main school – a distance of over 150 metres, - which common sense should have told people would be impractical, especially throughout the winter. There is no intention to use this path and the exit into Southleigh Avenue as a daily exit for students entering and leaving the school. It is purely for internal use and for emergencies. As to the extremely derogatory comments made about the school in the majority of the planning objections, I have to say that planners will pay no heed to them, and I don't intend

to either, as accusations of increased littering and anti-social behaviour are not supported by any hard evidence, they are not supported by the police, and indeed are not supported by the committee of the residents association.

Bill Birch criticised the tone of the e mail as impertinent and patronising and said that it is disgraceful that Mr Nuttall should write that letter then fail to turn up to the meeting to defend it. Robert Winfield stressed that Mr Nuttall had originally intended to attend the meeting , but had been prevented from doing so by a family bereavement. Stuart Casserley said the point which had been made about the safety of schoolchildren is fair enough, but that the arrangement puts a lot more traffic on Gipsy Lane. He added that there is still traffic coming up Gipsy Lane after 1000 children leave the school following the end of the school day. There is no other way in which the pupils can travel away from the school. Christine Thornton noted that it is not possible to close roads, as occurs with sporting events , as this is a residential area. She criticised Mr Nuttall's letter as patronising but noted that he had assured residents that there would be no increase in traffic as a

result of the path. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that there is already a gate on the site but that it is locked and only used in an emergency. Bill Birch related an incident in which an alarm at Cockburn High School went off , leading to half the school leaping over the fence. Bernard Flynn noted that he had raised the issue of the Planning application at the previous meeting of the Forum. He noted that the closing date for objections to the planning application was 12th September , but there had been no explanation of the need for the planning application until the meeting of the

Southleigh Residents Association, which had taken place the previous evening; 11th September. Bernard Flynn noted that rumour had overtaken the Southleigh Estate as no one could get hold of the school. He noted that Peter Nuttall's e mail had blamed Leeds City Council for the situation even though this is a school footpath. Thus, Bernard Flynn argued that Mr Nuttall's explanation will not wash. The school must have known about the intention to provide the footpath , but only commented about the situation less than 24 hours before the deadline for comments on the planning application. This is not acceptable. Bernard Flynn added that he accepts and welcomes the assurances given by Mr Nuttall but added that the school's handling of the matter has left a lot to be desired. Stuart Casserley said that the meeting between the Southleigh Residents Association (of which he is a Committee member) and Mr Nuttall had cleared up the matter. Christine Thornton agreed that the matter had been mishandled , by that everything has now been clarified. Bill Birch said that Mr Nuttall must be more apologetic but noted that his e mail conveys the impression that he is apologising for nothing. He felt that Cockburn High School should apologise to the residents of the Southleigh Estate for mishandling the situation. Bernard Flynn said that he had held off from putting in a personal objection to the application until he had heard the school's explanation. He noted that the application envisaged that the proposed footpath would be built right at the back of the playing fields. He argued that the path could instead be sited on the other side of the playing fields adjacent to the woods. The footpath would run alongside 20 back gardens and privacy is important to residents. Bernard Flynn noted that the fence is not that high (around 4 ft) and felt that it would be easy for anyone walking along the footpath to see into residents' gardens. Christine Thornton noted that all children would use the footpath and gate in an emergency. Bernard Flynn noted that access to the playing fields would be required every day, not just in an emergency. Rosemary Casserley said that she had gained the impression that all that is happening is the tarmac of a path. She noted that students walk across the grass to the playing fields in any event. She added that she had been in correspondence with Peter Nuttall before the meeting. Christine Thornton noted that her own back garden backs onto Cross Flatts Park. If there is no fence , people would look through the railings. Christine Thornton wondered whether she would object to a Leeds City Council footpath. Anyone living beside a school will get people there ; the same would apply to a sports stadium. Christine Thornton noted that she gets 'half of Beeston' passing her garden; this is not a problem. Bill Birch said that any developer must ensure that the situation is not materially different. If they want to put in a Tarmac drive, this is a material development. If a developer puts a footpath along the back of a resident's garden, the resident would have every right to object unless mitigation measures such as a high fence are implemented. Bill Birch suggested lodging an objection urging the school and Leeds City Council to conduct about mitigation measures due to loss of privacy. Greg Turton said that the consultation process operated by the school must be improved. Rosemary Casserley said that she would let the Southleigh Residents Association know about our plans. It was agreed to lodge an objection along the lines discussed at the meeting. Robert Winfield expressed the view that the public relations demonstrated by the handling of this matter had been diabolical and that this had led to the fears expressed by many local residents. Moreover, the Planning application had been submitted in August ; a familiar tactic used by applicants who wish to minimise opposition to their plans. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that we write to the School, and to the Chief Executive of Leeds City a council expressing our views. Greg Turton noted that the School and Leeds City Council had not been taking to one another.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 A discussion took place about the planning application by Asda Stores Limited to build a petrol filling station on the site of its new store. John Hook noted that Asda owns a superstore 1 1/2 miles from the site . If s car cannot drive this distance, it should not be on the road. There is therefore no need for another filling station. He also recalled the gas explosion which had taken place on the Southleigh Estate. Mary Dinsdale noted that Old Lane is busy with some fast traffic and there has recently been a bad accident. She felt that Asda is bullying. Bill Birch felt that Asda's conduct gives rise to wider concerns. He noted that there has been a 'beauty contest' between Asda and Tesco , both of whom had given the community assurances that they would not do various things. However, when Asda won the contest , they say that they want to change the rules and move the goalposts. We should tell them that their behaviour is not on. Robert Winfield noted that Philip Bartram of Asda had apologised for not informing the Forum about the Planning application for longer opening and delivery hours. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum had not been informed of this planning application. A member of the audience noted that she had been assured by a representative of Asda that they would not seek to build a petrol filling station on the site. Christine Thornton noted that throughout the Forum's discussions with Asda , there had been no discussion about the possibility of a petrol filling station. She noted that there are already filling stations on Dewsbury Road, the White Rose Centre, close to the site of the Woodman Inn, near PC World and at Asda, Middleton and feared that a filling station at Old Lane would lead to increases traffic. Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that there is no reference in the Planning application to the operating hours of the filling station. If the station is self service, it may be intended to operate it 24 hours per day. Mary Dinsdale said that Asda must take our points on board. It was agreed to lodge an objection to the Planning application. Richard Bell who voted against the resolution noted that he is not aware of any instance of a petrol station blowing up.

12.2 Ash Mahmood responded to the e mails which the Forum has received in relation to the Aspiring Communities site. He stressed that the site will be multi faith and thus used by all religions. Aspiring Communities will also pay for the underground car park. With regard to flytipping , Ash Mahmood acknowledged that there had been some rubbish dumped but he noted that there is 24 hour surveillance . He noted that he visits the site daily and the rubbish should have been cleared up. Christine Thornton noted that several green bags apparently containing rubbish were on the site. Ash Mahmood agreed that there is a need to clear the ginnel at the rear gate. He said that Aspiring Communities would clean this and had been in touch with the Young Offenders Service about this matter. Aspiring Communities had

prepared and circulated a document setting out answers to questions posed at their consultation meeting on 18th September. Christine Thornton noted that she had received a copy of the document.

12.3 Adam Ogilvie pointed out that the telephone number for the bulky waste service is 0113 222 4406. It operates Monday to Friday 8am to 6 pm.

12.4 Christine Thornton noted that Beeston in Bloom had won a silver medal in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition . Leeds in Bloom won a good medal . Greg Turton noted that Park Fisheries had won gold in the Leeds in Bloom competition. Christine Thornton added that Cross Flatts Park had won the Duke of York award . Representatives had been invited to a function with HRH Prince Andrew on 16th October. Angela Gabriel noted that nine organisations in Beeston had won awards including St. Anthony's , St. David's , Sunnyview House and Evans Business Park.

Amended version of paragraph 10.1 of the minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday 4th September 2014

10.1 A discussion took place about Leeds City Council's service for the collection of large household items. It was noted that a resident seeking to dispose of a refrigerator spent 30 minutes on the phone and was told that the Council could collect on 16th October . When the resident sought to dispose of a double bed , the resident's brother in law would have been able to take it to a excuse tip in a van , but vans are not allowed to enter tips. It was argued that this situation could lead to fly tipping in streets . Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that this service has been overwhelmed by demand and that no cuts had been made to it. Councillor Adam Ogilvie added that the waiting time for the service has been reduced ; it had been 8 to 12 weeks but extra resources have enabled the waiting time to be reduced to one month. It was noted that dumping in the street occurs in areas where there are houses to let. Richard Bell noted that there are limitations as to what can be done to collect cumbersome items ; he added that a service with a waiting time of 1 1/2 months is not a great service. Greg Turton said that fly tipping is affecting the community year in year out and that some people do not care if others are aggrieved. He felt that there needs to be a review which would consider imaginative ways of improving the service. He urged the councillors to take back the comments made at the Forum and make it clear that we are concerned. Richard Bell said that a wait of a month to collect bulky items could lead to other issues. It was argued that someone taking a van to a tip would be doing Leeds City Council a favour. Angela Gabriel pointed out that vans can go on certain days , for example Wednesdays ; however Richard Bell pointed out that tips are blocked off to prevent the entry of large vehicles. Stuart Casserley noted that a licence is required for a commercial vehicle to enter a tip. He obtained a permit as he uses a small trailer rather than a car . Richard Bell said that he was aware of instances where individuals with no permit have been allowed onto the tip. He felt that those in charge have taken a pragmatic view. Doris Kenny said that she was aware of people visiting a waste tip being asked where they live. Angela Gabriel said that they are simply seeking to find out who is using the tip. Adam Ogilvie noted that he sits on the local environmental steering group. Angela Gabriel noted that skips can be provided free of charge for community clean ups , but stressed this must be for community use, rather than used by a single individual . She added that SLATE , based on Hunslet Road are willing to take discarded furniture. Rosemary Casserly noted they she still has the leaflet which was distributed at Christmas giving details of green bin collections. She noted that the leaflet also describes where it is possible to take old bicycles and electrical goods for disposal. The leaflet describes which tips are open and when. She also noted that rag and bone men visit her area. It was noted that scrapyards will not accept fridges due to CFCs. Pauline Johnson noted that when she purchased a new fridge she asked the company from whom it she had bought it to take her old fridge for disposal