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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

### Beeston Forum General Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

#### Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers dealing with section 106 funds paid in respect of planning applications in Beeston
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016
5. Police Report
6. The Beeston Neighbourhood Plan
7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016
8. Correspondence
9. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) , Mr. R. Bell, Mrs D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mrs. J. Bush, Mrs. D. Craven, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. M. Dinsdale, B. Draper, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mr. C. Hendrick Ward , Mr. K. Hewson, Mr. J. Hook, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, D. McGuigan, Mr. J. Morton, Mrs. M. Munro, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Rev. L. Pearson, Mr. S. Sturman, Mr. G. Turton, P. Whitehead and R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks – Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and noted that many people reckon that this is the first day of Autumn, but she noted that she had been brought up to believe that 21<sup>st</sup> September is the first Day of Autumn. She hoped that those present had a good summer and a nice holiday .

2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, Maureen Broadbent, Councillor David Congreve and Adam Cooper

3. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting

4. Matter arising – Robert Winfield noted that the minutes refer to the absence of Dawn Carey Jones, Secretary of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum, who had been expected to be attending the meeting. Robert Winfield noted that on the morning after the meeting, he had received an e mail from Dawn Cary Jones explaining that her car had broken down on Holbeck Moor en route to the meeting, and had no means at the time of alerting us to the fact that she would be unable to attend

5. Guest Speaker. Christine Thornton introduced the guest speaker, Rt.Hon. Hilary Benn MP

5.1 Hilary Benn thanked the Forum for what is almost an annual invitation ,, and also thanked the Forum for its work month in , month out. He said that to read the minutes of Forum meetings is to admire a work of art and detail, for which he thanked Robert Winfield. He also thanked our councillors for doing a fantastic job and said that it is a privilege to work with them. He noted that the best things is to allow debate to flow, rather than to make lengthy remarks. He noted that he had just been handed a copy of the Forum's letter to the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the Aspiring Communities planning application. Christine Thornton noted that a copy of the letter had been placed on almost every chair at the meeting. Hilary Benn noted that he had objected to the planning application on the grounds of transport and traffic. He noted that it will now be for the Planning Inspectorate to decide about the application. He noted that consultation about the possible extension of the Residents Car Parking zone around Elland Road is still ongoing , and noted that it is important for people to express their views. He also referred to work on the Neighbourhood Plan. He noted that the big event in terms of national politics was the EU Referendum. He noted that he had looked at the minutes of the meeting at which the Beeston Forum had debated the issues involved and noted that the meeting had covered all the relevant arguments. The referendum had been close, with 52% of voters voting to leave the EU and 48% voting to remain. In Leeds, there was a small majority for remaining in the EU. Hilary Benn noted that he had campaigned for the UK to remain a member of the EU, but added that the decision of the people must be honoured , notwithstanding his disappointment . He noted that this has been a most profound decision, with consequences. He added that we must have firm government and asked what the plan is for our exit from the EU. He noted that there had been a recent cabinet meeting at Chequers. The task of leaving the EU is not straightforward and gives rise to a number of big questions. With regard to reading, 44% of our exports go to the Single Market. There is likely to be free trade in industrial goods such as cars , but there are big questions in connection with the service sector. He noted that 80% of the economy is based on services . Hilary Benn noted that one important reason why 52% of voters voted to leave is immigration and free movement. The British people, he acknowledged , had sent a clear message. However, he noted that Norway has free movement and he noted that there is no access to the Single Market without free movement. He noted that the UK is the most successful country in Europe in attracting investment due to our membership of the Single Market. We need to negotiate trade deals and decide whether to retain EU legislation. He noted that it has taken Canada seven years to negotiate a trade deal with the EU. He noted that if there is uncertainty about the future businesses will hate it. Businesses will want to know what is happening and what the rules are. We are waiting for the government's plan in relation to the negotiations to leave the EU. We must negotiate with 27 states all of which must agree. The only way to leave the EU is by invoking Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty by notifying other member states of our intention to leave. There is then a two year period during which agreement must be reached, unless other EU nations agree. There is a big decision as to when to start this process . He noted that sensibly, the government is speaking to EU member states before invoking Article 50.

Hilary Benn noted that there is currently industrial action by Junior Doctors and noted that it is not clear how this will be resolved.

5.2 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst issues raised were trade deals, the current situation in the Labour Party, the example set to young people by the conduct of the campaigns in the recent EU referendum, the role of the media, immigration, the EU Commission's ruling in connection with Apple and the Republic of Ireland , Hilary Benn's views about Donald Trump, shoplifting

6. Police Report. It was noted that no representative of the police was present at the meeting. It was noted that Insp. Arrowsuch has left his position and now works with his predecessor Chris Bowen. He has been replaced by a new Inspector, Alan Travers, who is on holiday until the middle of September .

7. Beeston Neighbourhood Plan. Robert Winfield reported that there had been a useful meeting involving most

members of the Neighbourhood Forum Committee and Officers of Leeds City Council on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Additionally, the Committee had also met on 8<sup>th</sup> August and discussed the disappointing level of support for the Neighbourhood Forum. A number of suggestions were aired, including merging the two Forum's. Robert Winfield felt that this could lead to a number of difficulties. Another idea which could be considered is that of the two Forums holding joint meetings. Robert Winfield noted that he is not opposed in principle to this idea, and also referred to suggestions that the number of meetings held by the two Forums together is inhibiting involvement. Robert Winfield noted that (except in exceptional circumstances) the Beeston Community Forum is required by its constitution to hold 12 meetings per annum, whilst the Neighbourhood Forum is required to hold three meetings. Robert Winfield noted that it is his personal opinion that future meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum should take place on Thursdays.. He noted that the Beeston Community Forum has held successful meetings on Thursdays and he hoped that Forum members would be in a position to attend Neighbourhood Forum meetings. The last two meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum of the year would each be taking place on Thursdays; 8<sup>th</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> November. He hoped that next week's meeting would be well attended. Christine Thornton observed that there are so many Neighbourhood Forum members but only a handful of them attend meetings. Christine Thornton noted that the Neighbourhood Forum AGM in May had only been quorate as a result of members telephoning people and persuading them to come to the meeting. Christine Thornton noted that the quorum for meetings had been fixed too high and that as a result of this, the Neighbourhood Forum had been prevented from moving forward. Robert Winfield pointed out that the AGM had taken a decision to reduce the quorum from 20 to 10; a more practical figure. Greg Turton felt that there should be separate meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum and added that we must define what the issues are. He noted that a year ago, it was recognised that there was a need to implement the task groups, but only two such groups had attracted any following; the Environment Task Group had held a number of meetings whilst the Housing task group had been due to meet to determine how it carries out its work, but this had never happened. Greg Turton added that Housing is a high profile subject. There are areas where we need new housing and development. However, he recalled that the Neighbourhood Forum had objected to a new housing development on the Parkwood Estate as it wanted the council and residents to work to determine how the area will develop. Greg Turton noted that there is only one road in and out of the Parkwood Estate and developments could make the area better. We must develop issues around which the community can unite and work with the Council. None of the housing ideas were developed. Greg Turton noted that the Neighbourhood Forum had alerted the Secretary of State to the Aspiring Communities planning application, and the difficulties caused by it but he never replied to our letter. Greg Turton said that we could carry out an audit of sites in Beeston. It is within the remit of the Neighbourhood Forum to make site allocations but nothing has happened. He noted that the Ice Pak site is preferred for housing. The site could have been expanded to take in the site of the company making cardboard boxes (the site had now been acquired by another company). We should find issues of importance and develop them around the Neighbourhood Forum. Robert Winfield suggested that the Aspiring Communities planning application has been an obstruction to the work of the Neighbourhood Forum but not in the way in which Greg Turton had argued. Robert Winfield suggested that residents are so preoccupied with defeating the planning application that they are not thinking about anything else. Arthur Kirby felt that we could discuss Housing at the forthcoming meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum. He also felt that we should get going on the issue of housing and inform the membership. We should also start to look at heritage with some members. He noted that Ken Burton and Sandra Burton are interested in heritage. Christine Thornton hoped that people would attend the Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September, and noted that most of the members present at the current meeting are members of the Neighbourhood Forum.

8. Report of the Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Christine Thornton reported that practically the whole of the meeting had been devoted to considering the draft of our letter to the Planning Inspectorate reaffirming our objections to the Aspiring Communities Planning Application. She reminded those present that a copy of the letter had been placed on most of the chairs at the meeting. She noted that the committee had resolved that the letter be read out at the current meeting, but it was felt, on reflection that the letter is too long for it to be read. It was noted that the deadline for submissions to the Planning Inspectorate is 9<sup>th</sup> September. Richard Bell asked what the position would be if the decision of the Planning Inspectorate goes against what people want. Greg Turton wondered whether the matter could go to a judicial review. A member of the audience wondered whether

there is a time limit on the Planning Inspectorate making a decision. Richard Bell noted that Aspiring Communities had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate on the basis of non determination and that this had caused the process to be delayed . Councillor Angela Gabriel observed that Aspiring Communities could submit another planning application; if the current planning application is turned down , they would need to address the grounds on which it is turned down

## 9. Correspondence:-

9.1 Robert Winfield (with Christine Thornton taking over the reading of the letter owing to difficulties with Robert Winfield's voice ) read a letter from Martin Farrington, Leeds City Council Director of City Development about section 106 funds for planning applications in Beeston. Martin Farrington explained that section 106 contributions are sought in order to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Monies have specific restrictions on where and how they may be spent (planning obligations should only be sought where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms , directly related to the development and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development . National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 203 to 205). The Council's aim is to invest the sums available in viable and sustainable projects which meet local needs and priorities. This approach values consultation with ward members as a means to ensure that local communities are involved in these decisions .

All monies received under section 106 agreements must be spent in line with the restrictions within the specific section 106 agreements and also in accordance with the underlying policies to ensure that Leeds City Council fulfils as the Local Planning Authority . Martin Farrington noted that there are some unallocated section 106 monies in Beeston and Holbeck Ward . However, spending any of these monies on improvements to a community centre would not be an eligible allocation under any of the relevant policies , regardless of geographical location.

Martin Farrington summarised the restrictions for these sums of monies

Greenspace Monies - £17130 from a development on Brown Lane East and £87694 from a development at City View, Kirk Beston Close , are restricted to be spent on eligible greenspace schemes and in accordance with the wording of the agreement which states that it is to be spent on 'greenspace improvements within the vicinity of the site' . Martin Farrington said he would be happy to provide a list of eligible schemes if this helps our discussions

Highways Monies- £253422 from the police station which is specifically for a traffic regulation order to reinforce the highways infrastructure to accommodate the increased traffic caused by the new development . £23420 from this development was allocated for the implementation and future maintenance of real time development information at bus stops in the vicinity of the land. .

Public Transport Infrastructure Monies= there is a total of £431526 from Elland Road and Asda . These funds must be spent in accordance with policy and are tied to 'public transport or other environmental improvements within the vicinity of the development or elsewhere within the administrative area of the council required as a consequence of the development .

Martin Farrington asked us to contact him if he can help further .

Richard Bell noted that there is a lot of money sitting idle, whilst Greg Turton suggested that the Neighbourhood Forum could look at this and in particular whether there are any suitable projects

9.2 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from the office of Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council, explaining that she will not be able to attend the Forum meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## 10. Any Other Business

10.1 John Cunningham noted that he had met John Fenton who was on a trip to Leeds. John Fenton said he was okay and sent his regards to the Forum

10.2 Richard Bell noted that there are premises backing onto garages on Barkly Road which are full of beds . he said that the premises had been bought by Asians who are hoping to open a bed factory. He added that a number

of cars are currently on the premises as a personal favour; their owners had been told that they would need to move them. Christine Thornton had noticed the cars in the yard and had now seen the old beds. A member of the audience said that people had stripped a factory, which needs to be redone . It was also noted that the owners had allowed people to use the land to store cars short term but that this had gone on for longer than intended .

10.3 Christine Thornton noted that the September edition of South Leeds Life is now available

10.4 Greg Turton said that he is fed up with litter in Beeston especially around shops , notably the food shop at the bottom of Cross Flatts Grove. This is a perennial problem and the owners do not think of sweeping this up . He noted that he had visited a village in Ireland which had been made famous by the poet W.B Yeats. The village had used the slogan , ‘For Yeats Sake take your rubbish home’ . He suggested an adaptation of the slogan; ‘For Beeston’s sake, take your rubbish home’ . He suggested that the council should talk to shop owners about sweeping around shops on a daily basis . Christine Thornton felt that Dave Fisher’s team is good.

Councillor Angela Gabriel noted that there are more bins than ever before in Beeston. Bins should be emptied three times per week or daily if the bin fills more quickly. Christine Thornton wondered whether we could have signs . Angela Gabriel noted that there have been budget cuts and that people had been made redundant. Greg Turton said that a few signs would not break the bank. Councillor Adam Ogilvie noted that 100 anti litter and anti dog fouling signs had been bought . Greg Turton wondered whether the council goes into schools to deliver a message against dropping litter. Angela Gabriel said that the council does this . Greg Turton said that three generations of people have been littering pavements . Christine Thornton says that she is always e mailing Dave Fisher and added that people seem to believe that there is a rubbish fairy . They put items out in the street , apparently in the hope that they will be collected . She referred to items left outside by one householder in her street . Myra Munro referred to a resident who leaves beds and chairs outside . Richard Bell said that this is anti social behaviour