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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

### Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

#### Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speaker; Councillor Richard Lewis
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010
5. Correspondence
6. Report of Committee meeting - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010
7. Raising the profile of the Forum
8. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. J. Baron, Mr. R. Bell, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs D. Brooke., Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr J. Hodgson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs M. Mason, Mr. R. Nevin, Mrs E. Newton, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton thanked those present for their attendance
2. Apologies for absence were received from John Fenton who, it was noted was ill as a result of having fallen down stairs.
3. Guest Speaker- Steve Monks- Leeds City Council Highways Department. Amongst the issues dealt with were
  - a £770000 grant from government funds (reaffirmed by the new government) to deal with potholes
  - the restocking of salt to deal with a possible hard winter
  - the department responds to 20000 reports annually
  - serious concerns about the road surfaces on Old Lane and Cross Flatts Grove, and

the standard of workmanship in highway repairs

- the use of road humps
- the removal of flagstones from roads

4. Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Robert Winfield pointed out that the minutes of the Forum meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 (which could not be circulated at the last meeting), had been added to the paperwork, as a third sheet. The minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising.

5.1 Robert Winfield noted that Councillor Andrew Carter, who had been due to be the guest speaker at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July had withdrawn. The meeting agreed to a suggestion from Robert Winfield that in view of the fact that the Labour group had taken effective control of Leeds City Council, that we approach the Labour Group to see whether they can provide a guest speaker for the meeting.

5.2 Christine Thornton had been informed by Sally Cieslik of SPLASHBACK about forthcoming events relating to their campaign to save South Leeds Sports Centre. There would be a stall at the Beeston Festival on 12<sup>th</sup> June and a protest march between 3 p.m and 4.30p.m on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Those participating will assemble near St Matthew's Church; the march will then take a circuit around Beeston and end in a rally at the Sports Centre.

5.3 Christine Thornton had received a number of flyers advertising the Friends of Cross Flatts Park Craft and Produce Stall at the Beeston Festival.

6. Report of Committee Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010

This was given by Robert Winfield as Christine Thornton had been unable to attend the meeting. Robert Winfield pointed out that there had been further discussion of the idea of instituting a 'Beeston Citizen of the Year' award. It was agreed that specific ideas would be presented to a future meeting of the Forum. Bill Birch had agreed to provide photographs for a competition to be held on the Beeston Forum stall at the Beeston festival in which entrants would guess the location of the photographs. There had also been a further discussion about the campaign for a Parish Council in Beeston. Several committee members feared that in view of the fact that a Parish Council would certainly lead to a council tax increase, it may not be appropriate to attempt to introduce a parish council now in view of the current economic climate. It was agreed that we should aim to hold a meeting of the Parish Council Steering Committee, to which Councillor Gareth Beevers of Morley Town Council (who had offered to assist the Parish council campaign) would be invited. The campaign for a Parish Council could be put on hold if it is felt that these are not the right circumstances to be campaigning for a Parish Council. There was also some discussion about a possible coach trip to the seaside. It was felt that the increased costs of coach hire present an obstacle to this; although some of the costs might be recouped by a modest charge. There was also a discussion about increasing attendances at the Forum. It was felt that some people might have been alienated by the fact that a number of meetings had been dominated by guest speakers. It was suggested that there might be a guaranteed 15 minute slot at each forum meeting when members present are able to raise any local issue.

Greg Turton noted that he had floated the idea of a social event at Christmas. Bill Birch suggested that there might be a social in September when the weather was relatively

good. Greg Turton observed that no councillors were present at the meeting, but he referred to the attractive signs on Hunslet Moor asking members of the public to refrain from dropping litter. He felt that similar signs could be designed for Beeston. There could be some interest in schools. He suggested that there could be a competition amongst schools. Richard Bell recalled that there had been a competition amongst schoolchildren to design shutters for the library. A child had won the competition, but the shutters were never made.

7. Edna Newton referred to flytipping on a dirt road close to the community centre. Two weeks ago, someone had been dumping piles of rubbish; in addition, there were lumps of stone and piles so that anyone with a pram would not get through. She described this as a disgrace. John Hodgson referred to flytipping close to Theodore Street and noted that Streetscene representatives are reluctant to come to the Forum. He noted that a number of bins had disappeared and had not been replaced by the Council. He noted that Streetscene had defended their reluctance to return to the forum on the basis that there had been no changes in working practices. In fact, there had been a change- for the worse. Christine Thornton noted that if no one reports the flytipping, the authorities are not aware of it. John Hodgson observed that Leeds City Council does not know who owns the path. He added that Doris Brooke had reported litter in her garden; there are no litterbins nearby. It was agreed that we invite Streetscene to attend the August Forum meeting, the only meeting this year which they can realistically attend. John Peckham recalled that he had e mailed his apologies from the last Forum meeting, and had sent a copy of his e mail, which also referred to a number of problems with litter, to Councillor Adam Ogilvie. He noted that Adam Ogilvie had replied to his points. He would ask him whether there had been any developments.

8. Beeston Festival Stall- Christine Thornton noted from the Committee minutes that John Fenton had agreed to assist with the stall, but was aware that he had been injured in a fall. As a result of this, there had to be doubts as to whether he would be able to help. Bill Birch also doubted whether he would be able to help as he would be flying back from Switzerland. Christine Thornton undertook to give the forum banner and relevant information to John Cunningham. It was noted that a table and two chairs had been ordered. Richard Bell described the newsletter which he would be producing; a discussion took place relating to the production of copies. Robert Winfield pointed out that the photocopier at the community centre gets hot for even relatively small print runs (such as the agenda papers for the forum meeting which was taken place) and noted that there had been instances where the overuse of the photocopier had led to bald patches on the copies. Christine Thornton wondered whether Bill Birch would be in a position to laminate the pictures connected with the quiz. Bill Birch noted that he has no display board. Christine Thornton pointed out that such a board is heavy to carry.

## 9. Any Other Business

9.1 Raymond Nevin referred to a planning application for an outhouse ( a building in the garden) for 30 Waincliffe Mount. He had visited the library and found that a number of local residents had seen their councillors about this planning application. A couple who moved into the house around 12 weeks ago needed a house for their young family. Raymond Nevin feared that if the application is passed, other gardens would be vulnerable. He added that the structure, which would measure 8m by 6m, would take up most of the garden. Richard Bell wondered whether this would be a separate dwelling. John Peckham suggested making an objection to the plans; Richard Bell noted that a large number of objections carries weight. John Hodgson noted that if Councillor David Congreve is still involved with the planning committee he would be precluded from commenting on the

application. Christine Thornton said that there is a building in a back garden in her street; she had mentioned this to councillors. This is a large breeze block construction which is supposed to be a garage although Christine Thornton observed that it would be a rather large garage. Greg Turton noted that the new coalition government had moved against building in gardens. Pauline Johnson wondered what is happening on Old Lane and noted plans by Asda to take over Netto's UK business.

9.2 The Police- Sgt Chapman noted that there had been a rise in burglaries, notably relating to bogus officials and insecure properties. He emphasised the importance of closing windows and doors. There had been bogus official burglaries in Marsden Avenue and Cardinal Crescent. These had involved one or two white males in their 20s mentioning dogs running in and grass cutting services, and using this to gain access to and steal from properties. He urged those present to tell people who may be vulnerable. He noted that the police often receive poor descriptions and urged members to report anything which looks suspicious. He would rather the police check these reports and establish that those involved are genuine. He noted that people who are really offering garden services would not object to being questioned by the police.

Sgt Chapman referred to the recent registration number thefts. A man with no previous criminal history had been arrested earlier in the month, there was no information as to what he had been doing, but since the arrest there had been not one registration number theft. The number of thefts from vehicles had declined from 13 last month to 4 this month; not one of which involves registration plates. He noted that a large number of the crimes are football related.

9.3 Bill Birch noted that three people had raised the issue of 'drugs meets' including a serious one in Noster Terrace, where a number of cars turned up, and their occupants dealt in drugs. A local resident had telephoned and e mailed the police but nothing had happened. John Hodgson noted that the dispersal order had been extended but this does not cover the area to which Bill Birch had referred. Sgt Chapman noted that this is the largest dispersal area ever imposed but acknowledged that groups are going just outside it. The police do, however, patrol just outside the area. Richard Bell noted that there had been a drug seller on St Anthony's Drive, and later around Netto. Sgt Chapman was aware of many reports of this. He added that the dispersal area had been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> November and was clearly having the desired effect in driving down crime figures. He added that the three local police priorities remain the same.

9.4 Sgt Chapman noted that there is a rumour that police had been stopping vehicles flying England flags. He described the rumour as nonsense and said that the police would only stop such vehicles if the flags were a danger to other road users (for example, if they are large). Sgt Chapman referred to a new website ; [www.askthe.police.uk](http://www.askthe.police.uk) which deals with many issues. He noted that there is a link from the Neighbourhood Policing Team website. He concluded by saying that the police would be having a stall at the Beeston Festival with PCSO Johnson in the stocks!