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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- Thursday 3rd June 2010

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speaker; Steve Monks, Leeds City Council Highways Department**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 13th May 2010**
- 5. Correspondence**
- 6. Report of Committee meeting - 20th May 2010**
- 7. Beeston Village Community Centre**
- 8. Possible community leaflet**
- 9. Beeston Festival Stall**
- 10. Raising the profile of the Forum**
- 11. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 13th May 2010

Attendance:—Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Almond, Mr. W.J. Birch, S. Brearley, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Sgt. Chapman (West Yorks Police), PCSO Cockayne (West Yorkshire Police), Mrs Y. Crowther, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Hodgson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, Mrs. E. Newton, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting. She congratulated Councillor David Congreve on his re election to Leeds City Council at the recent elections and offered commiserations to Robert Winfield who had stood against him as the Conservative candidate.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Bell, John Fenton, Kathleen Fenton, Councillor Angela Gabriel, Raymond Nevin and John Peckham.

3. Guest Speaker- Christine Thornton introduced the guest speaker, Emma Rooney of Groundwork, Leeds. Emma Rooney thanked the Forum for inviting her back. She explained that Groundwork is an environmental charity which works with schools, community groups and businesses. The aim is to work with environmental groups to build stronger communities. She referred to the Green Doctor scheme which has been in existence for three years. She said that Groundwork is proud that the scheme recently won the Yorkshire Post Environmental Award. The aim of the scheme is to help people suffering from high fuel bills. The scheme involves representatives of Groundwork going out to clients' homes and advising on energy efficiency measures tailored to households. Measures include draughtproofing, and the fitting of reflective

radiator panels. Emma Rooney brought a panel to the meeting. This consists of thin polystyrene covered by a silver reflective material. This can be attached to a wall behind a radiator. This is particularly effective for stone properties where cavity wall insulation is impossible. Another device that is often used is a 'power down', which reduces the power used by electrical appliances on standby. Emma Rooney referred to a new scheme; the energy monitor loan scheme involving a device which is loaned to clients as part of the scheme and which displays electricity usage.

4. Christine Thornton apologised for the fact that no minutes and agenda papers had been prepared. She pointed out that Robert Winfield had arrived at the venue with the intention of producing copies using the photocopier at the centre, but had found that the lead connecting the photocopier to the power supply had disappeared. In the absence printed copies of the minutes, Christine Thornton briefly outlined the main points of the minutes.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 Christine Thornton wondered whether Robert Winfield had written to Mr Roberts. Robert Winfield pointed out that he fully intended to do so, but had been busy with campaigning activities in connection with the recent elections.

5.2 Christine Thornton had received a certificate of appreciation given at the recent volunteering event. She noted that this had been a pleasant evening at which a buffet had been served. She was the only person there on behalf of the Forum.

5.3 Greg Turton pointed out that the flyer which he had prepared had more to do with the state of Beeston than to attract new members to the Forum. He said that the prime motivation for writing the flyer was his own observations about roads and litter.

6. Change of location of polling station on Dewsbury Road- Councillor David Congreve recalled that he had spoken to the forum several months ago about changes to polling stations. He noted that the committee which decides these matters is controlled by the present council administration. David Congreve recalled that the Councillors and Robert Winfield had objected to a proposal to relocate the polling station at the Broadway Hotel to the College of Technology on Westland Road. David Congreve himself had gone to the committee to speak against the proposals. In the end, one polling station at Cottingley had been closed, together with the polling station at Beeston Library. He recalled that he had been shocked to find that a decision had been taken to relocate the polling station at the Broadway to Dewsbury Road Social Club without public consultation. He added that there had been a lot of gerrymandering in relation to the location of polling stations. Christine Thornton described the layout of the new polling station as ridiculous and noted that everything had been crammed into one corner of the room.

Robert Winfield explained that he was in virtually total agreement with David Congreve's remarks and said that it was remarkable that they had, just a week before, been opponents in the Leeds City Council elections. Robert Winfield noted that Leeds Central Conservatives (of which he is the Chairman) had joined the Beeston Forum in making an objection to the original proposal to relocate the polling station to Westland Road College of Technology. Like David Congreve, Robert Winfield had been surprised to discover that a decision had been taken to relocate the polling station to Dewsbury Road Social Club. He had undertaken some research into the decision and found out that the decision had been taken by the Leeds City Council General Purposes Committee; a committee which is so obscure that he had been unaware of its existence until he looked into this matter. There had been lengthy reports about the siting of polling stations in the documents which Robert Winfield had found, but there was no evidence of any public consultation specifically about the use of Dewsbury Road Social Club as a polling station. Robert Winfield pointed out that the relocation of the polling station meant that almost all the voters of the polling district had a longer journey to the polling station. Bill Birch wondered why it had not been possible to use a room at the Broadway Hotel, rather than the portable building. David Congreve recalled that he had suggested this. He noted that he and Robert Winfield had agreed that there had been

no consultation and that there should have been. He also noted that parking outside the social club is extremely difficult, particularly cars dropping disabled people off to vote. He noted that there are double yellow lines outside the club. The meeting agreed to a proposal from John Hodgson that we write a strong letter about the matter, pointing out that the relocation had been opposed by two of the candidates in the recent election.

7. Beeston Village Community Centre- Doris Brooke called for the fitting of an extractor fan as the smell of curry which was present in the kitchen when members arrived for the present meeting needed to be cleared. Mick Mason pointed out that whoever last used the kitchen had not washed up properly. He added that there is only one kettle, which was not enough.

8. Beeston Festival- Christine Thornton wondered whether we should have a stall at the Festival which takes place on 12th June. She noted that the stall needs to be staffed, although people do not have to stay for the full duration of the festival (12p.m to 5p.m). The stall would cost £10. John Cunningham said that he could do a couple of hours (up until 2p.m). Greg Turton undertook to help. Christine Thornton said that there would be a display, a newsletter and possibly fundraising (for example 'name the dog'). She also has the Forum banner and would dig this out. Greg Turton said that we could distribute a newsletter plus his flyer. It was noted that the police had said that they would distribute the newsletters. It was agreed to book the stall.

9. Revitalising the Forum- Christine Thornton noted that there had been some discussion at the Forum committee about the possibility of instituting a 'Beeston Citizen of the Year' award. Yvonne Crowther said that she would try to get new people of a variety of age groups involved in the Forum. Greg Turton said that a Beeston Citizen of the Year is a very good idea. People in the community work very hard for it in different ways. Greg Turton suggested that there might be a trophy on which the winner's name could be engraved. The winner could be announced at the Beeston Festival. Christine Thornton suggested that the matter should be brought back to a future meeting of the Forum, possibly after a subgroup had been set up to take the matter forward.

10. The Police- Sgt Chapman of Holbeck Police Station gave an overview of crime in the area. He noted that crime had reduced further in the last couple of months apart from some blips. There had been an increase in the number of sneak in burglaries, as it is normally warmer at this time of the year. There is a problem with people leaving doors and windows open, and it is particularly important to avoid leaving ground floor windows open overnight. Theft from motor vehicles rose substantially last month with almost the entire increase being due to the theft of registration plates. None of the plates taken has been recovered; the thefts are throughout the Holbeck NPT area, but concentrated in Cross Flatts, for instance in Atha Street and Firth Street. It was noted that items stolen from cars had often been left on display. Sgt Chapman pointed out that there had been a bogus official burglary in the area last week. No one had been arrested yet. Sgt Chapman noted that Anti Social Behaviour continues to fall. The dispersal area, which is due to end this month, is still in place, although it is hoped to extend this for a further six months. Sgt Chapman drew attention to the booklets, newsletters and yellow slips which had been placed on seats.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Leeds Co-op. John Hodgson said that he had received a letter from the Co-op. He recalled that the former Leeds Co-operative Society had a bank; not to be confused with the Cooperative Bank, which is now finished. The letter concerned arrangements to close accounts but John Hodgson noted that he is aware of three people who were well connected with Leeds Co-op who had not received the letters. John Hodgson pointed out that account holders are expected to visit a Co-op travel agency, hand in the books and obtain a receipt. £1 must be left in the account.

11.2 John Hodgson noted that the Beeston and Holbeck councillors had just provided the funding for two litter bins on the Cardinal Estate. He noted that four bins in Beeston had not been paid for from general council funds. He wondered whether we are subsidising Streetscene. He was critical of Streetscene for saying that they would not attend Forum meetings because there had been no

change in their practices since their last visit to the Forum. David Congreve said that John Hodgson is correct; the council had reduced allocations of money for litter bins and grit bins and told Councillors to find funding for these from Area Committee money. He said that in inner city areas, there is a lot more pressure on Area Committee money. David Congreve said that the Area Committee should not have to finance litter bins.

11.3 Robert Winfield noted that there is a link to the West Yorkshire Police Newsletter (hard copies of which are given out at each Forum meeting) on the Beeston Forum internet site.

11.4 Doris Brooke noted that there had been considerable amounts of litter after a recent football match. She said that there had been eight items of litter in her garden and said that we need more litter bins. Greg Turton said that there is a flytipping hotspot at the back of garages in Theodore Street, and noted that Councillor Adam Ogilvie had made representations. Adam Ogilvie said that Angela Gabriel is looking into the issue. The Council is investigating who is responsible for the dumping. Greg Turton wondered whether the road involved is unadopted. Adam Ogilvie said that it is an unadopted road and this probably explains the delay in resolving the matter. Greg Turton said that an unadopted road invites flytipping and that the area looks awful.

12. Correspondence- Robert Winfield said that he had received copies of an exchange of e mails between John Peckham and Adam Ogilvie. John Peckham, in presenting his apologies from the Forum meeting noted that he and Greg Turton had contacted Leeds City Council about a persistent barricade of wheeliebins and rubbish sacks at the bottom of Cross Flatts Grove. John Peckham explained that these emanate from properties which have rear entrances on Back Mafeking Mount and front entrances comprising 348-372 Dewsbury Road. Over the weekend prior to writing the e mail, John Peckham counted 7-8 wheeliebins some of which are obstructing the footpath on Cross Flatts Grove. This is an absolute eyesore, and worse when sacks and several overloaded bins appear a few days before collection. Not all the bins get emptied, and John Peckham said that this is not what residents of Cross Flatts Grove pay band C council tax for and wish to see every day. John Peckham added that the Council Environmental Health Department had promised to send enforcement notices but his own impression is that the Council are frightened of a long overdue confrontation and are ducking their responsibilities. John Peckham added that he had copied the e mail to Adam Ogilvie. Adam Ogilvie, in his reply stated that both he and Angela Gabriel had been pursuing the matter, and reproduced the latest reply from the environmental health manager:-

“An officer visited on 21st April. It appears that there had been no refuse collection for 4 weeks causing the build up of bins and bags. The matter, including photos of the problem was referred to Rob Tindall, Streetscene manager for action. At the time of the visit it was noted that there was excessive amounts of waste in the yards of 358, 360, 364 366 Dewsbury Road. Enforcement action has been instigated against the owners/occupiers to have the yards cleared. To date no. 364 has complied. Further formal action against the remaining 3 properties will be taken if the waste is not removed within the next 7 days.”

Adam Ogilvie added that the Councillors will be keeping a close eye on the matter. John Hodgson said that if the bins had not been collected for four weeks, the Council should be coming down on the refuse service, not local residents. Greg Turton said he was sceptical of this explanation. There had been non collection of the bins during the strike but this had happened since the strike. He said that there had been an improvement.

Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Miss Elisha Gardner of Horsforth, who is putting together a team challenge to help a community group or project in the area. She explained that previous projects have included repainting a reading corner in a local church, taking sheltered housing residents to the races and organising a tea dance. They have planned to organise an event for Thursday 1st July and have a team of more than 20 people able to help. She wondered whether we have any projects with which we need help, or know of anyone in this position.

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 1st April 2010

Attendance- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr R. Almond, Mr. R. Bell, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Sgt. D. Chapman, PCSO Cockayne, Councillor A. Gabriel, A. Hepworth, R. Kitson, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs M.E. Mason, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mrs E. Newton, Mr. F. Swift and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton thanked those present for their attendance at the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from John Cunningham, John Fenton, Kathleen Fenton and Greg Turton

3. Guest Speaker- Christine Thornton welcomed Insp. Damien Miller of West Yorkshire Police. Insp Miller made a number of introductory remarks , before taking a number of questions from the floor. Amongst the issues raised were:-

- the activities of the Neighbourhood Policing Team
- burglaries and other theft
- Anti Social Behaviour
- The Policing Pledge
- Surveys of customer confidence and satisfaction
- locks on UPVC doors
- Proceeds of Crime Act
- traffic offences
- parking on match days

4. Sunnyview House- Christine Thornton noted that no representatives of Hadrian Healthcare, the operators of Sunnyview House, who had been invited as guest speakers, were present at the meeting. Christine Thornton, however said that she had been impressed with the building, and noted that the rent is £525 per week. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that she was disappointed that the local councillors had not been invited to the official opening of Sunnyview House, which had recently taken place. Robert Winfield noted that he had been asked by Hadrian Healthcare to pass on an invitation to the event to any representatives of the local community whom he felt should be invited, but pressure of work on his part had prevented him inviting anyone. He felt that Hadrian Healthcare should have invited the Councillors directly. Angela Gabriel said that the building makes Beeston Road look better , whilst John Peckham said that the building had enhanced Beeston Road. Richard Bell wondered who can afford £525 per week, and whether this is the actual cost of looking after someone. Angela Gabriel said that this is in fact one of the cheapest establishment of this type, the issue was currently being debated in Parliament . She added that it is impossible to employ staff for less than £250 per week, and there are other costs, such as electricity.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 4th March 2010. Robert Winfield apologised for not having stapled some of the agenda papers (on which the minutes were printed). He pointed out that he had produced the photocopies of the agendas immediately before the meeting. Difficulties in operating the lock on the building meant that there was insufficient time to staple the copies. Christine Thornton noted that the contact telephone number for the fire service had not been included in the minutes. The minutes were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters arising:-

6.1 Christine Thornton wondered whether Robert Winfield had written to Mr Roberts (paragraph 7.1 of the minutes). Robert Winfield explained that he had not yet done so.

6.2 Christine Thornton reminded members about the volunteering session (paragraph 7.4 of the minutes). Angela Gabriel pointed out that free tea and cakes would be served.

7. Correspondence-

7.1 Robert Winfield had received a copy of a letter sent by John Lawlor, the Chief Executive of NHS Leeds, to Hilary Benn, MP, regarding the provision of NHS Dentistry in Holbeck, Beeston and Hunslet. He explained that NHS Leeds has no plans to commission additional NHS dental places in these areas. He said that current levels of dental provisions in these areas do not indicated that

they are underprovided for . Beeston and Holbeck has 1249 Units of Dental Activity (UDA) per 1000 population; the figure for City and Hunslet being 3309, compared to an average for the City of 1540. Mr Lawlor added that he recognises that these areas have oral health challenges and that it is part of their strategy to encourage better self care and overall oral health hygiene. He added that Leeds NHS is continually monitoring demand for NHS dental services in all areas of the City through the dental advice line and are pleased to say that they are able to allocate all requests for dental treatment through the advice line to a dentist within a reasonable period of time. Mr Lawlor added that the NHS cannot restrict dentists who wish to go into private practice.

7.2 Christine Thornton had received an e mail forwarded by Councillor Angela Gabriel regarding the proposed road alterations at Tommy Wass junction. The e mail stated that the Chair of Beeston Community Forum had been invited to a meeting about this matter, but had not attended as a result of ill health. Christine Thornton noted that she had never been invited to such a meeting, nor had suffered from any 'ill health'.

8. Report of Committee meeting- 18th March 2010- Christine Thornton noted that the Committee had resolved to ask the Forum to make a £50 donation to SPLASH. It was noted that the Forum has £1125.56 in the bank. The donation was agreed. Councillor Adam Ogilvie pointed out that there is a sponsored swim at South Leeds Sports Centre on 24th April in order to raise funds and raise the profile of the SPLASH campaign. Christine Thornton added that the committee had discussed the affairs of the Beeston Village Community Centre Steering Committee. It was noted that the cupboards had been acquired. Mick Mason has two keys. It was noted that the sound system owned by the Forum which had not been used for some time, is currently at Christine Thornton's home. It was noted that Richard Bell had been thanked for his assistance in acquiring the cupboards. John Hodgson thanked Richard Bell and his employers (who had presented the cupboards to the Forum), John Hodgson also praised Victor Cardiss, who had given us a good deal on transport. Robert Winfield noted that he had, at Richard Bell's request, sent a letter of thanks to the facilities manager of his employers. Christine Thornton also noted that the committee had discussed a possible invitation to Pat McGeever, the Director of Health for All (Leeds) which holds the lease on Beeston Village Community Centre. Christine Thornton noted that the committee had considered the flyer drafted by Greg Turton. Damien Miller suggested that the police could assist with the delivery of such a flyer. Angela Gabriel suggested that this be delayed until after the election because of the volume of leaflets being delivered by the various candidates.

9. Any Other Business-

9.1 Christine Thornton referred to the recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Renewal Residents Forum, at which those attending had received an update on the demolition in the area , and had also dealt with flytipping hotspots and bus routes in the area

9.2 Robert Winfield wondered whether anyone had any issues which could be raised at the next meeting of the Beeston Village Community Centre Steering Committee which would take place on 15th April. No issues were raised

9.3 Richard Bell queried the relocation of the polling station in his area. Angela Gabriel pointed out that the present administration of Leeds City Council had reduced the number of polling stations.

9.4 Robert Winfield explained that he had recently had contact from Councillor Gareth Beevers of Morley Town Council (which is legally a Parish Council) , who had expressed strong support for the efforts to set up a Parish Council in Beeston and had offered to attend a meeting of the Parish Council steering committee.

9.5 Richard Bell noted that the potholes on Old Lane are quite bad, and pointed out that there is a form on the Leeds City Council website to report potholes. He had used the form for reporting a pothole, which was fixed next day. He noted that once the council is aware of a pothole, they are legally responsible for any damage resulting from it.

9.6 John Hodgson suggested that the Forum should consider affiliating to the National Pensioners Convention at a cost of £30. He noted that there is a national body, as well as an area organization covering Yorkshire and Humberside

