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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting 1st. March 2012- Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

2. Apologies for absence

3. Guest Speakers- .Stewart Robinson, International Fun Fairs

Kevin Payne and Stuart Gosney, Leeds City Council , David Gurney and Peter Nuttall, Cockburn School

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 2nd February 2012

5. Correspondence

6. Report of Committee meetings- 19th January 2012 and 16th February 2012

7. Tesco and Asda Planning applications

8. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 2nd February 2012

Attendance:-C. Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Almond, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K.Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Mrs. Y. Crowther, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook. Miss. P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, Mr. G. M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, Miss. E. Newton, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield . **When the minutes were considered by the following meeting, the name of Councillor David Congreve was added to those attending.**

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton thanked those present for their attendance. As Sgt Hinchcliffe of West Yorkshire Police would need to attend another Community meeting, his contribution would be taken before any other business was considered.

2. The Police- Sgt John Hinchcliffe noted that he will be serving as the Acting Sergeant on the Neighbourhood Policing Team for one month. He noted that Insp. Damien Miller had left the Neighbourhood Policing Team last year. Insp. Miller has, indeed received further promotion since leaving the Neighbourhood Policing Team; he has been promoted to Chief Inspector and will be moving to the Bradford South police station. The new Inspector, Paul Akerman, joined on 17th January. Sgt. Hinchcliffe added that Sgt. Darren Chapman had left the force; he would be acting in his position for one month, and there would then be a permanent replacement; Sgt. Arrosuch. Sgt Hinchcliffe added that PCSO Cockayne, who had intended to be present at the meeting, had been involved in an incident and been compelled to go to hospital. He is, however, okay. Sgt. Hinchcliffe stressed that nothing had changed in relation to the Police Service. It is still possible to dial 999 to speak to the police in the event of an emergency; there is, however a new non-emergency number 101. There is no code number. He added that the police are still on top of crime in the area although there are some issues relating to shed burglaries. A criminal had recently been sentenced to twelve months.

3.1 Christine Thornton introduced the first guest speaker; Helen Westerman of the NSPCC. She thanked the Forum for its invitation, and pointed out that she is the NSPCC's campaigns manager, based in Leeds. She noted that there are currently two campaigns; one national, one local. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was formed as the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1884 and later became a national organisation. The organisation campaigns to protect and safeguard children.

The National Campaign, known as 'All Babies Count', seeks to build support for the protection of vulnerable babies, even before their birth. The campaign started in November and will run for six months. The campaign has attracted a considerable amount of national coverage. Helen Westerman noted that babies are nine times more likely to be involved in serious injury or death than other children, and three times more likely to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan. 45% of serious case reviews involve children under the age of 1 year. The NSPCC has put forward innovative ideas to prevent the abuse of babies. It is not possible to keep babies safe of their own and the NSPCC therefore calls on all to support them.

The NSPCC aims to support families who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse, to share stories with the press and media. The NSPCC has asked the government to introduce a budget for babies in 2012. The NSPCC had set up a website dealing with the health of children under the age of 1 year, for both professionals and members of the public. Helen Westerman noted that the period of pregnancy and the first year of a child's life is critical to the development of a child. During that period people are uniquely receptive to how to care for and look after babies. The NSPCC is running a service for families with under ones.

Helen Westerman then spoke about the NSPCC's local campaign. She explained that towards the end of 2010, they were approached by West Yorkshire Police who were concerned about the numbers of deaths and serious injuries of children in West Yorkshire. There was one such incident every ten days, or, roughly, thirty per year. This is significantly higher than in neighbouring areas.

So often, family friends and neighbours know that there is something not quite right, but unaware of who to tell. The NSPCC needs to find innovative ways of reaching people. To this end, the NSPCC helpline has been advertised in shopping centres, football matches, in working men's clubs and on the back of bus tickets. Helen Westerman noted that in the 'Baby P' case, the neighbours had suspected that not all was right. If the authorities had acted sooner, the life of the child involved might have been saved. The NSPCC helpline had been set up 20 years ago; it is free, confidential and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is staffed by social workers, teachers and counsellors. 40% of calls to the helpline are referred to the police or social services. One third of calls relate to families who are not previously known to the police. Calls are often made to the line because it is not operated by the police or social services and is therefore perceived as impartial. However, Helen Westerman added that many people are reluctant to call the helpline because they perceive that potential problems are 'none of my business', or they are worried about the implications for themselves and members of their family, or about not being taken seriously. 34% of calls to the NSPCC helpline relate to neglect, such as children dressed inappropriately, children rummaging in bins or being left alone. 32% of calls relate to physical abuse (such as children being hit) and 32% of calls relate to sexual abuse. The NSPCC can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 or at nspcc.org.uk. There is a live chat or text phone available.

Helen Westerman concluded her remarks with a case study, which is typical of calls to the NSPCC helpline. A family consists of a mother, Marie, aged 27, a father Kevin, aged 29 and children, Becky aged 7 and Reuben, aged 11 months. The parents are both heavy drinkers and Kevin is prone to hit people when drunk, whilst Marie drinks when it is late in order to cope. Becky is unable to wake her mother in a morning whilst Kevin is either out or asleep on the sofa. Meanwhile, the baby, Reuben, wakes at night, but Kevin and Marie are both too drunk. On one occasion Kevin gave Reuben some beer. Reuben was found limp, and floppy in his cot by his cousin, Marcia. He went to hospital. There were two calls and two referrals to social services, and a referral to the police following a call from a neighbour who was concerned about crying and had been worried about Becky wailing to school looking grubby. The second call had been made by Becky's cousin, Marcia. Marie had been too frightened to raise the matter as Kevin is violent. Social Services investigated the matter and the children were made the subject of a child protection plan, under which they stayed at their property, which Kevin was forced to leave.

3.2 The meeting then opened to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst issues raised were the reporting of problems involving children, whether alcohol or drug abuse is a factor, the NSPCC's position in relation to the physical punishment of children and whether the NSPCC organises parent classes

4.1 Christine Thornton then introduced the second guest speaker, St. Clair Brown. He explained that he works for the Leeds City Council Youth Service as a Youth Work Manager responsible for the Beeston and Holbeck and City and Hunslet wards. He noted that he started work in the 1980s at a venture playground in Chapeltown. He then worked for the City of Leeds YMCA, and then Beeston YMCA before it closed. He was then employed by Positive Action, and Leeds City Council in various venues before moving to South Leeds. He noted that his present role is to co-ordinate youth provision. In this connection a club takes place at Beeston Village Community Centre on Thursday evenings; similar clubs take place at Holbeck Youth Centre and Cottingley. His role is in trying to ensure that the young have something to do. Activities include the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Orienteering, which are carried out on Otley Chevin, and football. He works in partnership with voluntary organisations in order to ensure that there is no duplication and that young people have somewhere to go. He works as part of a multi agency team, which includes agencies such as the police, Anti Social behaviour, as well as ward Councillors. This enables the multi agency group to have a look at hot spots such as young people hanging around causing problems. He noted that his department has a mobile bus and a white van. If people are gathering in a particular area, the bus can be taken to the area, and the youths can get on the bus, which has facilities including DVDs, a music centre, games, quizzes and hot drinks. The aim is to work with younger age groups and get them into clubs and activities and get them used to these. It is also intended to get young people into education and qualifications. St. Clair Brown said that healthy eating is quite popular. Classes include how to make healthy pizzas and learning how to cook. St. Clair Brown said that he hoped that those involved in the classes will get home and make tea for their parents! There is also a transitional project at Cross Flatts School for people who are young, and uncertain about their future in High School. This took place over summer and worked quite well.

St. Clair Brown said that one important issue is that of sexual health. England has the highest level of sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancies. Youths also engage in discussion based work, including the discussion of political issues, and what is happening in soap operas. There is also careers advice, including in relation to part time jobs. The advice includes how to compile a CV and promoting an awareness of employment rights. If there are any issues at the school of someone attending a youth course, the youth service would link in with the school. St. Clair Brown noted that the classes aim to make children aware that any bad behaviour might land them in trouble with the authorities. The aim is to be clear about the boundaries of behaviour. St. Clair Brown said that if the young do not know about this, they can be wild at youth clubs. If no one says that a particular form of behaviour is wrong, a person is liable to continue it, and this can have an impact on his life.

St. Clair Brown illustrated his remarks with a slide show; amongst the photographs is a photograph of a group from France with girls from Cottingley. He also sent a group from Beeston to visit Lille, France, which is a footballing city. The children involved played at France's national football academy. The facilities were opened up just for the children involved with the group. The people in the group did not improve their French much but enjoyed the experience. The visit to France took place on the same weekend when Manchester United played Barcelona in the Champions League Final. Amongst the activities of the Youth Service are an Asian Football Group, work with Leeds United FC, a presence at the Beeston Festival, an Asian Girls Group, Holbeck Youth Club and a carnival project. There is also an annual charity football match between the staff and the youths. The aim is to ensure that what youths do is fun and has meaning. Last Year, there was a presence at all local galas including Cottingley, Beeston and Holbeck. The aim is to get young people involved in their local community.

4.2 The meeting then opened up to questions from the floor. Issues raised include the way of life of children and young adults, the difficulties

in securing volunteers and the mixing of older and younger people

5. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 5th January 2012 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

6. South Leeds Life Live Blog of Beeston Forum meetings. John Hodgson raised a number of concerns about the South Leeds Life Live blog, notably the fact that comments from people who were not present at the meeting were included, his belief that the blg did not actually reflect what was said at the meeting and the formal minutes and the surveys which were included as part of the blog. Christine Thornton observed that if everyone took notes of the meeting, the notes were likely to be different. John Baron responded to John Hodgson's points; in particular explaining how a live blog works. John Hodgson made a number of heated points as he was unhappy with the situation regarding the blog. John Baron was invited to the next committee meeting to show Committee members the blog and how it works. Robert Winfield expressed regret that a lengthy discussion had taken place at the expense of other issues such as the planning application and the Elland Road Park and Ride. John Hodgson took exception to these remarks.

David Congreve said that as he would need to leave the meeting; he would like to comment briefly about other matters on the agenda. He noted that as he is the Chair of the Plans Panel which will consider the Asda and Tesco planning applications, he cannot comment on the applications as any comments would result in him being disqualified from voting on the applications. With regard to the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme, David Congreve noted that his own views have not changed, since the issue has been raised many times. As far as he is aware, there have been no developments since the last meeting of the Forum. Bill Birch asked whether the Councillors are still opposed to the Park and Ride Scheme. David Congreve said that the Councillors had said that they are opposed to the scheme unless there is something positive for residents of Beeston. He noted that the Council is looking at Park and Ride Schemes all over the city, and the land happens to be there. He noted that three weeks ago, the Councillors had been involved in a meeting and had expressed the view that they are opposed to the scheme and wanted something for the people affected in Beeston. John Hodgson wondered whether the car parking space would be substantially reduced. David Congreve said that he had been pushing for a multi storey car park, but this would not happen because there is no money. He added, however, that the Council now owns the land from the Castle Trust and there is space for car parking there. He stressed that the park and ride scheme would not affect match day parking, and that there would be no parking resulting from the Park and Ride Scheme in the streets of Beeston. John Hodgson noted that the total amount of car parking space would reduce. David Congreve said that this had been known for several years. He stressed that in this context, we were discussing parking on Elland Road match days, not the park and ride scheme.

7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 19th January 2012. This item was deferred.

8. Guest Speakers for the remainder of 2012. Christine Thornton noted that we have invited guest speakers as follows:-

March- This meeting would be devoted to education with speakers including Kevin Payne (Secondary School Improvement Advisor, Leeds City Council), Stuart Gosney (Capacity Planning Sufficiency Lead, Leeds City Council), David Gurney (Headteacher, Cockburn School) and Peter Nuttall (Director of Community Relations, Cockburn School). We would also be hosting Stewart Robinson of International Fun Fairs.

April- We will be hosting Councillor Richard Lewis and Martin Farrington who will be speaking about the development of land in the Elland Road area with special emphasis on the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme. We will also be hosting Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive, Leeds United FC.

May- We will be hosting Russell Martin of the Leeds City Council Highways Department

June- We will be hosting Graham Riley of First Leeds, and Dave Pearson of Metro.

July- We will be hosting Councillor Keith Wakefield, Leader, Leeds City Council.

Robert Winfield noted that following the discussion which had taken place at the last meeting of the Forum, Hilary Benn had confirmed that in the circumstances, he would prefer to attend the September meeting.

9. Correspondence-

9.1 Robert Winfield had received a letter from Brian Pine, Facilities Manager of Health for All (Leeds), to various users of Beeston Village Community Centre drawing attention to the failure of certain users of the centre to clean up after themselves when using the kitchen. Brian Pine raised the possibility of users' rental being increased if he needs to employ someone to keep cleaning the kitchen. Robert Winfield noted that not only is the Beeston Forum not responsible for the situation which Brian Pine describes in his letter, but Beeston Forum members had drawn the attention of Brian Pine to the situation. Against this background, Robert Winfield said that it would be manifestly unfair for the Beeston Forum's rental to be increased. The meeting agreed to a suggestion that we write to Brian Pine explaining our views.

9.2 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Stewart Robinson of International Fun Fairs, explaining that on Thursday 9th February at 1p.m, they would be launching the Leeds Valentines Fun Fair on the car parks adjoining Elland Road Stadium. IFF would like to invite a couple of members of the Forum to the opening.

9.3 Robert Winfield had received a letter from Ruth Rutter of Leeds City Council's Asset Management division concerning Park Lees and Stank Hall Barn. With regard to Park Lees, Mrs Rutter explained that the site is being considered for some form of residential development, and the development site excludes the footpaths in this area. However, improvements to the footpaths can be considered as part of the development proposals. Any planning application should be advertised on site by means of a site notice, but Mrs Rutter would endeavour to keep us advised about this.

In connection with the Stank Hall complex, the Council has been seeking to find a permanent long term solution to bring Stank Hall Barn, New Hall and Stank Hall back into economic use. In order to achieve this, it has been necessary to consider an enabling development within the complex that would assist in offsetting the costs of repair, refurbishment and conversion of these historic buildings. Outline development

proposals have been drawn up to create a critical mass of residential development to include a small amount of new housing that could secure the future of these buildings. However, even with this proposed additional new development, the overall project still has a negative value and is therefore not economically viable. Council Officers are therefore exploring options that could offset the project's negative value. An option being considered is to determine the amount of new development that would be required on potential sites in the vicinity to bring to the Council a capital sum that could offset the deficit and hence could be used to fund the Stank Hall Barn restoration project.

10. Asda and Tesco Planning Applications- It was noted that following the decision of the last meeting of the Forum, Robert Winfield had written a letter to the Leeds City Council Planning Department. Robert Winfield, however, pointed out that copies of the letter had been placed on the seats. Robert Winfield had also received a letter from Philip Bartram of Asda Stores Limited, who responded to the points made in the letter from the Forum to the planning department (using the same designatory letters) as follows:-

i) The anticipated level of traffic from the proposed ASDA store is similar to that of the proposed Tesco development. Subject to some relatively minor further information being provided, this has been agreed with Leeds City Council. The ASDA development would add approximately 90 vehicles at the 'Tommy Wass junction (at peak times only) which is not predicted to materially affect the junction's operation. At the Town Street / Beeston Road roundabout, approximately 130 vehicles would be added (again, this is a peak time figure) and a proposed slightly wider carriageway on the junction's approach would address this. Overall, the development would not result in any material impact along Old Lane or at the Old Lane / Beeston Road junction.

ii) Regarding the maintenance of landscaped areas on the site, ASDA will always take great care to ensure that our sites are safe, practical and attractive. To not place this ongoing focus on the appearance of our stores would potentially reflect adversely on ASDA and that is clearly not in our interest.

iii) ASDA entering into a specific routing agreement for delivery vehicles is not a request that has been made by Leeds City Council, but is certainly something that ASDA is happy to consider and subsequently adopt, if deemed acceptable.

iv) ASDA would be happy to resurface the Moorhouse Avenue footpath, should this be requested by the Council.

v) ASDA providing funds for traffic calming measures has already been discussed with Leeds City Council and is currently being considered by ASDA.

vi) Regarding store opening hours and delivery hours, Leeds City Council Officers will be reviewing any potential anticipated impact on local residential amenity. The specifics and appropriateness of such restrictions will need to be agreed with LCC Officers should the ASDA application be recommended for approval.

vii) Regarding noise levels, the above answer (vi) also applies.

viii) The Forum's own comment on discrimination legislation notwithstanding, ASDA is happy to publicise any employment opportunities within the immediate community. We consider every one of our stores to be an integral part of the community, and the very high level of colleagues living close to the stores in which they work directly contributes to this.

ix) The possibility of ASDA financing any future noise mitigation measures is clearly a speculative issue, but quite clearly it is not in our interest to operate a store that is in any way disruptive to the community within which it sits. This is an issue that we would take very seriously should it arise, but an issue that forward planning and careful design should render moot.

11. Proposed Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme. Robert Winfield noted that the Committee had a further discussion of the matter following an article in the Yorkshire Evening Post which seemed to be a copy of a Leeds City Council press release which, in particular, made no reference to the reservations of the Leeds City Councillors for Beeston and Holbeck (as expressed by David Congreve earlier in the meeting), or the Forum. It seemed to be an attempt to soften up public opinion about the scheme. Bill Birch felt that the real reason for the Council wanting a Park and Ride Scheme at this location is that they own the land there. He felt that a better location for such a scheme would be the former Wallace Arnold site at Gelderd Road. He felt that the Elland Road scheme would be tantamount to a 'Park and Walk' scheme. He noted the contrast with York, where park and ride schemes are located a long distance from the City Centre, and the buses travelling into the City Centre have very few stops. He noted that the Ingram Rode distributor is choc a bloc with traffic and that this area has a high incidence of asthma. A park and ride scheme would be likely to make both these aspects worse. Greg Turton suggested that a park and ride scheme would be better located at Tingley, where congestion would be far less. It was agreed that the Forum would write to the Yorkshire Evening Post about these issues. Robert Winfield noted that at a Forum meeting in November 2009, Neil Holt of Metro (who, for the record, had since left the organisation) had stated that Metro were opposed to a Park and Ride Scheme at Elland Road as the location is too close to Leeds City Centre and that bus companies would be unlikely to earn sufficient revenue from the operation. However, the YEP article stated that Metro are in favour of such a scheme. It was agreed that Robert Winfield write to Metro to seek an explanation for this apparent change of opinion.

12. Co-option of Arthur Kirby to the Committee. It was agreed that the Forum ratify this appointment.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 John Hodgson noted that Leeds United FC had given £7500 to the area committee for additional cleansing services. He regretted that no councillors were present at the meeting (David Congreve having left the meeting), and urged the various service providers to co-ordinate their efforts. He noted that there are only four litter bins along Wesley Street, one of which had been provided jointly by the Beeston Forum and Leeds United FC. He noted that if a neighbour put a bag containing litter outside his door, the council would argue that he is littering. What is the point in the Council saying that they want street champions whilst there is a situation in which local residents are not listened to when they say they are not getting a service?

13.2 Mick Mason noted that the fire service in Leeds is offering a free fire alarm check. The alarms carry a ten year guarantee. Mick Mason placed a number of leaflets describing the scheme on the top table.

