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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- 12th May, 2011

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers – Mr Simon Flowers- Strategic Leader for Education Integration, Leeds City Council
John Quinton- Barber – IPB Communications Limited
Deborah Hayeems – Tesco Stores Limited
Don Bennett- Mouchel
4. The Forum to decide whether our objection to the planning application by Tesco Stores Limited for a store on Old Lane should be withdrawn.
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 7th April 2011
6. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 14th April 2011
7. Correspondence
8. Report of Committee meeting on 28th April 2011
9. Rod Stewart pop concert, Elland Road Football Ground- 3rd June 2011
10. Possible stall at Beeston Festival
- 11 Possible elections to the committee
12. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7th April 2011

Attendance:- Mr R. Bell (in the chair in the absence of Christine Thornton), Mr. R. Almond, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mr. J. Booker, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, P. Eales, M. Fawcett, Mrs. S. Gabbott, Councillor A. Gabriel, Mrs. S. Gawthorpe, Mr. A. Grimwood, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mrs. J. Hodgson, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. D. Kenny, C. Kirk, Mr. R. Kitson, J. Leithead, J. Lowe., Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, Mrs. E. Newton, M. Prentice, Mr. A Sawyer, P.J. Sawyer, D. Swift, Mr. F. Swift, M. Tindall, Mrs. B. Walton, Mrs. N. Watkis, Mrs. T. Wild, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Richard Bell welcomed those present to the meeting and pointed out that he would chair the meeting as Christine Thornton is on holiday.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adam Ogilvie and John Peckham.

3. Guest Speaker- Richard Bell introduced the guest speaker; Insp Damien Miller of West Yorkshire Police.

Insp. Miller thanked the Forum for its invitation and noted that it is his third appearance as a guest speaker at the Forum. He explained that he would present a number of facts and figures so he decided to do this in the form of a presentation. This would look at what is happening to the division, and the effect of the budget cuts

over the next four years. Amongst issues raised in the presentation and subsequent question and answer session are:-

- the impact of budget reductions
- the fall in crime statistics
- confidence and satisfaction with the police
- plans for the new police station

4. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 3rd March 2011 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matter arising. It was noted that Cockburn had come second in a competition in Yorkshire for Performing Arts and that those involved would be making a trip to the National Finals. Richard Bell noted that children at Cockburn cannot take Physics or Chemistry.

6. Tesco planning application- Robert Winfield noted that following the Special Meeting on 24th February, there had been an exchange of correspondence with Tesco Stores Limited. Matt Magee, the Corporate Affairs Manager of Tesco Stores Limited thanked the Forum for its invitation to the meeting. Matt Magee explained that as detailed by their traffic consultant Don Bennett, they have completed a comprehensive study of local traffic flows and the potential impact of the new store, as well as exploring all options for how to improve the local road network. Matt Magee hoped that the event reassured us that Tesco would be able to mitigate all but the smallest impact on the local road network. Robert Winfield pointed out that Tesco had also given the Forum a number of assurances as follows:-

- Tesco will ensure that all landscaped areas are properly maintained.
- Tesco will enter into a routeing agreement with the council restricting delivery vehicles to use the Tommy Wass junction.
- Tesco is happy to resurface the footpath along Moorhouse Avenue, subject to any issues relating to land ownership.
- Tesco will provide a number of benches along Old Lane for residents to use.
- Tesco will make money available to be used for traffic calming measures if the new store causes a significant increase in rat-running through the residential area east of Old Lane.
- The opening hours are yet to be finalised but we can confirm that the store will not open 24 hours a day and there will be restrictions on delivery times.

The entrance to Moorhouse Avenue would not be wide enough to accommodate a central refuge. However, Tesco will enter into discussion with the council about how else we can improve the crossing for pedestrians.

Matt Magee pointed out that Tesco feels that they have been able to improve their plans as a result of the Beeston Forum meeting. He wondered whether, in view of these assurances, the Forum could reconsider its objection to Tesco's plans.

Robert Winfield explained that the Committee discussed the matter at its meeting on 17th March. As a result of the decision of the Committee meeting, Robert Winfield reminded Matt Magee that the Forum's objection was sent as a result of a unanimous resolution of a Forum meeting. As such the committee felt that the question of whether the objection should be withdrawn should be decided by the Forum rather than the Committee. However, Robert Winfield stressed that the Forum is not, nor ever has been opposed in principle to the building of the store. Robert Winfield's letter expressed the committee's concerns that there has been little discussion of the issue of noise. He explained that the committee feels that there should be a noise survey including:-

- i) details of the measurement of noise in the vicinity of the proposed store at various times of the day
- ii) details of any prediction of the impact of the store on noise levels and

- iii) details of any mitigation measures if it is anticipated that the building of the store will cause noise levels to rise to unacceptable levels at any time of the day.

We also enquired as to whether any money set aside for traffic calming can be used for the general benefit of the community if this is not required or traffic calming. We also asked what discussions have taken place about section 106 notices and with whom. We were grateful for Tesco's recognition that traffic is an important issue which would need to be addressed satisfactorily if the planning application is to command the support of local residents. We asked for details of any traffic surveys taken including where any traffic count was taken, exactly what traffic was counted and the time of the day at which each traffic count was taken.

Tesco had replied to this letter the day before the present meeting, sending details of the traffic survey and also pointing out that the noise survey had been published on the Public Access website with the details of Tesco's planning application. However, Robert Winfield pointed out that the documents are of such length and complexity that it would have been unrealistic for Committee members to study them in sufficient detail in the short amount of time available. Tesco added that the money set aside for traffic calming would not be available for use for other purposes if it is not required for traffic calming. With regard to section 106 agreements, Tesco explained that they are committed to investing £300000 in public transport improvements, £50000 for traffic calming measures (if required) and a further sum to maintain landscaping. They would be pleased to have suggestions for further section 106 agreements but pointed out that under planning law they have to be directly related to the scheme.

John Hodgson said that the exchange of correspondence between ourselves and Tesco should be published on the Forum website. Robert Winfield pointed out that he understood that it is a condition of use of the software used for the website that copyright material should not be published without appropriate consent. He was currently seeking the consent to publish Tesco's letters as well as the traffic and noise surveys. Richard Bell had looked at the noise survey and noted that the survey had been taken over a 24 hour period on a Saturday. He wondered whether this is representative. A member of the audience asked whether this is a match day at Elland Road. Richard Bell noted that it is possible to see the relevant documents on the Leeds City Council website.

Bill Birch suggested that the committee should study the documents with a view to forming a judgement about them and advising the Forum as to whether it would be appropriate to withdraw our objection. A discussion ensued as to how long this process should take. Bill Birch said that four weeks is a little quick, noting that most planning applications take around 16 weeks to consider. He felt that it would be more reasonable to bring a recommendation back to the June meeting of the Forum. Richard Bell pointed out that the original objection was submitted to give us leverage and to ensure that we consider the plans properly. However, a member of the audience felt that the eight week timeframe is too long. This view was supported by Councillor David Congreve who said that it is in the Forum's best interests to study the documents as quickly as possible. John Hodgson suggested that we take a decision at the next Forum meeting after committee members and any other individuals who wish to do so have studied the documents. This was agreed.

It was agreed that we inform Tesco of this. John Hodgson also suggested that representatives of Tesco be invited to the meeting, noting that we would, of course, be discussing the planning application. This was agreed.

7. Correspondence-

7.1 Hunslet Hawks RLFC- Councillor Adam Ogilvie had sent an e mail updating the Forum in connection with the current position regarding Hunslet Hawks RLFC, noting that the matter had been raised at the last Forum meeting. He confirmed that the Council is charging the club £5000 to stage the game, but this had been done with the agreement of the club and is in no way punitive action. Adam Ogilvie added that the charge equates to the loss of earnings that will be incurred on the day as there will be a great deal of disruption to the centre, which will have to be closed to regular users from 6p.m . This means that the usual income the council earns from swimming (£2309), the gym and five a side football (£2172) tennis (£196) and bowls and athletics (£279) will be lost and those individuals and groups who have regular bookings will have to be compensated for the inconvenience. This figure does not include more than 1400 customers who will be unable to access their normal activity as a result of the need to close down from 6p.m Adam Ogilvie repeated that Council officers had the support of the club for this but he is aware that some supporters are not happy. He added that

Officers will continue to work constructively with the club as we recognise the importance for the area and the city . This includes working on agreeing a way forward in relation to outstanding moneys owed to the council by the club. Adam Ogilvie added that he hopes this explains the council's position and why the charge had been imposed. Bill Birch pointed out that he was at the match and the lights went off during the match. He could not see why all the facilities at the centre had to be closed in order to stage the match. Councillor Angela Gabriel said that this was related to Hunslet Hawks' expectation of the crowd , and the decision had been taken after consultation. She added that the Council is not pursuing money owed to it by Hunslet Hawks. Councillor David Congreve stressed that this is our money and that council tax payers are supporting the club.

7.2 Parklees – Christine Thornton had received an e mail which had been forwarded to her by the Councillors confirming that if Leeds City Council were to dispose of the Parklees building , they would not seek to add the land occupied by Beeston Village Community Centre to the development site. Angela Gabriel added that the Council had written to the councillors informing them that Parklees would be demolished with the land sold off, possibly for housing development..

7.3 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Helen Westerman ; the NSPCC's campaign co-ordinator for the region, expressing an interest in speaking at the Forum. Richard Bell wondered what the NSPCC would speak about. Robert Winfield said that we could ask that.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 A member of the audience referred to a scam involving people knocking on doors, saying that householders are entitled to a council tax rebate , and asking for personal details. Angela Gabriel said that Leeds City Council does not offer council tax rebates, let alone knock on peoples' doors to inform them of rebates.

8.2 Richard Bell asked forum members to consider serving on the Committee. He pointed out that this is not an onerous commitment and that the committee generally meets monthly, normally two weeks after the main Forum meeting.

8.3 Councillor Angela Gabriel pointed out that she is collecting plastic bottles in order to build a greenhouse at the Beeston Festival. She said that 1500 such bottles are required. The bottles, which would need to be clear and of standard size, could be brought to the next Forum meeting. The greenhouse would then be donated to schools. She added that the Beeston Festival is going green, and there would also be solar heating. Schools would be involved in projects. There would also be a phone recharger run by a generator powered by people cycling. There would also be a food stall which would need recyclable cutlery and crockery. The aim would be to educate people out of dropping litter.

8.4 John Hodgson noted that South Leeds Sports Centre had closed and that Leeds City Council is examining a bid by Garforth Academy (which also runs a consultancy business involved with South Leeds Academy) for the sports Centre in Garforth which would be kept for the community.