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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum Meeting- Thursday 1st April 2010

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers-
 - i) Insp. Damien Miller, West Yorkshire Police
 - ii) Representatives of Hadrian Healthcare
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 4th March 2010
5. Correspondence
6. Report of Committee meeting - 18th March 2010
7. Beeston Village Community Centre
8. Possible community leaflet
9. Any Other Business

Please note that the next meeting of the Forum will take place on Thursday 13th May

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 4th March 2010

Attendance:- C. Thornton (in the chair), Mr R. Almond, Mr R. Bell, Mr. D.C. Bottomley, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. H. Gregory, Mr. J. Hodgson, PCSO K. Johnson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. G. Leathley, Mrs. J. Leathley, Mr. R. Nevin, Mrs. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Sgt. C. Symon, Mr. G. Turton, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. R. Wood

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and noted that Spring is beginning to spring.
2. Apologies for absence were received from John Fenton, Kathleen Fenton and Councillor Angela Gabriel
3. It was noted that one of our intended guest speakers, Mick Wood, of Hunslet Fire Station had arrived at the meeting, and was then promptly called out to attend to an incident. Additionally, no representatives of Hadrian Healthcare, the company which had built Sunnyview House, the new residential care home on the site of Beeston Manor, were present.
4. Guest Speakers- In view of the absence of the guest speakers, Christine Thornton

asked Sgt Carol Symon, of Holbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team , to address the meeting. Sgt. Symon wondered whether the priorities set up under the policing pledge are up to date, and noted that the Anti Social Behaviour on Beggars Hill, currently listed as a priority, no longer seems to be a problem. There was also a discussion of dog fouling, fly tipping and youths kicking footballs.

5. Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 4th February 2010

5.1 John Peckham noted that he had been quoted in the minutes as saying that the meeting is 'dominated' by older people. He felt that that word is a bit strong.

5.2 Bob Wood recalled that it had been agreed by the meeting that the Committee would produce a draft of the leaflet which was envisaged to be distributed to residents of Beeston, but noted that this had not been recorded in the minutes.

5.3 Greg Turton said that he did not consider that the local councillors had the same priorities as himself. Councillor David Congreve said that this is not true, and insisted that the Councillors are well known for their concern about the area. He added that the concerns of the Councillors are those of all residents of Beeston and that they work hard to address these. He noted that the Councillors hold surgeries and that Greg Turton is a next door neighbour of Councillor Adam Ogilvie.

6. Mick Wood returned to the meeting. Amongst the topics dealt with are the decline in the number of deaths due to fire, fire safety, smoke detectors, school visits and the impact of vandalism.

7. Correspondence-

7.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Nigel Roberts, a resident of Cross Heath Grove. It was noted that Mr Roberts was not present at the meeting. Mr Roberts explained that he regarded himself as living in Holbeck, rather than Beeston , and asked why the Beeston Community Forum spends so much time challenging development in his area. He said that he was unable to find any reference to a debate in which Beeston Forum had sought to ensure that the car parks owned by Leeds City Council are maintained and made attractive to residents. He referred to 25 years of neglect, crash barriers, rubbish and rusty barbed wire. He said that this is what residents look out at every day whilst the Beeston Forum is just worried about losing car parking spaces for forty days of events per year. He urged the Beeston Forum to look at issues more favourably in Holbeck or allow us to look after our own issues.

7.2 Richard Bell felt that there was a need to respond to this message but not in a confrontational way. Robert Winfield said that it is Mr Roberts' privilege to regard the area where he lives as being part of Holbeck, not Beeston, but he believes that this is not a view which would be shared by residents of the area. In any event, the area is a part of the area served by the Beeston Forum, which is defined by the Forum constitution. Robert Winfield rejected Mr Roberts' claim that the Forum opposed development in the area; on the contrary Forum members had acknowledged that some development is necessary in order to address the issues of eyesores to which Mr Roberts had referred. All the Forum had stated is that any development must have the support of local residents.

7.3 John Peckham said that we have a vested interest in developments around Elland Road as there is an impact on other parts of Beeston. He referred to traffic during the 1996 European Football Championships. A lot of work had been done on the car parks, to make them attractive , using trees and plants. John Hodgson noted that the Forum had looked after the Heath Estate, and had sought to make it a better place. He accepted that the area is an eyesore. He noted that the main problem of the area is traffic and said that the best thing that has happened is that the Arena is not on the area. He noted that traffic

using the Sheffield and Manchester arenas goes straight on the motorway. The Leeds Arena would bring money to the City Centre. He added that whereas residents of the Heath Estate are issued with residents' parking permits, there is fly parking in the Cross Flatts Area. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum is a democratic body and anyone who, for whatever reason, dislikes the actions of the Forum is welcome to attend meetings and make those views known.

7.4 Christine Thornton had received the details of an Inner South Leeds Volunteer thank you event taking place at Leeds Civic Hall on Tuesday 20th April at 6 p.m. All representatives of voluntary groups are invited and each group is entitled to be represented by up to five people. Transport is available from the Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre

8. Beeston Village Community Centre- Robert Winfield noted that the last Committee meeting , on 11th February , had been dominated by a discussion regarding the governing document for the Community Centre. A lengthy discussion had taken place as to whether it would be appropriate to proceed with a formal constitution , or whether it would be more appropriate to have a less formal 'terms of reference' document. Robert Winfield explained that he was not opposed in principle to a terms of reference document but felt that the draft with which steering committee members were presented with at the meeting was inadequate. The document specified, for example, that two local residents would serve on the steering committee, but there was no indication as to how these would be chosen. There was also provision for additional meetings of the steering committee to be held, as and when these are considered appropriate, but no indication as to who decides whether these are appropriate. John Hodgson felt that the matter should be discussed when formal proposals are brought forward. Robert Winfield felt that the Community Centre should have an AGM, which would provide a transparent process by which the local residents serving on the steering committee would be chosen. Robert Winfield noted that Pat McGeever had expressed concerns that by holding an AGM, the community centre would be replicating the work of the Beeston Forum, but Robert Winfield said that it would not. There would be just one meeting per year. He added that although his draft of the constitution provides for Special General meetings, he expected that these would rarely, if ever be held. Christine Thornton noted that the Beeston Forum and Health for All (Leeds) hold AGMs. Richard Bell felt that we need to address issues such as what our involvement with the steering committee is and what we are seeking to achieve. Christine Thornton noted that we had been invited to join the steering group. Robert Winfield noted that David Berryman had pointed out that he had been aware of a number of serious disputes involving voluntary organisations, and most of these had involved organisations with either a badly drafted constitution, or no constitution at all. Robert Winfield had supported David Berryman's remarks , stressing the importance of drafting the governing document so that it is clear what should happen. Bob Wood expressed support for Robert Winfield's points, and stressed the need for transparency and democracy. Greg Turton said that we need a robust document which addresses all expected eventualities. John Hodgson noted that we are talking about public money and felt that all Councillors should ensure that we get value for money.

9. Proposal to elect Greg Turton to the Committee- Christine Thornton wondered whether such a resolution was necessary. Robert Winfield pointed out that Greg Turton is well known to the Committee and to other members of the Forum, and he looked forward to welcoming Greg Turton as a committee colleague. However, we need to have mechanisms in place under which individuals whose opinions or conduct might embarrass the Forum being elected to the Committee. In addition the Constitution clearly states that co-options to the committee need to have the consent of the Forum. The co-option of Greg Turton to the Committee was agreed; it was also agreed to replace Bill Birch, who had

agreed to stand down as Vice Chair, with Richard Bell.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Dennis Bottomley said that when bands were playing in Cross Flatts Park , banners advertising the events had been ripped down with a Stanley knife. He wondered whether they can be placed higher up. It was suggested that we raise the matter with Al Garthwaite of Friends of Cross Flatts Park.

10.2 John Hodgson wondered whether there is information about a proposal going before the Leeds City Council Executive Board for a casino, creating 700 jobs at Elland Road. Councillor David Congreve said that he had neither heard of anything going to the Executive Board nor any firm proposal for a casino at Elland Road. He suspected that this may be negotiations and discussions with someone who had expressed an interest. He noted that Leeds had never been in the running for a giant casino. John Hodgson said that the proposal would be one size down from this. David Congreve said that if there are firm proposals, it was disgraceful that local ward councillors had not been briefed.

10.3 Raymond Nevin said that some time ago, he had heard someone talking about Cardinal Road and road humps. He noted that Cardinal Road had been resurfaced and is a disgrace. A few people had asked him to raise it at the forum- nowhere is it level and there are a large number of puddles in wet weather. People standing at bus stops are sprayed with water from passing cars. Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that this had been raised at the White Rose Tenants Association. He had raised the issue with Highways, who would inspect the road. Raymond Nevin said that the state of Old Lane gets worse and worse. David Congreve said that this is a shabby job, and said that the Council goes for the cheapest contractor. Highways Officers must investigate this matter.

10.4 It was agreed that Raymond Nevin would bring the sound systems which are currently stored at St Andrew's Church, to the home of Christine Thornton for temporary storage. Christine Thornton felt that we should use the microphone at future meetings.