

Chair: Christine Thornton, 40 Cross Flatts Avenue, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 7BG. Tel 0113 270 0875

Secretary: Mr Robert Winfield, 7 Allenby Gardens, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 5RW. Tel 0113 271 6985

E mail [robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com](mailto:robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com) Forum Website- [www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk](http://www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk)

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## BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- 1st September 2011

### Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speaker- Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, M.P.
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011
5. Correspondence
6. Planning application by Tesco Stores Limited
7. Beeston Village Community Centre
8. Any Other Business

*As the committee has not met since the last Forum meeting there is no committee report.*

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Almond, Mr. J. Baron (Health for All, Leeds) Mr.R. Bell, Mrs D. Brooke, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Hodgson, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. M. Mason, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, A. Spencer, C. Stevens, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Mrs. N. Watkis and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield **When the minutes were considered by the following Forum meeting, Robert Winfield explained that before the meeting, he had been approached by Councillor David Congreve, who reminded him that he had attended the meeting, despite the fact that his name had been recorded amongst those presenting apologies for absence. Robert Winfield explained that he would, in the circumstances, be delighted to propose an appropriate correction to the minutes.**

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, Councillor David Congreve (**please see the remarks following the list of members attending , above**), John Fenton, Councillor Angela Gabriel, Lucy Stevens and Ruth Stevens.
3. Christine Thornton introduced the Guest Speakers; Sandie Keene- Director of Adult Social Services, Leeds City Council, Dennis Holmes- Deputy Director of Adult Social Services, Leeds City Council, Ann Marie Clifford- Programme Manager , Adult Social Services, Leeds City Council and Michele Tynan- Chief Officer, Adult Social Services, Leeds City Council
- 3.1 Sandie Keene noted that she had been asked to speak about the residential care strategy across the City of Leeds. She noted that there has been a considerable amount of comment on TV , Radio and in newspapers , and that there is currently a formal consultation process regarding the future of services. Sandie Keene noted that it is well known that Leeds City Council are having to find £90 million of savings this year, and a similar amount next year, so that every part of Leeds City Council is looking at the services which it provides, and looking at how the services can still be provided with the reduced budget available. Improvements to the services would also be sought, wherever possible. She noted that Leeds City Council runs 19 homes for elderly people, which represents a small proportion of the overall provision for residential and nursing care. These services are also provided by independent and voluntary organisations. Sandie Keene pointed out that a large review of the provision is currently being carried out. Issues being looked at include the state of the buildings and whether they are fit for purpose, ways of improving standards, how much capital would be required to maintain standards and how does the price of care provided by Leeds City Council compare with that provided by the Independent sector.

Sandie Keene pointed out that a number of the buildings from which Adult Social care is provided were erected between the 1960s and 1980s. Since that time, the standards of Adult Social care have improved enormously. She referred to Sunnyview House in Beeston, noting that the building has impressive facilities. Leeds City Council would want to aspire to this. She added that people stay in homes for longer, and with better housing support. Leeds City Council had started a consultation 12 weeks ago. This consultation finishes the day after the present meeting. The proposals which are the subject of the consultation include the decommissioning of 6 homes. In addition six homes have been identified, where there is a future for the building but doing a slightly different thing. There is also consultation in connection with the future of day centres. She noted that Harry Booth House is a particular concern. The consultation includes a proposal to recommission the building with a different use. Under the proposal, the building would be used to provide short term care outside a hospital environment, which would be a boost to rehabilitation. This would enable a person to get back on his feet without returning to hospital. This would be run by Leeds City Council in partnership with the NHS. She said that discussions about this proposal are going well, and that she is hopeful that the Department would be able to recommend this as a future use for the building before sending the report of the consultation to the Leeds City Council Executive Board. It is hoped that this will be a state of the art facility. Sandie Keene acknowledged that there are concerns about the existing residents of Harry Booth House, and that the department would need to consider how quickly a new facility can be set up, and its implications for existing residents. The Department is in discussions with the NHS and the regulator in connection with the transition period. However, Sandie Keene said that the representatives of the Department would be unable to discuss this issue at the meeting.

Sandie Keene then addressed what would happen with the funding of care. She noted that many people are fearful that anyone who is moved out of local authority care would have to pay more. She noted that people who are required to contribute to care are assessed under a national profile. However, Leeds City Council can support people into homes with no difference as to payment. Thus, there will be no financial burden if a person who has been in local authority care is forced to move house. Such individuals would also receive lots of reassurance and help, for example by moving with their friends. The Department would aim to look at all options available and to try to get the very best outcome for older people needing support now and in the future.

3.2 Dennis Holmes said that people are talking about the needs of communities (for example, the needs of older people in Beeston) in the consultation process. We need to make sure that there is an offer for the next generations of older people in Beeston.

3.3 The meeting then opened up to questions from the floor. Amongst issues discussed were

- the loss of Old Peoples' homes in the LS11 postal district and the fees charged by privately owned Old Peoples' homes, notably Sunnyview House
- whether it is intended to retain the staff at Harry Booth House if its use is changed
- Whether the independent sector in Adult Social care is 'for profit' and the costs to Leeds City Council (compared with other organisations) of providing such care
- Whether the national census data will give an indication of the number of people requiring care in the future
- The impact of personal budgets, and the use of PFI schemes to erect new buildings
- Whether Leeds City Council inspects care homes
- Whether the commitment to provide council owned residential care will be reduced.

3.4 Pauline Johnson asked about the consultation process. She asked who was asked and has the department already decided what to do. Sandie Keene reassured the audience that nothing had been decided. The department had put resources into the consultation, as they want one to one discussions with people in homes, with their carers present. The consultation had involved staff of the department visiting area committees, politicians, stakeholder groups, old peoples' representatives, as well as attending public meetings such as the one currently taking place. The department are trying to sift the main themes throughout the consultation process. Sandie Keene added that it is foolish not to expect no one to say that they do not want the proposals to be implemented. She said that the importance of locality is coming out strongly, and that the department does not put out proposals for consultation without strong grounds. She stressed that the outcome of the consultation is not predetermined. Pauline Johnson asked whether relatives would be contacted as part of the consultation process if a resident of a care home is suffering from dementia. Michele Tynan said that relatives are involved in the consultation process where the resident wants this to happen. The consultation is carried out by means of sending forms to the relative where the distance precludes a one to one meeting. The department is also looking at the idea of introducing advocates to represent the views of residents of care homes, for example on issues relating to living in the locality and staying with friendship groups.

3.5 Greg Turton asked the guest speakers how they see the proposals changing as a result of the consultation process. Sandie Keene said that this matter needs to be discussed more with politicians. Issues which need to be considered include how we can influence the future of the other seven homes and how the range of provision can be extended. We also need to think

about how we can take account of big themes. Over the past two to three weeks, the department has been pushing every boat out, and have got the message loud and clear. Sandie Keene stressed that it is the duty of the department to listen to objections , to see how they can be taken into account, and demonstrate that the objections have been taken into account.. The department also needs to consider the implications if they have not been able to take objections into account.

4. The minutes of the Beeston Forum meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

#### 5. Matters arising

5.1 Greg Turton pointed out that a start has been made on the resurfacing of the pavements of Cross Flatts Grove. He noted that his stretch of the road is in phase 2 , rather than phase 1 of the works. Christine Thornton had also noticed the work and described this as ‘good news’.

5.2 John Hodgson was pleased that Councillor Angela Gabriel had said that residents of Beeston , Holbeck and Cottingley would be involved in the consultation process relating to the master plan for Elland Road. However, he expressed concerns that the plan envisages a 750 place park and ride scheme at Elland Road, and noted that this would potentially mean an additional 750 cars per day going through the area. He feared that the content of the masterplan would be decided before residents have been consulted about it. Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that the Councillors had expressed their concerns that Elland Road is not the right place for a park and ride scheme. Adam Ogilvie also expressed support for a liaison group, on which the Beeston Forum would be represented, about the plans. John Hodgson noted that he had attended a meeting of the Plans East panel around two months ago. Councillor David Congreve had said that the councillors object to any plans which would involve a reduction in the number of parking spaces which would affect the people of Beeston, Holbeck and Cottingley. The proposals involve a halving of car parking spaces on match days. John Hodgson asked whether the Councillors in the outer areas of the City want a park and ride scheme in their area. Greg Turton asked whether Elland Road is the only site under consideration on this side of the City. Adam Ogilvie said that other sites under consideration include Tingley and Stourton. Greg Turton asked whether these would receive equal consideration, Richard Bell asked what is bad about the idea of a park and ride scheme at Elland Road. John Hodgson noted that when the South Leeds Action Group was in existence about 10-15 years ago, they brought in a Leeds University Professor to explain pollution which, he pointed out is caused primarily by starting cars. (When the minutes were considered by the following Forum meeting, John Hodgson felt that the minutes, as drafted , convey the impression that the South Leeds Action Group brought in the Leeds University Professor. He pointed out that it was in fact the Liaison Group which had done this.) If cars are passing by, there is less pollution. John Hodgson added that we need an overall look at all traffic problems in South Leeds. He added that some of the worst chest problems occur in South Leeds and there is a higher death rate than in other parts of Leeds. A park and ride at Elland Road would bring in extra cars to the area and there would only be a short ride to Leeds City Centre. Robert Winfield noted that the last meeting of the Forum’s committee had resolved that he write a letter to the Yorkshire Evening Post expressing the Forum’s concerns about a number of aspects of the plans. He had, however, not yet sent the letter. The meeting agreed to a proposal from Robert Winfield that the letter be amended to take account of comments made at the meeting.

6. Report of the Committee meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011. Christine Thornton pointed out that the meeting had discussed the letter to the Yorkshire Evening Post which Robert Winfield had just mentioned. The teddy bear which was the prize in the ‘name the teddy bear’ competition had been delivered to the winner of the competition. Christine Thornton noted that the competition had raised £20, which was sufficient to pay for the hire of the room for one meeting. There was also a discussion about forward planning and speakers. Robert Winfield pointed out that details of the next few meetings had been provided on the agenda sheets. The demonstration by SPLASH on 25<sup>th</sup> July concerning the closure of South Leeds Sports Centre had also been noted. Christine Thornton had also attended the LS11 residents group. This meets in Holbeck and had expressed a wish to involve all residents groups in the LS11 postal district. The meeting had been updated about the current situation in connection with the demolition in Holbeck. The demolition site had been planted with wild flowers pending development. There had been a brief discussion of the new community publication. It was noted that John Baron , who will edit the publication was in the audience; he confirmed that the first edition would be published in September. It was also noted that the Committee had suggested that the Steering Committee connected with Beeston Village Community Centre should be relabelled an Advisory Committee. Christine Thornton said that Pat McGeever, Chief Executive of Health for All (Leeds) had agreed to look at the suggestion.

#### 7, Correspondence-

7.1 Robert Winfield noted that following the remarks at the last Forum meeting concerning drug dealing in Holbeck Cemetery and the adjacent streets by Debbie Smith and a discussion at the subsequent committee meeting, he had written to Insp. Damien Miller about the matter. Insp. Miller replied saying that the police have had this matter brought to their attention previously and increased patrols in the area in an effort to eradicate the problem, but noted that from our letter it is obvious that the problem has returned. Insp. Miller said that he will ensure that the police team re-direct their efforts to the

cemetery once again. He added that if any of the community have information about those involved, vehicles, times and days of dealing these would be extremely helpful to progress the police's investigation. Christine Thornton noted that Debbie Smith was not present at the current meeting. Robert Winfield undertook to contact her, by phone if he was able to find a telephone number for her, but by letter if not.

7.2 Robert Winfield had received a letter from Steve Williamson, the Chairman of the Partnership Engagement Group for the South Leeds Investment Strategy, in connection with our invitation to attend the October meeting. Steve Williamson said that the date should be all right for him, but was awaiting confirmation from David Helliwell of Evans, whom he suspected may be away.

7.3 Robert Winfield had sent the usual invitations to the Beeston Forum AGM. Councillors David Congreve and Angela Gabriel had responded to say that they would be attending, as have Councillor Stewart Golton, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Leeds City Council and Mr Shaun Harvey, the Chief Executive of Leeds United FC. Robert Winfield had also received an e mail from Councillor Peter Gruen, explaining that Councillor Keith Wakefield, the Leader of the Leeds City Council Labour Group would be unable to attend the AGM and that Councillor Gruen would represent the Labour Group.

7.4 Christine Thornton had received a letter from Sally Blunt of Joseph Priestly college explaining that the government had approved plans for a merger between Joseph Priestley College and Leeds City College.

## 8. Any Other Business

8.1 Pauline Johnson said that O2 have applied for consent to build a 17.5 m tall telecommunications mast with six antennae and equipment on a footpath in Cross Flatts Park. The application has a reference number; 11/03023. Pauline Johnson said that she had looked at the plans, which identify the footpath on which the mast would be built. The path is close to the junction between Parkfield Road and Beeston Road. The mast would be hidden amongst trees. Pauline Johnson suspected that the planning application had been submitted during the school holidays in order to minimise opposition to it. She added that the proposed location of the mast is in a sensitive area where children play, and that it would not be right to erect a telephone mast there. It was resolved that the Forum object to the application.

8.2 John Peckham noted that the police have been absent from the last two Forum meetings except when a PCSO came to the July meeting to leave copies of the police newsletter and immediately left. John Peckham said that he would not wish to see a situation in which the police are absent for three successive meetings. He added that the police website emphasises that the police attend our meetings on a regular basis. Christine Thornton noted that the police are not formally invited to the meeting except when Insp. Damien Miller is invited as a guest speaker. The police always contribute to the meetings when time permits. It was resolved to e mail Insp. Miller about this matter.

8.3 Greg Turton noted that for the last two months his bin collections have been punctual and congratulated Leeds City Council for sorting the situation out. However Richard Bell and Pauline Johnson noted that their bin collections have been missed.

8.4 John Hodgson noted that SPLASH had spent money on banners and badges for the recent demonstration at South Leeds Sports Centre but within two days, Leeds City Council had announced that they would be building a school on the site of the sports centre. He noted that in Garforth, a deal had been done to give Garforth Academy (which, he noted is linked to South Leeds Academy) control of Garforth Leisure Centre on a peppercorn rent. He suggested that the South Leeds Sports Centre building should be kept for the school and made available to the community. Adam Ogilvie said that school is a possibility, not a certainty and that the councillors would want to see some leisure use for the local community. He added that there had been a conversation with a local organisation which is seeking to re open the sports centre as a sports centre.