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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- 2nd June 2011

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speaker- Mr Sean O'Flynn – West Yorkshire Fire Service**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 7th April 2011**
- 5. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 14th April 2011**
- 6. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 12th May 2011**
- 7. Correspondence**
- 8. Report of Committee meetings on 28th April 2011 and 19th May 2011**
- 9. Tesco planning application**
- 10. Proposals to develop land at Elland Road**
- 11. Beeston Festival Stall**
- 12. Beeston Village Community Centre**
- 13. Possible elections to the committee**
- 14. Any Other Business**

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 12th May 2011

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair) Sgt. Aldred, West Yorkshire Police, Mr. R. Almond, Mr R. Bell, Mrs D. Brooke, H.S. Buckle, Mrs. M. Cook, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mrs. A. P. Eales, Mrs. S. Gawthorpe, Mrs. M. Hobson, Mr. R.P. Hunt, Miss. P. Johnson, D. Kenny, C. Kirk, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, A.G. McAusland, PCSO O. Metcalfe, Mrs. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mrs. C. Stevens, Miss L. Stevens, R. Stevens, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks-** Christine Thornton thanked those present for their attendance and welcomed them to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors David Congreve and Angela Gabriel, Mr. J. Fenton and Mr. J. Hodgson.
- 3.** Christine Thornton introduced the first guest speaker; Simon Flowers, Strategic Leader for Education Integration, Leeds City Council, who thanked the Forum for its invitation. He pointed out that his full time job is as the Head Teacher of Carr Manor High School; a position which he has held for six years; prior to that, he had been the head of Cathedral School Wakefield and had also been the head of Merlyn Rees School. He has worked in Leeds apart from brief spells working in Harrogate and Wakefield. He described himself as a big supporter of the City. When the opportunity came to take on his present role with Leeds City Council it was easy to say yes as he wanted to make a contribution. He pointed out that Chris Edwards left his position as Chief Executive of Education Leeds at Christmas. Education Leeds was then without a Chief Executive until 1st April when the organisation was wound up, and Leeds City Council took over the responsibility for education in Leeds. In order for this to happen smoothly a lot of work was required. There are 265 schools in Leeds

employing 19000 staff. The process of integration has gone well and education in Leeds is going in the right direction. It is necessary to think about the commitment by the City to its pupils. He noted that there are 180000 children in Leeds, 110000 of whom are in Leeds schools. There are 250000 people in Leeds under the age of 25 years. There are more young people in Leeds per capita, than in other cities. Leeds has an increasing population and is also a receiving city. There is a population bulge; indeed, the population of Leeds is forecast to rise to 1,000,000 in 15 years. Leeds is already the second largest local authority in Leeds and more people are coming. This presents challenges for education, especially to improve outcomes. Education Leeds has improved outcomes but there is a need to do better. The Director of Children's Services, which is responsible for Education, is Mr Nigel Richardson. It is the responsibility of this Directorate to think about its priorities and to put together a children and young people plan which is a requirement. Amongst questions which need to be addressed are what is it like to grow up and how can we make it better? The plan has a banner heading of Child Friendly City. Forum members can look at the UNICEF website which explains the building blocks involved in this. Simon Flowers pointed out that a number of cities including Leeds are seeking to become the first Child Friendly City. Inside this is an education commitment that all children go to school, achieve their best and spend a significant part of their childhood in education. Simon Flowers added that in the past two weeks, the plan has gone out to governing bodies and head teachers. There is a commitment in the plan to improve results and outcomes faster than any city in the country. We need a solid, agreed plan for all schools by 2015. All schools will have the best possible staffing. All children in Leeds will attend a school or some place of learning. At present 8% of pupils are not in school. Such pupils may be unwell, but may also be somewhere else. Simon Flowers pointed out that children must have fun growing up, but there also needs to be a plan to ensure they end up in employment, education or training. In short, there are three aims; every child in school, every young person succeeding and every school is outstanding. If this is easy, it would have been done. To get there needs a full commitment. An event would be held for the 265 Head Teachers before the end of the summer. Simon Flowers pointed out that there is cross party support for the concept of a child friendly city, and that the council is committed to put children at the centre of what we do. There is a budget to deliver the first part of the Action plan for schools and that this would not be possible without the support of the council. The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Issues raised included the impact of free schools on the plans described by Simon Flowers, whether the strategy which will be implemented would be published, whether the increase in population in Leeds would result in the building of new schools and whether pupils would become more disruptive if they are not excluded from school.

4. Christine Thornton introduced the guest speakers dealing with the Tesco planning application; John Quinton Barber of IPB Communications, Don Bennett of Mouchel and Deborah Hayeems of Tesco Stores Limited.

4.1 John Quinton Barber thanked the Forum for inviting him and his colleagues back and noted that this is the third visit to the forum by speakers associated with Tesco Stores Limited. He had first visited the Forum in September to reveal the plans for the Tesco Store. Tesco are still working on plans for the store. He noted that at that time Deborah Hayeems had been on maternity leave. Had this situation not arisen, Deborah would have appeared at the previous meetings, but Matt Magee had covered for her. John Quinton Barber added that it is great for Deborah Hayeems to have the opportunity to visit the Forum.

4.2 Christine Thornton explained that the Forum had made a holding objection to the planning application. She noted that the Forum needs reassurance that all the major points which had been raised by us were being addressed and said that the Committee of the Forum feels that we cannot go on and on with the present situation. She noted that Robert Winfield had written a detailed letter to Tesco dealing with issues such as the additional traffic and noise which would be generated by the store, and the section 106 schemes which would be associated with the planning application.

4.3 John Quinton Barber said that Tesco, like any large organisation is accountable, regularly monitored and regulated. With regard to noise, he pointed out that Tesco have worked with independent organisations which produce reports which are scrutinised by the Council. He noted that a noise survey was carried out in 2008. The consultant had expressed the view that not much had changed between 2008 and the present. He then referred to suggestions from the Beeston Forum Committee that it would be appropriate to carry out a noise survey when Leeds United FC has a home game at Elland Road Football Ground. He noted that it is better to carry out a noise survey when it is quiet, rather than when a noisy event is taking place. Christine Thornton pointed out that the committee has had sight of the document setting out of the results of the noise survey but noted that this is rather difficult for lay people to understand. Deborah Hayeems pointed out that if a noise survey is taken when it is quiet, the contribution from any new Tesco store would be proportionately greater. If, however, the noise survey is taken at a time when there is already a significant amount of background noise, the Tesco contribution is effectively drowned out. Don Bennett pointed out that traffic noise is a function of the number of vehicles and the mix of vehicles (HGVs, cars etc). Sound is measured at a quiet time and predictions of the additional traffic which would be generated by a new development are converted into noise. The resulting noise levels are then examined against what would be acceptable. This is a complicated process and he would not seek to pretend otherwise. The statistics would go to the Environmental Health Department which is trained in assessment methods. Leeds Environmental Health has accepted that any increase in noise levels which would result from the new Tesco store are not significant. Don Bennett added that this assessment has examined all types of noise. With regard to service yard activity, it was noted that the site has, in the past been an industrial building, and that the service yard does not face residential properties. John Quinton

Barber added that the Council would monitor the noise and if this is found to be unacceptable conditions can be imposed on the operation of the store.

4.4 Edna Newton said that it is necessary to wait until 6 or 7 cars pass before crossing Old Lane. Would Tesco make this worse? She also asked why Tesco would want to muscle in where there are already stores. Why are they not seeking to build a store in Holbeck where there are no stores. She said that Tesco sometimes brings ill feeling. She said that Tesco had gone the wrong way about the consultation process and asked why Tesco had organised a meeting in Beeston Hill which is some distance away from the proposed store. John Quinton Barber said that Tesco had been in the area since September and had worked with the community, changed its plans as a result of the consultation and had gone about the consultation process in the right way. There had been a great deal of support. The consultation was as wide as possible; hence the meeting in Beeston Hill. He added that, at present, people are moving away from Beeston in order to shop. The new store would keep them in Beeston.

4.5 A Forum member asked whether there would be an increase in traffic as the site is currently idle and derelict. Don Bennett noted that the plans include installing a pelican crossing so that it will be easier to cross the road. He added that the maximum permitted stay in the car park will be two hours, which would be adequate to permit users of the store to visit the dentist and the post office as well. However Tesco would wish to prevent the car park being used by visitors to Elland Road Football Ground.

4.6 John Peckham said that Beeston needs a supermarket. He added that if the argument that developments generate traffic is taken to its logical conclusion, Beeston would be a desert. He noted that there is a problem with rat running, including by delivery vehicles and that there are a number of light industrial premises in the area, and that a number of drivers cut through residential streets. He asked whether most deliveries would be made by Tesco branded vehicles. Don Bennett noted that this issue had been discussed at the previous meeting at which Tesco representatives had been present, and Tesco had offered a binding routing agreement. He confirmed that most deliveries would be undertaken by Tesco branded vehicles, which would be bound by the agreement to travel to the store via the Tommy Wass junction and Old Lane. He added that some bread and milk would be delivered in vans which do not bear Tesco branding, which would be bound by the same agreement.

4.7 Richard Bell said that he visits Tesco stores in various locations and has found that the prices can vary dramatically. He asked what the price structure at the new Tesco store would be. Deborah Hayeems said that there is one national price for Tesco stores; however Tesco Express is more expensive reflecting the convenience model and higher rents at Tesco Express Stores. Richard Bell asked whether there are specific offers in specific stores. Deborah Hayeems said that Tesco's promotions are national, although each store would typically have a different range of goods, based on the population of the area.

4.8 Pauline Johnson expressed fears that traffic calming in the area might result in traffic moving onto Cross Flatts Grove, where she lives. Don Bennett noted that there are already traffic calming measures in the area. He noted that Tesco has offered to carry out surveys before and after the store is opened. If the surveys demonstrate that there has been an increase in rat running, Tesco would finance appropriate traffic calming measures. He added that a major road would receive more traffic as a result of such schemes. Don Bennett added that any new traffic calming scheme is subject to public consultation. Pauline Johnson said that there had been no consultation about existing traffic calming measures, and that these had caused traffic to come down Cross Flatts Grove instead of using Old Lane, Barkly Road and Tempest Road. Traffic had increased alarmingly.

4.9 Robert Winfield asked for an estimate of the increase, in percentage terms of traffic along Old Lane should the new Tesco store be built. Don Bennett said that he could not recall the figure which is included in the transport assessment which is publicly available.

4.10 John Quinton Barber said that Tesco cannot guarantee that jobs are filled by residents of the LS10 and LS11 postal districts as this would constitute discrimination. However, Tesco are working with Job Centre Plus and Leeds City Council to ensure that the jobs are marketed in these areas first. Deborah Hayeems said that the Leeds City Council Employment team had showed that there is a high percentage of local people employed in the Tesco Express Store on Dewsbury Road. Christine Thornton added that there is a high percentage of local people employed in the Tesco store in Seacroft.

4.11 John Quinton Barber referred to the Section 106 agreements. He noted that a sum of £300000 had been set aside for improvements in public transport, and £50000 had been set aside for traffic calming measures if these are required. In addition, there had been a suggestion that benches should be provided. Tesco has given an undertaking that benches would be provided in the vicinity of the store and maintained by them. Since Tesco's initial plans for the store, the design had also been changed to include a new design of clock and extra landscaping. With regard to the building of the store, John Quinton Barber pointed out that Tesco work with contractors who adhere to the Considerate Contractors scheme.

4.12 A member of the audience referred to the annoying incidence of litter and hoped that Tesco would have someone picking this up. Deborah Hayeems said that there are normally litter bins at Tesco stores. The plans for the new store

envisage bins around the car park. Litter pickers would remove litter from around the car park. Tesco would not want an untidy store.

4.13 Edna Newton asked how much heavy traffic would be needed to get rid of soil and other rubble from the site. Deborah Hayeems said that not a lot of waste would need to leave the site. This is in contrast to a number of other Tesco sites where excavation was required. Richard Bell pointed out that the floor of the site is at the level of the old Moorhouses Building. Don Bennett noted that it is in Tesco's best interests to minimise the amount of rubble removed from the site in order to minimise payments of landfill tax.

4.14 Robert Winfield suggested that if the Forum votes to withdraw our objection to the planning application, this should be subject to the conditions which had previously been put forward by the committee. He noted that most, if not all of these had been agreed by Tesco. This was agreed. A resolution that our objection be withdrawn providing that these conditions are met was put to the meeting and carried by 24 votes to 2

5. Rod Stewart Pop Concert- 3rd June 2011- Christine Thornton pointed out that it had been intended that Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive of Leeds United FC would appear at the present meeting in order to describe arrangements about the concert and answer questions. However, Shaun Harvey had been attending a meeting in London from which it would be impossible to return to Leeds in time to attend the meeting. In view of this, he sent a letter describing the arrangements for the concert. Gates would open at 5p.m. The show would start at 8p.m and finish at 10.30p.m. Rod Stewart would appear alone- there would be no support act. The stage would be in front of the South Stand towards the motorway to reduce noise to local houses. West Yorkshire Police will provide traffic management support and all normal car parks would be open. The expected attendance is 18000-20000; less than a home match. Shaun Harvey added that Leeds United FC is running a campaign to keep litter out of the local community and will be providing additional cleansing services, although the locations are not yet finalised. He added that he remains available to answer specific requests and hopes to visit the Forum soon. Councillor Adam Ogilvie pointed out that Councillor Angela Gabriel had used the opportunity of the licensing process to raise the issue of litter at football matches with Shaun Harvey. As a result of this, the issue of litter collection not only around the ground but in areas of Beeston, Holbeck and Cottingley is being looked at.

6. Possible stall at Beeston Festival- Christine Thornton pointed out that the Forum has, in the past had a stall at the Festival to publicise the Forum and hand out copies of a newsletter. However, the stall needs to be manned. The Festival takes place between 12p.m and 5p.m on Saturday 11th June The Forum's banner would be placed on the stall. Mark Parry and Richard Bell volunteered to help whilst John Cunningham and John Peckham would be available for half the time. It was agreed to book a stall and write a newsletter.

7. Minutes of meetings- Christine Thornton said that consideration of the minutes of the Forum meeting on 7th April and the Special Forum meeting on 14th April would be deferred to the next meeting.

8. New Members of the Committee- Christine Thornton noted that there are a number of vacant positions on the committee and urged anyone interested to speak to members of the committee.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Robert Winfield noted that a group of Leeds University Students, led by Rebecca Ruddock, who had attended part of a forum meeting several months ago, had been undertaking research into Beeston. The team of students would present their findings at a meeting held at Beeston Village Community Centre at 7p.m on Tuesday 17th May. Robert Winfield hoped that there would be a large turnout of Forum members at the meeting.

9.2 Police. Sgt Aldred explained that the police had arrived slightly late at the meeting as they had been diverted to an incident on the Longroyds. He described the crime figures for April. Burglary from dwellings had fallen to 7, compared with 14 last April. There were no robberies during April compared with five in April 2010. On the same basis, theft of motor vehicles had fallen to one, from eight, whilst theft from motor vehicles had fallen from 15 to 8. Crime had fallen by 12%, with 802 fewer crimes being committed. A member of the audience referred to widespread thefts of lead. Sgt Aldred said that such thefts tend to increase at this time of the year as metal prices had risen. He said that traders would tell police about people coming to them regularly. He added that arrests had been made.

9.3 A member of the audience referred to the problems of litter around Elland Road after match days. It was noted that litter is not collected until after the weekend, and that problems arise if there is wind in the meantime.

9.4 A member of the audience said that 30 mph speed limit signs should be erected along Old Lane. Councillor Adam Ogilvie undertook to raise this matter with Highways.