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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting - Thursday 2nd September 2010

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Representatives of Tesco Stores Limited
4. Guest Speaker- Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn M.P.
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 5th August 2010
6. Any Other Business

Minutes of Beeston Community Forum General Meeting, 5th August 2010

Attendance:- C. Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Almond, Mr. R. Bell, Mr. D.C. Bottomley, Mrs. D. Brooke, J. Clarke (West Yorks Police), Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, S. Gawthorpe, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. R. Kitson, Mrs. E. Lister, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs M. Mason, Mrs. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. M. Perry, PC. A Smith and W. Stokeley (West Yorks Police), Mr. F. Swift, Mr. D. Turner, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and apologised for starting the meeting slightly late.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Birch, John Fenton, Councillor Angela Gabriel and John Hodgson
3. Guest Speaker- Christine Thornton introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive, Leeds United FC. Matters dealt with include:-
 - the forthcoming development at Elland Road and the relocation of the statue of Billy Bremner
 - the impact on Leeds if the bid for the 2018 World Cup is successful
 - the availability of the Club year book and the use of loan players by LUFC
 - traffic around Elland Road, transport issues and the possible establishment of a walkway between Leeds City Centre and Elland Road
 - the involvement of LUFC and its players with schools and in community based schemes
4. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 1st July 2010 were agreed as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.
5. Matters arising. Greg Turton noted that he had mentioned the state of Cross Flatts Grove to a number of people, and had also e mailed Councillor Richard Lewis who, he noted, is the Leeds City

Council Executive Board member responsible for Highways, pointing out the state of Cross Flatts Grove, emphasising that progress is required, and pointing out that the current intention of the Highways Department, to have the road resurfaced in 2012, is too far in the future in view of the current state of the road.

6. Christine Thornton noted that the Police were anxious to make brief remarks to the Forum as they had been called out on duty.

6.1 PC Alan Smith stated that this is the first time he had attended the Forum and pointed out that if he is unable to answer any questions, he would get an answer which would be passed to the following meeting. John Peckham said that he had read the minutes of the last meeting of the Forum which referred to football being played in the car park adjoining Beeston Co-op and James Reed House. He referred to the possibility of an NHS building being damaged by these activities. Christine Thornton noted that the Forum had frequently discussed the non- use of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in the area . She noted that Councillor Angela Gabriel had raised the issue as a governor of Hugh Gaitskell School. It was noted that the school has the keys to the MUGA. Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that he had discussed the situation with Council officers and noted that it is frustrating that local people are currently unable to access the facility.

6.2 Doris Brooke discussed what she feared was a scam involving a man who asked for money claiming that he had to go to Newcastle to catch a plane . A PCSO said that situations such as this should be reported to the police , where an individual is unsure as to the authenticity of the caller. If the person genuinely needs help, the police might be in a position to provide it; however he might have been working a scam.

6.3 Darren Turner said that this is the first time he had attended the Forum, and thanked members for making him welcome. He explained that he is a resident of Marley Terrace and was speaking on behalf of a number of tenants and homeowners in the area about a noise nuisance. PC Alan Smith said that a noise nuisance in a public area is a police matter; however loud music in a house is a matter for the landlord if the property is rented.

6.4 Stella Gawthorpe referred to drug dealing in Cross Flatts Park. Christine Thornton noted that she was in the park during the day, and saw people who looked as though they were waiting for a drug dealer. PC Alan Smith said that he was personally involved in dealing with this matter, but said that he would not wish to go into too much detail. He urged Forum members to feed any relevant information through as the police were trying to get intelligence together.

7. Correspondence-

7.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Cath Hardy, of Leeds City Council explaining that the BT software currently used for the Beeston Forum website had been provided to BT under a ten year agreement with a company named Recipero , which was about to end. As a result of this situation, action would need to be taken to transfer material on the current website to a new site, although we would be in a position to keep our current web address.

7.2 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Mr Bill Gillatt, the Deputy Head of the Leeds City Council Electoral Services Department, explaining that a review will shortly be taking place in connection with the decision to relocate the polling station which had been traditionally located in the car park at the Broadway Hotel to Dewsbury Road Social Club. It was noted that the review would involve consultation with senior councillors from each of the three major political parties, and the Councillors for Beeston and Holbeck Ward.

7.3 Robert Winfield noted that he had had discussions with Arrow Travel about the possible organisation by the Forum of coach trips and an e mail from Steve Wetherill of Streetscene which would be dealt with in separate agenda items.

8. Report of Committee Meeting- 15th July 2010- Christine Thornton noted that the committee had discussed the efforts, particularly by TIGER 11 to keep South Leeds Sports Centre open. It

was noted that Greg Turton had raised the issue of Tadcaster Sports Centre, which is successfully run by volunteers. Christine Thornton noted that she subsequently spoke with Jeremy Morton of TIGER 11, who is aware of Tadcaster Sports Centre. The road surface on Old Lane and Cross Flatts Grove had also been discussed. There was also a discussion about the situation concerning Beeston Village Community Centre. The Committee also discussed the linkage between property prices and the quality of education. There was a discussion of the quality of bus services, particularly during the evening. The committee also discussed 'blips' in bin collections.

9. Raising the Profile of the Forum- Christine Thornton noted that the quiz which had taken place at the Beeston Forum stall at the Beeston Festival had been won by Donna Brook, who was not present at the meeting. However, attendance at meetings had reached a plateau, and it was felt that the Forum needs a shot in the arm. It was noted that the AGM, at which a buffet would be served, would be taking place in December and it was hoped that this would be well publicised. It was also felt that the Forum might make greater use of newsletters; it was noted that the Police had promised to deliver copies of newsletters throughout the area covered by the Forum. Dennis Bottomley promised that he could deliver to the Marsdens and noted that many people come to the Forum when contentious local issues arise. John Peckham suggested sending press releases to the Leeds Weekly News. Robert Winfield noted that all the available evidence suggests that the Yorkshire Evening Post is hostile to the Forum; he noted that a YEP journalist; Aisha Iqbal, who is a resident of Beeston, attended one forum meeting, but had not attended subsequent meetings. John Cunningham wondered whether we can still use the notice board at St Anthony's Church. Christine Thornton suggested contacting Insp. Damien Miller of West Yorkshire Police about the delivery of the newsletters, with the aim of fixing a date. Adam Ogilvie suggested contacting South Leeds Community Radio, which broadcasts on the internet all year round. Richard Bell suggested making greater use of the website and the facebook group. He suggested adding details of the facebook group to the Forum's letterhead. Robert Winfield noted that the facebook group had attracted three members; himself, Richard Bell and a third individual who had never attended a Forum meeting. Robert Winfield added that facebook would only be an effective method of communication when the group attracts more members than it currently has.
10. Beeston Village Community Centre- Robert Winfield noted that a meeting of the Committee for the centre had been fixed for Thursday 12th August, and that the Beeston Forum Committee, at its last meeting had had a lengthy discussion about the situation with the Beeston Village Community Centre Committee, which Robert Winfield felt, was failing to fulfil its functions, as a result of the infrequency of its meetings. Despite the subsequent fixing of a meeting, these concerns remain. Richard Bell wondered what was happening to exploit the community centre as a resource. Robert Winfield explained that he was unaware of this, as the Committee had not met since 15th April. Christine Thornton felt that this was all the more reason to have regular meetings. Robert Winfield explained that he continued to believe in the concept of an AGM for the Community Centre to which all residents of Beeston would be invited. This would, he felt raise the profile of the Community Centre and make residents who would not otherwise be aware of the Community Centre aware of its existence. Robert Winfield added that it was, however, felt in certain circles that the organisation of an AGM might be perceived by the Beeston Forum as replicating its activities. However, he did not agree with that view, and felt that the community centre should organise an AGM just before Christmas, although not on the same day as the Beeston Forum AGM. Mick Mason supported Robert Winfield's views about a community centre AGM in their entirety. Richard Bell wondered whether the centre has a formal constitution, which he felt would give a measure of accountability and control. Robert Winfield noted that there had been some debate within the Beeston Village Community Centre steering committee as to whether there should be a formal constitution, or a terms of reference document, which might be more appropriate considering that Health for All (Leeds) leases the

building from Leeds City Council and can therefore do what it wants with the building, subject to the terms of the lease. Mick Mason said that he was not particularly concerned about a formal constitution, but was definitely in favour of an AGM. Christine Thornton felt that an AGM requires a constitution. A vote took place as to whether the Forum is in favour of a formal constitution and an AGM. The voting was 6 to 2 in favour with 11 abstentions.

11. **Bus Fares.** Robert Winfield proposed writing to First Leeds, with a copy to the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority, to protest about recent rises in the price of tickets such as the First Day and First Week tickets. He noted that the extension of the Green Zone to cover the whole of Beeston, seemed at the time to have been too good to be true, but was accompanied by a 20% increase (£10 to £12) in the price of the weekly ticket for the Green Zone, which, substantially exceeds the rate of inflation. Robert Winfield's proposal was carried unanimously. Pauline Johnson said that she had received a letter from First in connection with the simplified fare structure, which referred to the Dewsbury Road bus routes and was therefore not appropriate to where she lives. John Peckham described First as arrogant, and said that shareholders blatantly come before users. Adam Ogilvie felt that bus services should never have been privatised, and suggested writing to the Chairman of Metro seeking clarification as to where we currently are with the issue of Quality Bus Contracts and what is the policy of the current government. Robert Winfield felt that the present situation was, at least dangerously close to a private monopoly. He questioned why First require a profit margin of 20% when other bus companies which provide a better service can make do with 8%.
12. **Possible Organisation of Coach Trips-** Christine Thornton recalled that the Forum, had, in the past organised coach trips, principally to the coast. She acknowledged that it would probably be too late to do this this year. She noted that the committee had discussed this issue and amongst the matters which needs to be decided are whether children should be welcomed on the trip, or whether it should instead be limited to adults. Christine Thornton noted that children are part of the community, and noted that latterly there had been a modest charge of around £5 to boost the Forum's coffers; the charge is not a lot for a coach trip. Richard Bell was also opposed to excluding people; however Christine Thornton expressed the view that people who have difficulties in getting about should have appropriate help with them. Richard Bell noted that if a trip takes place during the week, the majority of those coming would be retired. It was agreed that the committee would consider this further and revert to the Forum with specific ideas.
13. **Streetscene-** Robert Winfield noted that Steve Wetherill of Streetscene, had been invited to the present meeting of the Forum but had, instead sent an e mail saying that he would prefer to be supplied with details of any situation, where remedial action is required. He noted that a walk with a couple of residents during working hours in the daylight could be arranged, as this had proved to be the best solution in the past. He added that as the managers who would attend a Forum meeting are Operations Managers, attending an evening meeting takes them away from the operation which runs from 6 a.m to 4.45p.m seven days per week. Any hours taken up in evening meetings are lost to operations during the day. He asked for details of litter bins which are missing, and details of refuse collection issues, and he would ensure that these are investigated and we would receive a reply. Dennis Bottomley said that Streetscene had done a good job in cleaning grates and removing weeds from his area. Richard Bell suggested that if a bin is not emptied, Leeds City Council should be telephoned about the matter; otherwise the situation carries on. John Peckham said there had been rubbish in the gutter and footpath on Cross Flatts Avenue between Robb Street and Theodore Street.
14. Robert Winfield noted that he had attended the recent PEG meeting dealing with the regeneration of South Leeds. He apologised for the fact that he had overlooked bringing a copy of the paper setting out specific ideas to the meeting, but he noted that as those present would want to get the meeting over quickly, an effective discussion of these issues would have been impossible in any event.

