

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 Forum Website- www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk

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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- 3rd March 2011

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers:-
 - a) Stewart Robinson, International Fun Fairs
 - b) Graham Hollings, Manager, Streetscene
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 6th January 2011
5. Minutes of the special meeting of the Beeston Forum on 24th February 2011
6. Correspondence
7. Report of Committee meetings - 20th January 2011 and 17th February 2011
8. Tesco Planning Application
9. Beeston Village Community Centre
10. Guest Speakers – 2011
11. Possible elections to the committee
12. Any Other Business

Minutes of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on 6th January 2010

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Almond, Sgt. Aldred (West Yorkshire Police), Mr. R. Bell, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mrs D. Brooke, Mr K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mrs. S. Gawthorpe, Mr. J. Hodgson, P. Hutchinson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. J. Lee, MBE, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, PCSO Metcalfe (West Yorkshire Police), Mr. R.G. Nevin, Mrs. E. Newton, Mr. J. Peters, Mrs C. Quinn, Mrs. C. Stevens, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Mrs. B. Walton, and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting. She explained that we had been expecting two guest Speakers; Matt Magee of Tesco Stores Limited, and Stewart Robinson of International Fun Fairs. Christine Thornton pointed out that Matt Magee has flu, and that we had only been informed of this on the morning of the meeting. She apologised, but noted that this situation is out of our control.
2. Rearrangement of Tesco's appearance at the Forum-. Robert Winfield pointed out that IPB Communications (which are acting for Tesco in relation to the planning application for the proposed store on Old Lane) had informed him that Tesco are keen to appear at the Forum, He added that John Quinton Barber of IPB Communications (who appeared at the September Forum meeting) would have attended the meeting this evening but for an essential family engagement.. He proposed that the Forum organise a special meeting, provided that Tesco meet the costs of the room booking and publicity. Christine Thornton suggested inviting Tesco representatives to the March meeting. Richard Bell feared that any appearance by Tesco representatives at a Forum meeting would be a PR exercise. Christine Thornton suspected that Tesco had been taken aback by our

objection to their planning application, and wanted to fall over backwards to meet our concerns . Bill Birch said that what we want is an actual Tesco employee, who can talk about planning and noise. A PR man would not be able to deal with issues such as noise. Robert Winfield emphasised that Matt Magee is an employee of Tesco, not a PR agency. Christine Thornton hoped that Matt Magee could deal with these issues but wondered whether it would be sensible for us to clarify his role. Edna Newton said that there had been no mention of the traffic which would be needed to clear the site. It was noted that the rubble resulting from the demolition of the building formerly on the site had been compacted and will need to be moved.

John Fenton suggested that Tesco could advertise the meeting. Christine Thornton said that there are pros and cons to this..Joe Lee said that if we wanted to encompass the community, a special meeting would be in order. Greg Turton opposed the Tesco planning application being the only item at a main Forum meeting as it would then be impossible to deal with Any Other Business- including any important issues which might have arisen since the last meeting. John Hodgson also felt that there should be a special meeting, noting that we had lost a meeting as a result of the weather, and that Tesco would clearly be a major item. It would also get people more interested in the Forum. A proposal to hold a Special Meeting was passed by 12 votes to 8. It was agreed that it would , ideally be held on a Thursday in February on which no Forum meeting was already planned. If Tesco cannot attend the meeting on any of these dates, the matter would be discussed further. It was agreed that Robert Winfield would write to John Quinton- Barber dealing with these points.

3. Apologies for absence were received from Kathleen Fenton, John Peckham, Councillor Adam Ogilvie and Barry Stevens.

4. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 4th November 2010 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matter Arising- Greg Turton noted that he had attended the opening ceremony for the Centenary Pavilion at Leeds United FC. He said that all seven Forum members attending found the event enjoyable, and he was particularly grateful to Shaun Harvey, the Chief Executive of Leeds United FC, who went over to speak to the Forum members at their table. He understood that Robert Winfield had written a letter of thanks to Shaun Harvey after the event. Robert Winfield confirmed this and associated himself with Greg Turton's remarks.

6. Raymond Nevin pointed out that anyone missing a forum meeting must have a computer to find out what had taken place, as the minutes, though published on the internet, are not otherwise available. He wondered whether it might be possible to post a copy of the printed minutes in the library, or even open up a file of past minutes. Robert Winfield felt that Raymond Nevin was making a fair point, and noted that many forum members had no internet access. He would make the effort to liase with the library about this issue, and to send copies of the minutes. Sandra Burton pointed out that there is internet access in the library.

7. Report of Committee meetings held on 18th November 2010 and 16th December 2010. Christine Thornton noted that much of the meeting on 18th November had discussed the forthcoming AGM, which , in the event , could not take place. The following meeting was to make sure that the rearranged AGM could be fitted in in a manner which complies with the constitution of the Forum. It was noted that Doris Brooke and others would be organising a buffet on a smaller scale than those previously served at our AGMs. It was also resolved that the guest speakers for the year 2011 would be decided at the Forum meeting presently taking place. Robert Winfield pointed out that the postponement of the AGM had resulted in a consequential extension of the term of office of the committee elected in December 2009. He added that the committee has no mandate to decide guest speakers after the March meeting (which would be two weeks after the first meeting of the new committee). However, the Forum would have the authority to decide guest speakers for 2011; a number of committee members also noted that Forum members might suggest a guest speaker which would not have been suggested by members of the Committee. Christine Thornton pointed out that she had been contacted by Peter Griffin about the theft of flagstones from the area. She noted that flagstones had been lifted near Cross Flatts Park , and not replaced. It was noted that meetings of the Beeston Village Community Centre Steering Committee had been put on hold as a result of staff redundancies at Health for All (Leeds) Robert Winfield reported back from the meeting of the Partnership Engagement Group related to the Investment Strategy for South Leeds. The group involves local businessmen with an interest in the regeneration of South Leeds and Community representatives, including himself and Christine Thornton. The area covered by the strategy is the area bounded by the motorways. The committee resolved that we send a letter of objection to proposals to build a mobile telephone mast in Cross Flatts

Park. There was also a discussion about the increase in the number of heavy lorries in the area. Mick Mason wondered whether the Taste of Tesco event, planned for 1st December, but postponed as a result of bad weather, would be rescheduled. Robert Winfield said that IPB Communications had confirmed that the event would be rescheduled but no date had been fixed.

8. Correspondence-

8.1 Bin Collections- Robert Winfield had received two e mails from John Peckham, who was unable to attend the meeting as a result of a recent family bereavement. In his first e mail, he had pointed out that the bins in his area had not been emptied for several weeks. In his second e mail, he explained that his bin had been emptied, but that there was a significant amount of litter in the area. Robert Winfield said he had also had a telephone conversation with John Peckham, who said that the Council Officer responsible for bin collections should be dismissed. Christine Thornton noted that she has two green bins, which were not emptied during November. However, on the Tuesday after Christmas Day, she had heard a noise like a dust cart and decided to leave her green bins in the road. She soon found that the bins were , indeed being emptied, with those involved presumably being paid double time for working on a bank holiday. She was told by the bin men that they had finished their rounds and had decided to empty a few more bins. Raymond Nevin described the situation as absolute chaos. Richard Bell noted that the collection date had been changed, and was one day earlier than normal, but no one had been told. A letter about this, and an announcement in the 'Yorkshire Evening Post' had been made after the event. Christine Thornton noted that there is a rumour to the effect that the bin rounds are not written down anywhere and exist only in the heads of the bin men. Richard Bell explained that he telephoned Leeds City Council as they had missed two collections, but was informed that he could only complain if three collections had been missed.

John Hodgson noted that the bin men now have more money and more work. He noted that the 50 vans had recently been reduced to 40, and asked how you would expect this reduced workforce to do the work which was formerly undertaken. He added that if the rounds exist only in the heads of drivers, this is a disgrace for a city of this size. Greg Turton noted that residents had been told to have patience when the new system for bin collection was introduced in October. However, the patience of residents had been exhausted. Residents of areas such as Farsley and Garforth were saying that they have a wonderful collection. The system was apparently not being applied equally, and collections in Cottingley and Beeston were appalling. He noted that during the recent snow falls , Cross Flatts Grove had been gritted regularly, so that it would have been possible for a large wagon to travel up the street. Bins had been emptied in the stretch of Cross Flatts Grove between Atha Street and Dewsbury Road, but the rest of the road had apparently been left. Robert Winfield said that if the Council Officers responsible for this matter earn what reasonable people could regard as fat cat wages, the least the public are entitled to expect is that the service is delivered properly. Robert Winfield also noted that as the payment of council tax is compulsory, residents do not have the option of withholding payment if the level of service is deficient. John Fenton noted that he had lived in Woodlea Street for 11 years, and noted that only one side of the street had been emptied. He was told that this is because the other side of the street is on a different round.

8.2 Robert Winfield explained that he had an exchange of e mails with Steve Williamson, the Chairman of the PEG Group which is involved with the Investment Strategy for South Leeds. A number of exhibitions had been planned in South Leeds to give members of the public the opportunity to see details of the investment strategy. Robert Winfield explained that the Committee had expressed its concerns that no exhibition was planned for Beeston. Steve Williamson replied that it had been decided not to hold any exhibitions in addition to those planned, and that individuals involved with the Investment Strategy would be keen to attend a Forum meeting, if invited. He added that exhibitions would take place at the White Rose Centre, The Hamara Centre and the Dewsbury Road One Stop Shop and hoped that Beeston residents would attend one of these exhibitions.

8.3 Robert Winfield noted that following the rescheduling of the AGM, the invitations to the normal dignitaries had been reissued. He had been informed that the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Patrick Davey would be able to attend. Councillors Adam Ogilvie and David Congreve had also confirmed their attendance. With regard to the group leaders, Councillor Keith Wakefield confirmed that he is unable to attend as he is attending a governors meeting. He had appointed Councillor Ogilvie to represent the Labour Group. Councillor Andrew Carter , the Leader of the Conservative Group, was also unable to attend and had asked Councillor Barry Anderson to represent the Conservative Group. Robert Winfield had not heard from Councillor Stewart Golton, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group. However, he had informed the group leaders promptly of the postponement and rescheduling of the AGM in order to prevent any representatives of the groups attending under a

misapprehension. Councillor Golton had replied with an e mail saying 'see you then', an apparent reference to the rescheduled AGM.

9. Guest Speakers for 2011- A number of suggestions were put forward for guest speakers as follows:-

- i) a representative of the Investment Partnership for South Leeds
- ii) a representative of Education in Leeds
- iii) a representative of Streetscene
- iv) a representative of the Highways Department
- v) a senior representative of the administration of Leeds City Council
- vi) Rt. Hon Hilary Benn MP
- vii) Representatives of the bus companies and 'Metro'
- viii) Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive of Leeds United FC.
- ix) A speaker dealing with Adult Social Care
- x) A representative of the Fire Service
- xi) A representative of TIGER 11
- Xii) A representative of Groundwork Leeds

With regards to education, it was noted that Chris Edwards had left his position with Education Leeds, and that education would be taken back into the direct control of Leeds City Council. Christine Thornton felt that we should invite the Director of Childrens' Services; Nigel Richardson. Richard Bell suggested that we should also invite the Head Teachers of local schools. Christine Thornton asked how the concept of local schools should be defined; it was noted, for example that South Leeds Academy is outside Beeston but attended by many Beeston residents. She noted that she is a governor of Greenmount School where a number of temporary classrooms had been replaced by executive portakabins, which she described as excellent. John Hodgson suspected that there were not many of these in the north of Leeds. Christine Thornton noted that the extension at Beeston Primary School had almost been finished. Bill Birch noted that Forum members had suggested establishing a primary school alongside Cockburn High School. This had not been done but he noted that three High Schools in Leeds have junior schools next to them. John Hodgson suggested obtaining the most senior representative of Streetscene we can. With regard to Groundwork Leeds, Robert Winfield noted that Emma Rooney, whom he felt had been an excellent speaker, had left Groundwork. He had spoken to the manager, Nico Smith, who explained that Groundwork would be pleased to provide a speaker, if asked. However, Robert Winfield felt that if a speaker is invited, it should only take up a short amount of time alongside a topic taking up more time. Robert Winfield also noted that it is sensible to reserve the September meeting for Hilary Benn MP, as this is the easiest meeting for him to attend. Robert Winfield noted that the referendum on changing the electoral system to the Alternative Vote would be held in May and suggested inviting speakers who are for and against the proposed change so that Forum members can make an informed choice as to how to vote in the referendum. Richard Bell wondered what this has to do with Beeston. John Hodgson felt that this was political. Robert Winfield, however, noted that we had, in the past organised hustings meetings for candidates in elections. If the idea of organising a meeting on the AV referendum is political, he felt that hustings meetings are most certainly political and yet we had done this. The concept of a meeting dealing with the AV referendum was put to a vote and was supported by 13 votes to 7. The remaining speakers were agreed. It was agreed that we should prioritise the police and cleansing, with cleansing hopefully at the March meeting.

10. Police- Sgt Aldred wished Forum members a Happy New Year, and noted that hard work and high visibility had resulted in significant falls in crime. He had brought 48 timer switches which enable lamps which can be fixed to the switches to come on at the times to which the devices can be set. This can give the appearance that a householder is in when the property is, in fact unoccupied. He thanked the members of the Inner South Leeds Area Committee for funding this, and pointed out that there are sufficient timer switches to give two to each person attending the Forum meeting. Christine Thornton wondered whether the Neighbourhood Police Team has lost or is about to lose staff. Sgt Aldred said that it looks promising that no staff will be lost, but noted that some PCSOs are funded by Leeds City Council.