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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum – Agenda Thursday 4th March 2010

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speakers-**
 - i) Mick Wood- West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue service**
 - ii) Representatives of Hadrian Healthcare**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 4th February 2010**
- 5. Correspondence**
- 6. Report of Beeston Village Community Centre Steering Committee**
- 7. To consider and if thought fit pass a resolution to elect Mr Greg Turton to the committee**
- 8. Possible other committee members and changes in officer positions**
- 9. Any Other Business**

Please note that the committee meeting scheduled for 18th February was abandoned when it became clear that any meeting would be inquorate.

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

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.

Attendance:- Mr R. Bell (in the chair in the absence of Christine Thornton and Bill Birch), Sgt. Aldred (West Yorks Police) Mr. D.C Bottomley, Mrs D. Brooke, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mrs H.P. Gregory, D. Johnson, K. Johnson, Miss. P. Johnson, K. Linthead, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M.E. Mason, PCSO Metcalfe (West Yorks Police) Mrs E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie., Mr J. Peckham, J. Peters, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton, Mr.R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. B. Wood

- 1. Chairman's opening remarks-** Richard Bell explained that he is chairing the meeting as neither

Christine Thornton nor Bill Birch are able to be present. He noted that none of the guest speakers had arrived, so he proposed going through the remainder of the agenda.

2. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum on 12th November 2010 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Apologies for absence had been received from Bill Birch, Kathleen Fenton, Councillor Angela Gabriel, John Hodgson, Raymond Nevin and Christine Thornton

4. Matter arising Greg Turton had sent a letter concerning dentistry to Hilary Benn, MP and received a reply which seemed to convey the impression that Mr Turton had been asking about resources in Ardsley and Robin Hood Ward. Greg Turton noted that the PCT are undertaking a review of dentistry before looking at another bid. He wondered whether the Forum should write to the PCT about the terms of reference of the review. . This was agreed. Robert Winfield referred to his own correspondence with Hilary Benn about this issue. He had queried a similar, puzzling reference to Ardsley and Robin Hood in Mr Benn's original letter. He had queried this, and received a further letter from Mr Benn apologising for the fact that NHS Leeds had believed that Robin Hood and Ardsley is in Beeston , Holbeck or Middleton. Mr Benn said that he would be reverting to NHS Leeds to try to get the right information. John Cunningham noted that NHS dentist enquiries are referred to East End Park or the other side of Morley, not to this area.

5. Correspondence. In addition to the letter from Mr Benn, already dealt with, Robert Winfield had received a letter from the Leeds National Union of Teachers confirming that they would be able to provide a speaker at our meeting on 7th October, which will also be addressed by Mr Chris Edwards, the Chief Executive of Education Leeds. They are, however, not in a position to name the speaker, as their Division Secretary, Patrick Murphy, would be pleased to attend but is likely to be attending a National Executive meeting in London. They would confirm the identity of the Speaker nearer the date.

6. Report of Committee meetings-Robert Winfield noted that the meeting on 19th November had been dominated by arrangements for the AGM, which had of course taken place. We had also discussed concerns about the expansion of some primary schools in this area. Concerns were also expressed about the decision to relocate a polling station in Beeston from the car park of the Broadway Hotel to Dewsbury Road Social Club. Most of the meeting held on 21st December had been spent discussing guest speakers for the coming year. Robert Winfield was pleased to inform Forum members of the programme of guest speakers for the remainder of the year as follows:-

March- Mick Wood- West Yorkshire Fire Service

April- Insp Damien Miller- West Yorkshire Police

May- Emma Rooney- Groundwork Leeds

June- Steve Monks- Leeds City Council Highways Department. We are also seeking to invite a speaker dealing with Highways planning issues

July- Councillor Andrew Carter

August- Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive, Leeds United FC

September- Rt. Hon . Hilary Benn MP (subject to his re-election as MP for Leeds Central at the General Election which must take place before the date of the meeting. If some other person is elected as MP for Leeds Central, the invitation would go to the new MP.)

October- Chris Edwards, Chief Executive, Education Leeds and, as just explained, a speaker from Leeds NUT.

November-Charles Donnelly, First Leeds and representatives of Metro. Councillor Ryk Downes intends to attend subject to his reappointment to his role in Metro. Councillor Chris Greaves also

hopes to attend subject to him having no conflicting engagement.

7. Guest Speaker- As Stewart Robinson of International Fun Fairs had arrived, Richard Bell invited him to address the members. Stewart Robinson apologised for being late, but had gone to the wrong building under a misapprehension. He had, by chance, met a member who was attending the Forum meeting and was able to direct him. Issues dealt with included security, the prices of rides, employment opportunities for young people, noise ,traffic and litter. The fact that the organisers of the fair engage with the community was welcomed.

8. Beeston Village Community Centre- Robert Winfield noted that the next meeting of the steering committee would be taking place the following Thursday ; 11th February. He had expressed concerns about the delay since the last meeting had taken place, but had been informed that this was the first day on which a number of key individuals would all be able to attend. He expressed concerns that he had been informed by Pat McGeever, the Director of Health for All (Leeds) that she now favoured an informal document governing the use of the Community Centre rather than the formal constitution. Robert Winfield felt that a formal constitution would provide a more appropriate framework for the resolution of any disputes which might arise, and that in general, the reasons for drawing up a formal constitution still apply. He also said that he continued to support the idea of an Annual General Meeting for the Community Centre.

9. Possible new committee members- Robert Winfield asked anyone who might be interested in serving on the committee to make themselves known. Richard Bell noted that the committee meets once per month, generally two weeks after each Forum meeting. He added that since joining the committee, he had not been asked to do lots of things.

10. Any Other Business-

10.1 Greg Turton referred to what he perceives as the spiral of decay in the area; referring to the state of streets before the recent snowfalls and accumulations of litter. He said that pavements are a patchwork of repairs. He added that we can see the effects of people who do not care, such as flytipping. There had also been 'hideous' repair to a number of buildings, with jobs spilling onto adjacent pavements and not being cleared up by workmen. He added that the Beeston Forum had voted in favour of the principle of a Parish Council , but there had so far been no meeting of the Parish Council Steering Committee. He urged such a meeting to take place as soon as possible. He suggested that the Beeston Forum should be more proactive in dealing with local issues.

10.2 Councillor Adam Ogilvie wondered who has not had their bin emptied this week. Executive Member for Streetscene blamed the situation on the weather; however, the area is a mess. Greg Turton said that issues are being recycled within the Forum and we are seeing no progress. Richard Bell asked whether the things being described are facets of decay or causes of decay. He noted that the streets are a mess as people do not care, and that only a small proportion of Beeston residents attend Forum meetings.

10.3 John Peckham agreed with most of Greg Turton's remarks and observed that opposite Greg Turton's house, there is building work which has resulted in the pavement being covered in rubbish. John Peckham noted that the Forum meeting is dominated by older people, whom, he observed have more time. **When the minutes of this meeting fell due for approval, John Peckham criticised this sentence, arguing that it is 'a bit strong'**

10.4 John Peckham noted that on Cross Flatts Grove, there are more cars down the road than houses, and as a result it is difficult to clean the gutters mechanically. That, he said, does not excuse the council from its responsibilities. Roads should, if necessary , be cleaned manually. John Peckham added that his part of Beeston had never looked worse. Pauline Johnson said that she had spoken to the binmen when they had not been calling on the correct day. She had been told that they had experienced a large number of breakdowns. On one occasion , lorries

had apparently been unable to come down the street as they had been iced up. She wondered whether anyone can look into this.

10.5 Pauline Johnson noted that gritting is being controlled by central government and said that people from London know nothing about what is taking place here. Councillor David Congreve said that local authorities are responsible for gritting roads except for certain trunk roads and motorways where local authorities grit the roads on behalf of the Highways Agency, with the government controlling and paying for the grit. He added that Leeds is one of the best local authorities for winter gritting. David Congreve recalled that he used to work for Bradford Council, and noted that the Leeds roads were gritted whilst vehicles were getting stuck in Bradford. He said that authorities should build salt and grit supplies during the summer. However, year on year, highways authorities generally look for savings and often take it from gritting. Bradford and Wakefield had indeed done this, whilst Leeds maintained its budget. If they have not used the grit which they acquired, they make savings and put the money into highway maintenance. This situation had never presented a problem, as there had been no severe winter until this year. Some local authorities had no grit. Some salt normally goes abroad but the government had stopped this and redirected it to local authorities. Leeds was basically not affected.

10.6 Richard Bell noted that the council had been told to stop gritting roads. David Congreve noted that Leeds has always gritted motorways and trunk roads, as they are paid to do this. They also grit bus routes and certain other routes selected on the basis of a number of criteria. He added that it is no good gritting roads when snow has already fallen. Gritting must take place before snowfalls. He noted that when Labour were in power on Leeds City Council, he had chaired the Direct Services Committee. Gritters had always gone out whenever there is a severe weather warning. Sometimes there was no snow, but this stopped black ice. Leeds traffic flowed better than traffic in other areas. Richard Bell agreed that the state of roads in Bradford is bad.

10.7 It was noted that residents of the Cardinals filled brown bins with litter during the recent strike but there had been no effort to empty them. Richard Bell noted that this is a natural reaction. Adam Ogilvie noted that this issue had been raised by the White Rose Residents Association. Hyacinth Gregory noted that brown bins in her area had been emptied once, and that a brown bin and a green bin on the street at once does not help the look of the area at all.

10.8 Greg Turton suggested that these issues should be raised in a leaflet which would be circulated to all residents of Beeston. Richard Bell agreed with this in principle, but said that there would be a problem delivering the leaflets- there are only a small number of people on the committee. Greg Turton said that if people care about the community, they should be happy to assist. Richard Bell wondered whether people who deliver takeaway leaflets could also deliver the leaflets. Edna Newton felt that recipients should be reminded to put the leaflet in the green bin when they have read it.

10.9 Robert Winfield noted that he had been contacted by John Baron, a local journalist from the Guardian, who was about to start a blog dealing with Leeds, and was interested in the Forum's campaign for a Parish Council for Beeston. He had hoped to attend the meeting currently taking place but had an alternative engagement.

10.10 Edna Newton criticised people throwing bulky items which could be given to charity shops on the street. She was critical of the state of Barkly Road. Richard Bell noted that it is important to report accumulations of litter which are cleaned within three days. David Congreve noted that if a registration number of a vehicle involved in flytipping is noted, the Cleansing Department would prosecute. He noted that a resident of Holbeck had spotted someone using a vehicle to dump rubbish in a toilet yard. The man responsible was prosecuted and also found to be drawing unemployment benefit whilst working for a landlord.

10.11 John Cunningham asked the police about an article dealing with locks on double glazing. Sgt. Aldred said that if someone is intent on getting into premises, they would get in.

Replacement locks, which are harder to get at, can be bought at a price of £30. He suggested making arrangements for John Cockcroft, the Crime Reduction Officer to demonstrate old and new locks. Robert Winfield suggested that he come to the April Forum meeting , when Insp. Damien Miller is the guest speaker.