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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting -Thursday 5th August 2010

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speaker; Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive, Leeds United FC
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 1st. July 2010
5. Correspondence
6. Report of Commit tee meeting - 15th July 2010
7. Raising the profile of the Forum
8. Beeston Village Community Centre
9. Bus Fares
10. Possible organisation of coach trips
11. Streetscene Issues
12. PEG meeting
13. Any Other Business

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 1st July 2010

Attendance:- Mr R. Bell (in the chair in the absence of Christine Thornton), Mr. R. Almond., Mr. W. Birch, Mr. D. Bottomley, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Ms. S Cieslik, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. J. Hodgson, Miss P. Johnson, Mrs. D. Kenny, Mrs. C. Kirk, Mrs E. Newton, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. F. Swift and Mr.R.J.W. Winfield

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Richard Bell explained that as Christine Thornton was unable to attend, he would be chairing the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Kathleen Fenton, Councillors Angela Gabriel and Adam Ogilvie and Christine Thornton
3. Guest Speaker- Richard Bell introduced the guest speaker; Councillor Richard Lewis, Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council .

Issues dealt with included

- the possible development of areas around Elland Road , including the new police station and a possible ice rink
- the possibility of development schemes around the City being put on hold as a result of financial cutbacks

- developments in the City centre, notably the Trinity Development and the possible Eastgate development, possibly resulting in the John Lewis Partnership coming to Leeds
- public transport, including the possible New Generation Transport Scheme, the quality of the current Leeds bus services, and guided busways
- the possible new entrance to Leeds Railway station at the South End
- Highways- particularly the state of Cross Flatts Grove
- the benefits to Holbeck of Holbeck Urban Village

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 3rd June 2010

4.1 Sally Cieslik of SPLASHBACK drew the attention of the meeting to the mis-spelling of her surname in the minutes. Robert Winfield undertook to correct this. She thanked the forum for its donation of £50 which had been used to make a banner which had already been taken on 2 marches. SPLASHBACK had also been featured on television twice. Over 150 people had taken part in a well behaved march, followed by a good rally involving lots of user groups. She noted that South Leeds Sports Centre is still open pending the outcome of the TIGER 11 bid. She added that there is a public consultation meeting involving TIGER 11 at Hillside on 7th July. The next SPLASHBACK meeting would take place on 12th July. This would plan the next stages of the campaign.

4.2 It was noted that Steve Monks had told the last Forum meeting that inspectors would be coming to the area in order to look at certain roads. Robert Winfield confirmed that he had heard nothing from Steve Monks about these inspectors' visits. It was agreed that we ask Steve Monks about this. Bill Birch suggested that we thank Steve Monks for taking action in relation to the surface of Old Lane

4.3 Bill Birch felt that the photograph competition at the Forum's stall at the Beeston Festival had gone well. It was noted that the winner of the competition was Donna Brook. Robert Winfield undertook to contact Donna Brook to inform her that she had won the competition.

4.4 It was agreed to accept the minutes as a fair and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the mis spelling of Sally Cieslik's name.

5. Correspondence-

5.1 Robert Winfield had received a copy of a notice from Leeds City Council drawing attention to the forthcoming closure of Old Lane, in the interests of public safety, in order to carry out road resurfacing work. A diversionary route would be provided via Millshaw, the Ring Road and Dewsbury Road. The notice stated that the roadworks would start on 28th June for a period of five weeks , and that a further notice would be required within the next 21 days in order to keep the closure in place for the required period. It was noted that the start of the closure had been delayed to 5th July. Robert Winfield wondered what provision had been made for vehicles requiring access to Old Lane (such as those belonging to local residents). No indication of such provision had been given in the notice. Bill Birch noted that signs in the area stated that the closure would apply only on weekdays between 9.30 a.m and 3.30p.m. Robert Winfield noted that Steve Monks of the Leeds City Council Highways Department had been the guest speaker at the June Forum meeting. Although concerns about the road surface on parts of Old Lane had been aired, no indication of the closures had been given.

5.2 Robert Winfield had received a leaflet from Arrow Coach Travel Limited giving details of Group Coach Travel. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum no longer runs coach trips to seaside resorts because of the increased costs of coach travel. It was agreed that he

would make enquiries of the company with a view to establishing the costs of hiring a coach

- 5.3 Robert Winfield had received a letter from Kathryn Hilliam; Head of Primary Care Contracting and Performance for Leeds NHS , who pointed out that Leeds NHS is not currently undertaking a review of NHS Primary Care Dental services; however they do and will continue to monitor patient access to NHS Primary Dental Care Services through the NHS Leeds Dental advice line . She added that NHS Leeds undertook a city wide review of NHS Dental Services in 2009 and secured an additional 20000 dental places across Leeds through an open procurement process. Patients requiring an NHS dentist should contact the Leeds Dental Advice Line on 0800 2985787.
- 5.4 Robert Winfield had received a letter from John Mulcahy, Head of the Leeds City Council Licencing and Registration Department in response to our complaint about the relocation of the polling station from the Broadway Hotel Car Park to Dewsbury Road Social Club. He explained that he had spoken to Mr Alex Meek, the Electoral Services Manager about this matter. Alex Meek would be raising this matter on our behalf with local ward councillors and senior councillors from the main political groups. Alex Meek would be contacting us directly about this matter to keep us informed of progress. Robert Winfield pointed out that Leeds Central Conservatives, of which he is the Chairman, had recently passed a resolution adopting a similar position to that of the Forum in relation to this matter.
- 5.5 Robert Winfield had had an internet discussion with Councillor Gareth Beevers of Morley Town Council regarding suggestions that we should place our campaign for a Parish Council for Beeston on hold in view of the current economic situation. Gareth Beevers made the points that if the campaign is put on hold it might be forgotten about, and also made the point that when Morley Town Council was formed in 2000, the Council tax was only £8 per annum. Robert Winfield said that he would liase with Councillor Beevers and the Parish Council Steering Committee with a view to fixing a meeting at which these issues can be discussed.
6. Report of Committee meeting held on 17th June 2010. Richard Bell reported that South Leeds Sports Centre had been discussed and that he had told the committee that he was aware from friends that gym prices had been increased and that the centre had been closed to new members. He suspected that there was an attempt to close the centre bit by bit. Sally Cieslik said that the marketing of the sports centre had ceased , and that this had taken place the last time there had been an attempt to close the sports centre. She added that swimming lessons are oversubscribed. She added that under the National Curriculum, all Primary School children should be able to swim one length. Richard Bell added that there had also been a discussion about the Beeston Festival stall, at which we had handed out a newsletter. The Committee meeting had also discussed a letter relating to our objections to the relocation of the polling station. It had also been noted that Robert Winfield had replied to an e mail from Mr Nigel Roberts, who had objected to the Beeston Forum involving itself in issues relating to the area around Elland Road which Mr Roberts considers to be part of Holbeck, not Beeston. Robert Winfield pointed out that he had received no further communication from Mr Roberts. John Peckham said that the pictures accompanying Bill Birch's quiz had created a considerable amount of interest; many people had been attracted to the stall by the photographs.
7. Raising the Profile of the Forum- There was a brief discussion about the Beeston Citizen of the Year competition. Richard Bell felt that we need to be clear about the nomination process, the selection process and the prize, as well as how we exploit the competition for the good of the Forum. Richard Bell said that he would send out a number of specific ideas for consideration by the committee. There was a discussion about the production of posters

publicising the Forum. Richard Bell pointed out that posters are restricted to A4 size as many shops will not display larger posters. He agreed that it would be appropriate to resume the practice of publicising the Forum by these means; Robert Winfield undertook to send details of the next Forum meeting.

8. Any Other Business- A member of the audience said that weeds in the back streets of the Cross Flatts Area and the Marsdens are horrendous. As a result of the weeds not being sprayed, some are around 3ft high. It was said that the area resembles a botanical garden! Richard Bell noted the incidence of nettles close to his garden. He wondered which Council Department is responsible for this situation. Robert Winfield praised the appearance of the newsletters produced by Richard Bell for the Beeston Festival, saying that they were better than the newsletters which he had produced. Richard Bell stressed the importance of getting the message right.

9. Police issues- John Fenton praised the 'excellent' police newsletter, which had been circulated to Forum members at the meeting. Sgt Aldred, of West Yorkshire Police confirmed that the police are willing to assist with the distribution of any leaflets which the Forum may wish to circulate amongst residents of Beeston.

Sgt Aldred pointed out that he is pleased with the performance of Holbeck NPT, saying that the number of offences is 544 down on the similar figure this time last year. He noted that the City and Holbeck division has 480 crimes. He noted that the biggest task is Anti Social Behaviour, which is the biggest issue for many residents. Sgt Aldred noted that if Anti Social Behaviour is reported, the minimum the complainant would get is a telephone call from the police. He added that complaints are dealt with in the same way, regardless of the method of communicating the complaint. The police create a log from a report of Anti Social Behaviour. He also added that there is a reduction of 7% in the number of calls. He said that there is still room for improvement, but better than before. Mary Mason referred to a number of youths who had kicked balls at Jim Reed House, causing some of the letters spelling out the name 'Jim Reed House' to fall off. Richard Bell said that youths should be able to play football at the Multi Use Games Area, but this had been locked up, making this a waste of money.

A member of the audience asked whether there is any law against 'ghetto blasters'. Sgt Aldred referred to noise pollution laws but noted that under these laws the nuisance must be sustained and repeated. He noted that he has requested people to turn down large music, and threaten to arrest them for breach of the peace if the music is turned back up again. Bill Birch said that there is no reference in the newsletter to a drug related nuisance, referring to the fact that a number of instances of drug dealing had recently been reported to the police. Sgt Aldred said that all information about drug dealing is assessed and reports had been passed to the appropriate unit to get warrants, and added that the newsletter is about Anti Social Behaviour. A drug problem, he said, is a crime problem. John Cunningham said that the government had announced that it is stopping league tables and priorities and wondered whether the local priorities would be affected. Sgt Aldred said that prior to the policing pledge, police forces had simply been producing figures; for example, the number of people being locked up, the number of people being stopped and searched. This did not lead to people being safe, and the government had reached the conclusion that such figure chasing does not work. He added that an officer walking in the street raises confidence in a way in which a policeman driving around in a car does not. He said that Neighbourhood Policing Teams get police back on the beat and PCSOs are 'fantastic'. He feared that some police jobs would go as a result of the financial situation. He added that police officers are sometimes tied up with people who had been arrested; there is always something that drops in their lap, so that PCSOs are the main point of contact for members of the public. John Peckham said that PCSOs do a good job.

