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## **BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM**

### **Beeston Forum General Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speakers- Councillor Keith Wakefield, Leader, Leeds City Council (please note that Shaun Harvey, who had been due to be a guest speaker is unable to attend due to a meeting in London)**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012**
- 5. Report from the police**
- 6. Any Other Business (please note that Correspondence and the report of the Committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 will either be taken in any other business or deferred, depending on time)**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Attendance:- Mr G. Turton (in the chair for most of the meeting in the absence of Christine Thornton, Richard Bell and Bill Birch), Mr. R. Almond, Sgt. J. Arrowsuch (West Yorkshire Police), Mrs. D. Brooke, PCSO A. Cockayne (West Yorkshire Police), Councillor D. Congreve, D. Craven, Mr. S. Crawford, Mrs. G. Crawford, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. J. Hook, R. Hudson, Miss. P. Johnson, Mrs. D. Kenny, Mr. A. Kirby, Mrs. C. Kirk, Mrs. E. Lister, Mr. G. M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason, Miss. E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. R. Pavarotti- Hunt, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. F. Swift and Mr. R. J. W. Winfield

1. Opening Remarks and the Chairmanship of the meeting. Robert Winfield pointed out that he was the only officer of the Forum able to be present at the meeting and that it therefore fell to him to welcome members to the meeting and thank them for their attendance. He noted that Christine Thornton was hosting her family from Germany, Bill Birch was in Switzerland on business and Richard Bell was working in Preston on Wednesdays and Thursdays and was therefore having difficulty in returning to Leeds in time for the meeting. Other apologies for absence were received from Kathleen Fenton and Councillor Angela Gabriel. Robert Winfield then introduced the Guest Speakers; Dave Pearson from Metro, who had attended Forum meetings in the past although Metro had more recently been represented at Forum meetings by Neil Holt, who has now retired. The other guest speaker is Graham Riley whom, Robert Winfield noted had attended the Forum meeting in November 2011. Robert Winfield noted that he had given careful thought to whether he should chair the remainder of the meeting and had concluded that this would not be appropriate, because of the risk that his ability to take minutes would be undermined. Robert Winfield therefore proposed that Greg Turton take the chair for the remainder of the meeting. This was put to the meeting and agreed, whereupon Robert Winfield invited Greg Turton to join him on the top table and take the chair of the remainder of the meeting. Greg Turton welcomed those present and thanked them for turning out on such a bad evening. He noted that the guest speakers represent the transport providers for our city

#### **2. Guest Speakers-**

2.1 Dave Pearson recognised that members of the Forum would not want to listen to the guest speakers speaking, but instead expected them to listen and respond to the issues. He noted that Robert Winfield had given him some indication of the issues which are of interest to Forum members; notably the lack of a bus service on Wesley Street and the punctuality of bus services. Dave Pearson sought to clarify the roles which the guest speakers have. He noted that Dave Pearson represents Metro, which local residents pay for through their Council Tax. Metro is a part of local government. It coordinates bus services but does not actually run buses. Metro does, however, pay for some bus services; those which are deemed to be socially necessary and would not run on a commercial basis. These bus services are run under contract to Metro. The majority of bus services are operated by commercial companies such as First and Arriva. Metro also operates the

concessionary fares scheme under which Old Age Pensioners travel free whilst young people travel at reduced fares. He noted that Metro spends a lot of time speaking to First Leeds. He said that his role here is to listen to members, to explain issues and to take back points and ideas.

2.2 Graham Riley said that members of the Forum deserve a medal for coming out on a night like this! He was grateful to be reminded that he last attended a Forum meeting last November. He recalled that on that occasion, he spoke about new buses. He noted that First has been appointed as the transport provider for the forthcoming Olympic Games. A number of vehicles which will be used for this purpose will come to Yorkshire after the Olympics have finished. They would, indeed join the no1 bus route in October. The new buses are currently being prepared for use at the Olympics; Graham Riley noted that First are anxious to get this right as the world will be watching us. After the buses have been used for a three week period over the Olympics, the buses will be dispersed around the country with 98 coming to Leeds.

Graham Riley recalled that the attitude of some bus drivers was criticised at the last Forum meeting which he attended. He noted that he works from Hunslet Park Garage, out of which operates the no1 and no 64 bus services, as well as the services which operate along Dewsbury Road. He noted that First is a massive operation with 222 buses and 432 drivers. Graham Riley acknowledged that as Hunslet Park is a large operation First do not always listen to concerns as they should. Graham Riley added that this is why he is at the present meeting.

Graham Riley noted that following the previous meeting of the Forum which he had attended, he had taken the comments about the attitude of some bus drivers back with him. However, he had failed to convince the network planners of the need to reintroduce a bus service along Wesley Street and was still pressing them about this issue.

First had formulated a plan to deal with drivers whom he acknowledged were not always friendly and helpful. First had developed a 'toolbox talk' which involves five points which each driver should take on board. Drivers should listen to and wait for passengers, and wait for them to be seated. Graham Riley noted that 267 briefings had been completed. First plan to check that driver are complying with the requirements. If they do not, First would inform the drivers. If the drivers fail on the second occasion, First would deal with the matter in a different way. Graham Riley said that we are not there yet but First have started on a journey to make things better. Graham Riley said that it is First's aim to make buses reliable with timetables to which the buses actually operate.

2.3 The meeting then opened up to questions from the audience. Amongst issues raised were the conduct of drivers, the reliability of the no 64 service, the carriage of pushchairs on buses, the practice of buses running 'out of service', the possible introduction of quality contracts, the depositing of rubbish on buses, bus stops in Morley, the absence of a bus service along Wesley Street and bus services between Beeston and Cottingley

3. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence- Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Brian Pine, the facilities manager of Health for All (Leeds) explaining the action taken in relation to various issues relating to Beeston Village Community Centre, which were identified at a recent Users' Committee meeting. The hob has been inspected and needs a gas fitter, which is being arranged. With regard to the hot water boiler, the heating is being changed in the pavilion which will release a hot water boiler to fit in BVCC. He is waiting for a manual for a lock on the door which will allow the code to be changed. The plumbing company is coming out today to sort out the toilet and to put the camera down. The boxes of cleaning items have been removed from the boiler room and placed in the store room. Two lockable cupboards in the hallway by the toilets will be put in the kitchen behind the door on top of each other replacing the existing tall unit, so two groups can have separate storage for pots and pans. Lynne Bailey's son is quoting a price for new built in cupboards that will allow the move to take place. John Hardy will deal with the graffiti on roller shutters. With regard to new tables, the price has to be sourced and the go ahead given to purchase them. Bran Pine added that he is still waiting for additional bins and is chasing Veolia to supply them.

5. Report of the Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Greg Turton reported that the committee had discussed the proposed Park and Ride Scheme and the campaign which would be organised against the proposal. A newsletter had been prepared and would be available at the Beeston Festival which will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. There was also a discussion about the delay in consideration in the planning applications by Asda and Tesco for new stores on Old Lane. It was noted that the committee cannot understand why the delay is taking place and all sorts of reasons were being given.

6. Planning Applications by Asda and Tesco. Robert Winfield recalled that the last Forum meeting had decided in principle to hold a Special General Meeting of the Forum which would discuss the planning applications. Robert Winfield noted that it had initially appeared as though the planning applications would be determined at the meeting of Plans Panel East which had taken place earlier in the day. If that had actually happened, the present meeting would have considered a resolution to cancel it. However, Robert Winfield explained that the determination of the planning applications would be further delayed, making a meeting later in June viable. The Special General meeting had been arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> June, as explained on the

agenda sheets for the meeting. Deborah Hayeems of Tesco would attend, as would Richard Anderson, of Anderson Communications, which is assisting Asda in connection with its planning application. Robert Winfield noted that it had been his understanding that Philip Bartram of Asda would be unable to attend as a result of a conflicting engagement but Robert Winfield later learned that he is seeking to rearrange his diary so that he would be able to attend. Robert Winfield noted that he had also invited representatives of the Leeds City Council Development Department, and Colliers International, whose report is understood to be the cause in the delay in determining the planning application. He was disappointed not to have received a reply from either of these organisations. In connection with Colliers International, it is the Forum's understanding that their report is the cause of the delay in the planning application being determined; if they do not agree with this view, let them say so.

John Hodgson noted a meeting of the Development Panel, chaired by Councillor Neil Taggart, which includes no councillor who represents this area, had discussed the Colliers International report. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting stated that Colliers International had told the meeting that their report had made no comment about Old Lane. Councillor David Congreve clarified that the Development Panel deals with planning policy, but that decisions about planning applications are taken by the Plans Panel (East) and Plans Panel (West). He noted that councillors from this area serve on the Committee. David Congreve stressed that he would not wish to comment the planning applications or the delay as he would wish to avoid saying anything which might be deemed prejudicial and would therefore disqualify him from voting on the planning applications. However Greg Turton wondered whether he could take back our comments about not receiving a reply from the Development Department. David Congreve said that there would be no problem in him doing this. .

7. Beeston Festival Stall- Greg Turton noted that Forum members would be helping on the stall which would be set up from 10 a.m on Saturday morning. Volunteers would be required. A number of newsletters explaining our opposition to the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme, and publicising the forthcoming Special General Meeting were being printed and would be given out on the stall. Robert Winfield asked whether anyone is aware of the whereabouts of the Forum banner. John Fenton said he had this. Greg Turton would come to Cross Flatts Park with the newsletters at 10.30 a.m

8. Crawford's Fish Shop, Dewsbury Road. Greg Turton noted that the Forum had been contacted by Steve Crawford, the co-owner of Crawford's Fish Shop, Dewsbury Road, about difficulties which have been caused vehicles parked in the vicinity of his business. Arthur Kirby had raised the matter at the last meeting of the Forum Committee. There are a variety of issues including vehicles parking in front of his shop or long periods. This undermines the business which is dependent not just on local trade but on passing trade which is suffering. Additionally, articulated lorries park outside the shop, blocking daylight to the shop. Often, the drivers of these vehicles are using the sandwich shop on the opposite side of the road, not the fish shop. Furthermore, the parking had made potato deliveries to the shop difficult. Greg Turton noted that he, Arthur Kirby and Robert Winfield had met Steve Crawford, whose preferred solution to the problem was a restriction on car parking to a maximum of half an hour. Subsequently, Robert Winfield produced a draft letter to the Leeds City Council Highways Department which he had given to Steve Crawford for his consideration.

Steve Crawford said that he would prefer parking to be restricted to be 30 minutes, with a 'no return' period. He would not wish to see double yellow lines as this could undermine his business. He noted that one issue is the hairdressers shop two doors down from his business. The biggest offenders are people helping out at the shop who park outside the fish shop for 4-5 hours and defend their action on the basis that they pay road tax. Arthur Kirby wondered whether this is also affecting Bal Newsagents. Steve Crawford said that they are having similar problems, and noted that it is not just deliverers but also elderly and disabled people who are having difficulties in parking. Councillor Adam Ogilvie said that he would be happy to come and see the problem for himself, and get Highways Officers to visit Mr Crawford's business. He asked when is the problem at its worst. Steve Crawford said that this is on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. A member of the audience wondered how the parking restrictions advocated by Mr Crawford would be enforced. David Congreve said that Highways Officers should have a look at the situation. Steve Crawford pointed out that he had approached the Highways Department but they did not want to know. Greg Turton noted that Mr Crawford had contacted the Highways Department in October 2011. Steve Crawford said that the Highways Department had told him that a solution would cost too much as it is not in the budget. Robert Winfield said that he would make two amendments to the draft letter; to remove a reference to double yellow lines as a possible solution and to include a reference to the difficulties caused to potato deliveries. Robert Winfield pointed out that he is a regular customer of Mr and Mrs Crawford's shop.

9. The Police- Sgt Jonathan Arrowsuch noted that Insp Paul Akerman had been in correspondence with the Forum. Sgt Arrowsuch noted that there is a new supervisory team in charge of Holbeck NPT although the officers covering the area (PCSOs and constables) have not changed. Sgt. Arrowsuch noted that the police would welcome more involvement from community groups. He noted that when members of the public ring call centres, it is often too late for the police to deal with the problem which is reported when it is fed through to them. Sgt Arrowsuch hoped that a sergeant would be present at a Forum meeting nine times out of ten, and that a police officer would be present at all meetings. He stressed that the police would want to be at the meetings and take problems complaints and other issues away with them. He noted that two hours is a big chunk out of the police day. He hoped that it would be possible to include the police as an agenda item at future Forum meetings. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum Committee had decided to do just that, and noted that the police is an

agenda item at the meeting currently taking place.

Sgt Arrowsuch gave an update about crime. Since the last meeting, there had been five acquisitive crimes (burglary, theft of or from cars or from sheds). This is not ideal but not outrageous either. Three crimes are classed as 'Burglary Other' from industrial premises. A workshop had been targeted. There had been one theft from a motor vehicle (an industrial vehicle). There was one theft from a person, involving a run by when a wallet was stolen. He urged members of the public to put money in their wallet indoors rather than present an opportunity for criminals. Sgt Arrowsuch noted that he is now in charge of the police newsletter which is produced every month. There had been a multi national multi faith event to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM the Queen. Sgt Arrowsuch intended to hold one meeting every six weeks to which representatives of all community groups in the area would be invited. He was finding that a lot of equipment and facilities are not being shared around the area.

Sgt Arrowsuch noted that the Payback scheme, which involves offenders undertaking work in the community in order to give something back after their crimes, was now in use. Offenders have been engaging in litterpicking and tidying up in Hunslet. He added that the police had seized thousands of pounds worth of drugs and cracked a drugs network in Holbeck and Beeston. Two individuals are back in prison whilst three more individuals are waiting to appear in court. In addition £35000 worth of sound equipment had been stolen from a wagon. Police found this in the garage of someone who intended to sell it; two people are now on bail as a result of this matter. Sgt Arrowsuch noted that the police now have an e mail address and are also on facebook and twitter. Messages can be sent to the police by all these means. It is also hoped that the police will set up a direct line number by the time of the next Forum meeting. Groups had said that the police are difficult to contact; it will then be possible to contact the police without going through a switchboard. Someone would be at this phone permanently. In response to a question from the audience Sgt. Arrowsuch said that it would still be possible for members of the public to phone the 101 non emergency number, but it would take one hour to get through. The call is likely to be dealt with in another town; a telephonist then decides which department to pass the matter to. By the time this filters to the police, it may be too late.

John Hook pointed out that there is a problem on Gipsy Lane with speeding traffic. He wondered what the contact number for the PCSOs is; adding that he had spoken to PCSO Kirsty Johnson about this issue. He noted that the police are getting a speeding device but he wondered whether we would need to see a child knocked down before action is taken. He had asked for a 20 mph speed limit on Gipsy Lane, but noted that a traffic survey had been carried out on a Sunday, when traffic was relatively light. John Hook described this as ridiculous. Arthur Krby said that the worst time for traffic on Gipsy Lane is tea time. John Hook said that Thursday and Friday afternoons are bad as people are going to the golf course to book tee off times. Greg Turton noted that the Forum would need to find a representative for the Committee envisaged by Sgt. Arrowsuch.

#### 10 Any Other Business

10.1 Robert Winfield noted that the latest edition of South Leeds Life Magazine had just been published; he had brought a supply of the magazines to the meeting; Forum members are welcome to help themselves

10.2 Eleanor Lister noted that a man had recently collapsed in Cross Flatts Park. It was impossible for an ambulance to gain access to Cross Flatts Park as the park gates on Dewsbury Road had been locked. She wondered whether the gates can be unlocked during the day. Adam Ogilvie noted that there had been problems with cars which could drive down the paths in the park. He wondered whether the problem might be addressed by leaving a key to the gates at the ambulance Depot. Eleanor Lister noted that the gates at Middleton Park are not locked during the day. Adam Ogilvie said that he would raise the issue with Friends of Cross Flatts Park who had been instrumental in getting the gates locked and will report back.

10.3 Pauline Johnson said that she had been impressed by Russell Martin, who was the guest speaker at the previous meeting. She noted that the problem with road markings, which she had raised at that Forum meeting, had been solved the following day.