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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Community Forum General Meeting- 6th January 2011

Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest Speakers:-
 - a) Stewart Robinson, International Fun Fairs
 - b) Matt Magee- Corporate Affairs Manager, Tesco Stores Limited
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 4th November 2010
5. Correspondence
6. Report of Committee meetings - 18th November 2010 and 16th December 2010
7. Beeston Village Community Centre
8. Invitations to Guest Speakers – 2011
9. The AGM
10. Any Other Business

Notice is hereby given that as it was impossible, due to weather conditions to hold the AGM of the Forum on the originally intended date, 2nd December 2010, the Annual General Meeting of the Forum will now take place at 7.30p.m on Thursday 3rd February 2011 at Beeston Village Community Centre. The meeting will, as usual, be followed by a buffet. Officers and members of the Committee wishing to remain in office are required to seek re-election. The committee would be delighted to hear from any residents of Beeston who are interested in serving on the Committee (which generally meets monthly, two weeks after meetings of the Forum). Anyone with any queries is welcome to ask any committee member.

Notice is hereby given that the Forum will meet at Beeston Village Community Centre at 7.30p.m on each of the following dates during 2011

3rd February 2011 (the revised AGM)
3rd March 2011
7th April 2011
12th May 2011
2nd June 2011
7th July 2011

4th August 2011
1st September 2011
6th October 2011
3rd November 2011
1st December 2011 (the AGM)

These dates are subject to alteration in accordance with the provisions of the Beeston Forum Constitution.

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

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Sgt. Aldred (West Yorkshire Police), Mr. R. Bell, , Mr.W.J.Birch , Mr D.C. Bottomley, Mrs. D. Brooke Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Mr. J. Cunningham, Mr. J. Fenton, Mrs S. Gawthorpe, Mr. J. Hodgson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr R. Kitson, Mrs. J. Lowe, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs M. Mason, PCSO Metcalfe (West Yorkshire Police), Mrs E. Newton, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mr. A Pointon, Mrs T. Pointon, Mr. B. Stevens, Mrs C. Stevens, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton , Mrs B. Walton, Mrs N. Watkis and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton thanked the members present for their attendance on a wild and windy night.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Katleen Fenton and Councillors David Congreve, Angela Gabriel and Adam Ogilvie.

3. Guest Speakers- Christine Thornton introduced the guest speakers; Charles Donnelly of First Leeds and Neil Holt of the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority 'Metro'. She pointed out that Robert Winfield had compiled a letter detailing the concerns of Forum members about bus services, and sent this to Charles Donnelly and Neil Holt.

Charles Donnelly said that it is nice to see Forum members again, and thanked the Forum for its invitation. He noted that on every occasion on which he has visited the Forum , the level of fares is of concern to Forum members. He pointed out that the level of fares is also a matter of concern to First Leeds, which, he said, does not like to increase fares, which he says has a negative effect on First's business, but there is a need to cover costs. This need must be balanced with the aim of providing a viable service.

The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Amongst issues which were raised are

- fares- in particular criticism that First's £1.70 fare was increased to £1.90 with little advanced publicity , and that this area has amongst the highest bus fares per mile in Leeds
- Quality Partnerships and Quality Contracts
- the possible introduction of a scheme similar to Oyster cards in London
- the effects of what is considered by Metro to be wasteful competition
- the recent introduction, by First of simplified fares
- the severing of the bus connection between Beeston and Cottingley
- the withdrawal of all bus services along Wesley Street and the fact that out of service buses still travel along Wesley Street
- the bunching of buses on the 1 and 74 routes
- litter on buses
- the reliability of the no 1 service
- the trolleybus scheme and fears that if this abandoned, there would have been significant abortive public expenditure.
- Improvements to the rail network including the possibility of new stations at Apperley Bridge and Kirkstall Forge and the possible introduction of longer trains on the Leeds to Harrogate route.

4. The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 7th October were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence:-

5.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Shaun Harvey , Chief Executive of Leeds United FC, explaining that the new Centenary Pavilion is now operational. He wondered whether members of the Forum had any issues in relation to the Pavilion. He added that the official opening of the pavilion would take place on Wednesday. He would extend an invitation to 10 members of the Forum to attend this. There would be a champagne reception at 7p.m followed by a dinner at 8p.m. The dress code is strictly collar and tie for men. Robert Winfield said that he would attend, although he had advised Shaun Harvey that he would arrive late as a result of his attendance at a prior meeting. Greg Turton indicated that he would attend , although no other Forum members indicated a wish to attend. Bill Birch noted that the notice had been somewhat short, whilst Christine Thornton pointed out that she would be on holiday.

5.2 Robert Winfield said that he had written to Mark Atkinson of Leeds City Council, with a copy to the three Beeston and Holbeck Councillors , to express concerns about the lighting in the area of the community centre. Robert Winfield said that Mr Atkinson had been good enough to visit the area immediately before the Forum meeting, to see the problem for himself. He had pointed out that the footpaths which are poorly lit are in the ownership either of Education Leeds or Leeds Leisure Services, and that the erection of a lighting column would need the permission of, and funding from the relevant organisation. Robert Winfield pointed out that Councillor Adam Ogilvie, who was unable to be present at the meeting had e mailed Mr Atkinson to express support for the Forum's views. Robert Winfield said that he is grateful for this support and added that Adam Ogilvie had asked to be kept informed about the discussions which were taking place.

6. Tesco Planning Application

6.1 Christine Thornton pointed out that the committee had resolved that Bill Birch would draft a letter setting out a number of concerns about the plans. She noted that there have been substantial concerns about traffic, although she said that we all have our opinions about Tesco. Christine Thornton read the draft letter the main points of which are:-

- i) Beeston Forum is not opposed to the development in principle , but feels that the developer has not demonstrated that the application will not lead to significant adverse environmental impacts for residents living near the proposed store nor for commutes regularly using Old Lane
- ii) The development will inevitably generate a great deal extra traffic on what is already a busy route. The supporting documentation should have included a detailed base line study of the current traffic flow per hour using Old Lane on working days at peak commuter times , at other less busy times, and at weekends. It should have included some reasonable assessment of the traffic flow likely to be caused as a direct result of the development and what mitigation measures can be taken to reduce the impact
- iii) The supporting documentation should have included a detailed base line study of the current noise in the vicinity of Old Lane on working days at peak commuter times , at other less busy times, and at weekends. It should have included some reasonable assessment of the noise levels likely to be caused as a direct result of the development and what mitigation measures can be taken to reduce the impact
- iv) Is the application to trade seven days a week between 8a.m and 11p.m. If so the forum remains to be convinced that this is not excessive in a residential area
- v) The Forum understands that there is a restrictive covenant in place which prevents Sunday trading on the site. Is this true?

Bill Birch stressed that we are not necessarily against the development but if we miss the deadline, which is the following day, we are out of the loop. When representatives of Tesco visited the Forum, they did not bring the planning application with them. We are now saying that Tesco needs to consult us . If we agree with the planning application now, we have no bargaining chips. Bill Birch noted that he has experience of planning applications, and said that he is disappointed by Tesco's application. It says how good a shop it would be for them , but says nothing about noise and traffic. They said that they had demonstrated that there would not be excessive noise and traffic, but they had not provided evidence of this. A member of the audience asked what about the pluses; in particular the jobs which would be created. Christie Thornton noted that Tesco had said that preference for the new jobs would be given to local people meeting the relevant job specification. She added that Matt Magee,

Tesco's Corporate Affairs Manager would be attending the January Forum meeting as a guest speaker. She noted that if we do not lodge the objection, the planning application would be a fete accomplish. She added that the speakers at the September Forum meeting were not actually from Tesco, only from a PR company which is representing them. It was noted that Netto and the Co-op open on Sundays. Richard Bell pointed out that the letter, as drafted, only seeks clarification of a number of points. Pauline Johnson said that she is certain that the Tesco store, if built, would kill the Co-op. She noted that the Co-op has recently purchased Somerfield. She noted that the Co-op is required as a result of this takeover to dispose of a number of stores and feared that the Beeston store would be one of them. This, in turn would lead to Beeston shopping centre effectively moving away, to the inconvenience of local residents. John Hodgson said that he is not opposed in principle to the Tesco site and noted that the area needs extra shops. However, he asked where are the greengrocers and butchers that we used to have. He said that a little competition does no one harm. He expressed criticism of Tesco for holding a consultation meeting at a church on Malvern Road. He said that over the past 15 years, consultation meetings about proposed developments in Beeston had taken place outside the area, at places such as St Matthews and Tempest Road. The objection gives a chance for local people to raise genuine objections. We should also seek to obtain money for the area through section 106 agreements. He agreed that the area needs jobs. Robert Winfield said that he would support the sending of the letter with enthusiasm. Greg Turton said that there had been some concerns about deliveries to the new store. Christine Thornton pointed out that this is addressed in the letter. A member of the audience wondered whether Asda had crept in through the back door through Netto. It was noted that any alterations to the existing Netto store would require planning permission. Robert Winfield pointed out that he had e mailed Asda to ask what their plans are for the existing Netto store, asking, in particular whether unsubstantiated rumours that Asda plan to demolish the existing Netto store and build a new store on land to the rear of the present store are true. Robert Winfield had not received a reply to these points nor to our invitation to Asda to attend the January Forum meeting. John Hodgson noted that Asda's takeover of Netto would need to go to the competition commission. It was unanimously agreed to send the letter of objection, which would be in the name of Christine Thornton, as drafted.

7. Report of the Committee meeting held on 21st October 200. Christine Thornton noted that the meeting had been dominated by discussion of the Tesco planning application.

8. Beeston Village Community Centre. It was noted that there is nothing to report.

9. The website- Robert Winfield explained that as a result of a change of software supplier, the address of the website had changed to www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum's letterhead had been altered to reflect this change; however the agenda for the present meeting had been prepared before this change was implemented. There is a forwarder in place so that anyone typing in the old web address is directed to the new address, but this will only work until the end of 2011. Robert Winfield said that the design of the new site is better than that of the old site.

10. The newsletter. Christine Thornton said that a draft of the forum newsletter, which the police had agreed to distribute, had been checked by members of the committee and agreed.

11. Any Other Business. Sandra Burton said that charity bags which appeared to come from Macmillan Cancer Relief had been circulated in the area. She pointed out that it had been reported on the radio that this is a scam and that Macmillan do not, in fact collect in this way.