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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting -Thursday 7th October 2010

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Guest Speakers, Chris Edwards, Education Leeds and Tim Hales, National Union of Teachers**
4. **Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum on 2nd September 2010**
5. **Correspondence**
6. **Report of Committee meeting - 16th September 2010**
7. **Raising the profile of the Forum**
8. **Beeston Village Community Centre**
9. **PEG meeting**
10. **Any Other Business**

Minutes of the Beeston Community Forum meeting held on Thursday 2nd September 2010

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Sgt. Aldred (West Yorkshire Police) Mr R. Almond, Mr. R. Bell, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mrs M. Burrow, Mr. K. Burton, Mrs S. Burton, Councillor D. Congreve, Mr. J. Cunningham, Councillor A. Gabriel, S. Gawthorpe, I Goldern, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mrs. J. Hodgson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. R. Kitson, Mrs. E. Lister, Mrs. J. Lowe, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs. M. Mason. PCSO Metcalfe, (West Yorkshire Police), Mrs E. Newton, Councillor A. Ogilvie, Mr. M. Parry, Mr. J. Peckham, Mrs P. Senior, Mr. G. Turton, Mrs. M. Turton, Mrs. B. Walton, Dr. D. Watkis, Mrs N. Watkis, Mr. G. Williams, Mr. R.J.W. Winfield and Mr. R. Wood.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks- Christine Thornton welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance on a nice summer evening.
2. Apologies for absence. None were notified
3. Guest Speaker- Christine Thornton introduced John Quinton-Barber of IPB Communications, which is acting on behalf of Tesco Stores Limited in relation to proposals by Tesco to build a store on Old Lane Beeston. He was accompanied by Chris Varley of DPP Planning and Dave Stegsted of Mouchelle, who would be dealing with the highways issues raised by the proposed store.
 - 3.1 John Quinton Barber thanked Christine Thornton and Robert Winfield for accommodating him at short

notice. He described Tesco's plans for a store on Old Lane

3.2 John Quinton Barber dealt with the actual proposals for the store. The new Tesco would have a full range of goods including meat, delicatessen, and small electrical goods. It would be Tesco's aim to provide lower prices and more choice. It would be a medium sized store which would provide 120 new jobs and breathe new life into a key site. It would be a state of the art eco store.

3.3 John Quinton Barber displayed a map of the area surrounding the proposed location of the store. There would be car parking to the north of the store, including parking for the disabled. Access to the store would be through Moorhouse Avenue. There would also be new pedestrian access with a pedestrian crossing opposite. All deliveries would be around the back of the store. He stressed that the design has to be right for the area, and had been advised that this is crucial. The store would have a sustainable design with an attractive timber frame canopy. The store would also have a unique identity with elements designed specifically for Beeston. Trees which are already on the site of the building would be retained. John Quinton Barber displayed a photograph of how the new store would look. The store would emit 50% less carbon than stores built four years ago.

3.4 John Quinton Barber addressed the issue of Highways and Transportation. It is hoped that the new store, if built, would increase the number of people who are able to walk to their weekly shop. There would be high quality provision for pedestrians, cyclists and bus users. A number of bus routes serve the site and there would be more shopping choice, potentially reducing the need for people to travel out of Beeston to do shopping. There would be a travel plan with the aim of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport to and from the store. John Quinton Barber understood that there would be a number of junction improvements at Tommy Wass Junction, which would be a route for a significant proportion of road traffic to the store. The aim of the store would be to try and retain shopping in Beeston.

3.5 Dave Stegsted then addressed the vehicular impact of the new store, and recognised the potential great impact if the store is to be built. Mouchelle, his firm, had started to carry out an analysis of vehicles travelling to and from the site of the new store. It is expected that there would be three to four cars per minute at the point of access to the store. One to two vehicles would traverse the road in each direction. Any necessary works improvements would be worked upon and agreed with Highways. Dave Stegsted recognised that a key factor is location and that there are a large number of local residences. His firm are looking at pedestrian crossing points in order to encourage walking to the store. There would also be cycle facilities and cycle storage racks including for the use of staff. It was also noted that there are currently four buses per hour operating along Old Lane, together with a large number of buses operating along Beeston Road and Dewsbury Road. It was noted that any planning application which has the effect of increasing the amount of traffic, would require the applicant to pay a sum of money to the local authority for the purpose of promoting bus routes. It was noted that this would reduce the number of cars visiting the store.

3.6 John Quinton Barber addressed the issue of employment. It is intended that 120 jobs would be created, and that these would include team leaders, as well as people working on butchers and delicatessen counters. Tesco would work with local agencies in connection with their commitment to employ local people. There would be a variety of jobs with flexible working hours to suit the community. He added that ten years ago, when Tesco's existing Seacroft store was built, this was the birth of a regeneration partnership.

3.7 John Quinton Barber stated that Tesco's commitment is for a new store with a full range of goods, and providing more choice and lower prices. There would be 120 new jobs as part of an employment partnership scheme. The plans would revitalise a key site in Beeston. The next steps would be the publication of an advertisement and an article in the Yorkshire Evening Post. There would be a leaflet drop of 5000 leaflets in the area, and there would also be letters to residents of Jessamine Avenue, Grovehall Parade and Old Lane. There would then be a consultation day on Thursday 9th September, with events between 11 a.m and 2p.m at Beeston Hill United Free Church, Malvern Road and between 4p.m and 8p.m at Beeston Village Community Centre. A planning application would be submitted towards the end of September. The application would seek to address any concerns which had been aired in the consultation process.

3.8 The meeting then opened to questions and comments from the floor. Issues raised included

- concerns about traffic on Elland Road match days
- the route taken by heavy wagons which would need to serve the store. Several Forum members felt that a route including Wesley Street would not be appropriate.
- Fears about the impact of any new Tesco store on small businesses , and existing stores, including Beeston Co-op
- calls for traffic improvements at the mini roundabout at the junction of Old Lane and Beeston Road

4. Christine Thornton introduced the next guest speaker; Rt. Hon Hilary Benn M.P.

4.1 Hilary Benn thanked the Forum for its invitation, and said that it had been a great honour to be re-elected as a Member of Parliament. He would represent all constituents, regardless of whether they had voted for him. He explained that following the recent boundary changes to the Leeds Central Parliamentary Constituency, he had changed the arrangements for surgeries. As a result of this there would be a surgery at Beeston Library on the fourth Friday of each month between 5.15 p.m and 6.15p.m.

4.2 Hilary Benn pointed out that when the House of Commons returns from the recess, it would be debating legislation proposing to reduce the number of Members Parliament by 10%. As a consequence the boundaries of Parliamentary Constituencies would change again. Hilary Benn said that he is opposed to the provision of the bill which proposes to abolish the local enquiries, which are similar to planning inquiries, at which local residents can state their views about proposed boundaries. Hilary Benn said that the government is proposing to sweep these away in order to rush through the process of changing the boundaries. Hilary Benn noted that the proposals for the new boundaries would be based on the electoral register which would be introduced in December. Anyone who is not on this register would not count for the purposes of the boundary review. He urged people to ensure that they complete the electoral registration forms which they would be receiving from Leeds City Council as well as encouraging non residents to register. Hilary Benn pointed out that he is not opposed to one of the aims of the bill, to equalise the number of voters in Parliamentary Constituencies. Hilary Benn added that it is a pleasure to work with Adam Ogilvie, David Congreve and Angela Gabriel, the Councillors for Beeston and Holbeck.

4.3 Hilary Benn said that he would mention two things linking in the current Tesco planning application with jobs. He explained that he had recently given an interview to Radio Leeds about the announcement by the Royal Bank of Scotland that 280 jobs would be lost. He explained that he is glad that representatives of Tesco had attended the same meeting of the Forum meeting. He explained that we have a choice as to whether to support or oppose any planning application, which would have a number of advantages and disadvantages. He said that it is important that the community expresses a view, and would do his best to convey views of local residents. He added that the coming cutbacks in public expenditure could have a big impact on employment. These cutbacks would affect every single service.

4.4 Hilary Benn said that the local neighbourhood policing teams are ‘fantastic’. He looked back at the state of policing when he was first elected as MP for Leeds Central 11 years ago. Since then, there have been additional officers PCSOs, and a neighbourhood policing team. This is better although we have not solved every problem. Hilary Benn referred to the comment made by Dennis Bottomley which was quoted in the minutes for the last meeting of the Beeston Forum. He said that many people come when contentious issues arise. Hilary Benn said that it is important that the Beeston Forum and the Community generally makes its voice heard.

4.5 The meeting then opened up to questions and comments from the floor. Issues raised include

- the resurfacing of Old Lane and previous attempts at resurfacing which had been considered to be ineffective
- deficiencies in services such as the provision of litter bins and litter collection
- who Mr Benn was supporting in the current election for the leadership of the Labour Party. He

explained his support for Mr Ed Miliband.

- The provision of low cost housing and the demolition of recently redeveloped properties.

5. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on Thursday 5th August 2010 were agreed as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matter arising. It was noted that Donna Brook, who had won the bottle of wine for winning the quiz organised by the Forum at the Beeston Festival, was not present at the meeting. Christine Thornton suggested that if she could not make the next Forum meeting, we should make arrangements to take the bottle to her.

7. The police . Sgt John Aldred pointed out that he works in the area with other Sergeants, Rogers and Chapman. With regard to burglaries, he noted that the perception is that crime is going through the roof but this is not actually correct. Sgt. Aldred asked people to guess the number of burglaries of dwellings in the area. Suggestions included 20, 50 and 5 but the actual figure is 7. The police had been working on an initiative through all burglary hotspots, notably below the park Every late shift in Holbeck NPT had been running a late shift up until 3 a.m Experience had shown that most burglaries take place either during the day or between 12 a.m and 4 a.m . The previous evening, three burglars , who are local people had been locked up by officers from Holbeck NPT. Doris Brooke noted that there had been a burglary in Wesley Street where a new car had been stolen and burnt out. The car was then located near Greenmount School. Sgt Aldred said that in Beeston and Beeston Hill thieves tend to drive stolen cars and dump them in Beeston. He added that house burglaries (of which four had taken place in Beeston) had been cut. He advised anyone aware of burglaries from allotments to call the police. As his grandmother said, the squeakiest wheel gets the most oil. The more reports which are made to the police, the more likely it would be that the Chief Inspector will be telling police to do something about it. Sgt Aldred said ‘that’s how it works, report things’.

There had been only one theft from a motor vehicle, and only nine instances of items being stolen from motor vehicles. This includes three instances of items being stolen from the exterior of vehicles including number plates. There had been a spate of number plate thefts several months ago. He referred to a computer program; ANPR which enables a registration plates to be viewed and a separate program , VENOM, which tracks vehicles coming into Leeds. This can track stolen cars and see where they go. In Beeston , he said that stolen number plates tend to be thrown away – the police had found them and in one instance caught people through fingerprints.

Greg Turton wondered whether the figures are part of a downward trend. Sgt Aldred said that it is. Richard Bell wondered why people are paranoid. Sgt Aldred said that the police are dealing with the perception of crime- there will always be crime but never as big as what some people think. He added that information about crime is available on I phones. Initiatives such as these lead to a greater awareness of crime.

Sgt Aldred referred to a new procedure for Anti Social Behaviour. Instances of Anti Social Behaviour are now graded and assessed. He explained that this had been a response to instances of victims of Anti Social Behaviour committing crime There are three grades. Green, where a victim would receive a visit if this is wanted; Amber , if there is a repeat location or a repeat victim, or if the victim is vulnerable through age, disability or ethnic background. The victim would receive seven days of intensive contact. This would not necessarily involve contact with the victim every day due to the demands on police time. The police would try to be at the scene (for instance if children are kicking a football) and speak to the children and parents involved. The incident is recorded as though it is a crime. The victim would get a phone call to explain what action had been taken by the police An instance of Anti Social Behaviour would be coded red if it is more serious, for example the Pilkington incident where Anti Social Behaviour had led to suicide. An Inspector would take charge and the matter would be reviewed every day for seven days, by the inspector who would direct what needs to be done. Sgt. Aldred noted that Anti Social Behaviour, such as street drinking and children running amok has an impact on the perception of crime. These acts look bad even though they are not criminal.