

Chair: Christine Thornton, 40 Cross Flatts Avenue, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 7BG. Tel 0113 270 0875

Secretary: Mr Robert Winfield, 7 Allenby Gardens, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 5RW. Tel 0113 271 6985

E mail robert.winfield1@ntlworld.com Forum Website- www.beestonforum.btck.co.uk

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BEESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Beeston Forum General Meeting 7th June 2012

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Guest Speakers- Graham Riley, First Leeds and Dave Pearson, Metro**
- 4. Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on Thursday 10th May 2012**
- 5. Correspondence**
- 6. Report of Committee meeting- 24th May 2012**
- 7. Tesco and Asda Planning applications**
- 8. Beeston Festival Stall**
- 9. Crawford's Fish Shop- Dewsbury Road**
- 10. Report from the Police**
- 11. Any Other Business**

A Special Meeting of the Forum will take place at 7.30p.m on Thursday 28th June to discuss the Tesco and Asda planning applications. Same venue.

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Community Forum held on 10th May 2012

Attendance:- Christine Thornton (in the chair), Mr. R. Almond, Mr. W.J. Birch, Mrs. D. Brooke, Mr.K. Burton, Mrs. S. Burton, Mr. J. Fenton, Mr. J. Hodgson, Mr. E. Holmes, Mrs. M. Holmes, Mr. J. Hook, PCSO K. Johnson, Miss P. Johnson, Mr. A. Kirby, Mrs. E. Lister, Mr. G.M. Mason, Mrs M. Mason, Miss. E. Newton, Mr. M. Parry, Mrs. C. Stevens, Mr. F. Swift, Mr. G. Turton and Mr. R.J.W. Winfield

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks-** Christine Thornton thanked those present for their attendance and welcomed them to the meeting
- 2. Apologies for absence** were received from John Cunningham, Kathleen Fenton, Councillor Angela Gabriel and John Peckham
- 3. Guest Speaker-** Christine Thornton introduced the Guest Speaker- Russell Martin, the Highway Maintenance Manager for Leeds. He explained that he is the only Highways Maintenance Manager for Leeds, although he added that there are a lot of managers underneath him. He works at Middleton and is responsible for the whole of Leeds

3.1 Russell Martin explained that he is responsible for Highway Maintenance; that is dealing with potholes and repairs. There are three types of maintenance; reactive maintenance, which involves the filling in of potholes, repairing barrier rails and emergencies; responsive maintenance, which involves dealing with issues notified by members of the public or councillors and planned maintenance, which involves dealing with identified schemes, determined as a result of managers gathering data relating to kerbs, roads and footways. The Highways Department decides the priority of streets in each ward requiring repair. Each ward is allocated a different amount of money based on the length and type of roads in the ward. Russell Martin explained that his department is working with the police in connection with missing or stolen gully lids, 800 of which were stolen last year. He explained that these are very easy to steal, but lead to a lot of work and are expensive to replace. If a gully lid is removed, it is probably by someone stealing it.

Russell Martin says that his department deals with out of hours emergencies for example flooding. His department helps with sandbags and warning signs. There are 20000 reports of defects per year. With regard to responsive maintenance, Russell Martin says that there is a lot to do; there are lots of requests but only a limited amount of money, so the department manages expectations and frequently says no. There are 2500 instructions per annum. With regard to planned maintenance, there are major schemes such as rekerbing, reflagging, the application of tarmac, surface treatments and dressing such as microasphalt. There are 500 such schemes per year and these have the biggest effect on an area. There is a small team of engineers and technicians undertaking design work, as well as a team letting contracts; the contractors work for Leeds City Council. The design team delivers £5 million worth of work annually, and the department has a total budget of £22 million across the whole of Leeds; the same figure as for the last few years. The department operates a winter service,

which includes gritting. Grit is delivered from three depots; Pottery Fields in Hunslet, Seacroft and a depot at Yeadon near the airport. The department has a full plan for the winter ; Russell Martin noted that the Department lets people know how, when and where they grit. 43% of the road network is gritted, which implies that 57% of the network is not gritted. The average gritting route is 41 miles long. During the last winter, 60 grits were carried out despite the fact that it was a relatively mild winter. The monitoring of weather starts in mid October. This year, the monitoring has been extended as a result of the recent spell of cold weather. During the recent winter , 13000 tons of salt was used. In the worst winter of recent years two years ago, 22000 tons of salt was used and there were 102 grits. 800 miles of road are gritted on each grit, so that during the last winter a total of 48000 miles of road was gritted. Russell Martin explained that the most contentious issue is that of grit bins. He noted that the department occasionally gets rid of some of the grit bins, but he noted that during the last three winters people struggled to get out ; he noted that it is a big logistical problem to fill grit bins; there are only 122 employees to do a lot of gritting! Furthermore, the number of staff shrinks in the winter , so there are fewer staff to fill the bins. Russell Martin noted that his department receives 3500 items of correspondence from members of the public , councillors, Members of Parliament and people making freedom of information requests. There are also 22000 telephone calls. Russell Martin explained that his role is to deliver all the work within the budget of £22 million , which when spread out does not go very far!

Russell Martin pointed out that Beeston and Holbeck ward has a budget of £108000. Forthcoming major projects include the resurfacing of Cross Flatts Grove between Dewsbury Road and Theodore Street; tentatively planned for January 2013, as well as the resurfacing of Sunnyview Terrace, Woodlea Mount (microasphalt only), Barkly Street and Jessamine Avenue (microasphalt only).

3.2 The meeting then opened up to questions from the floor. Issues raised include the state of roads on the Waincliffes, the practice of cars driving along pavements outside the Leeds Building Society branch on Dewsbury Road, the levelling of kerbs on the Redhall Estate, the gritting of highways in winter and the provision of grit bins, the surface of Dewsbury Road, the failure of those undertaking work on roads to remove cones etc., the unsatisfactory road surface on Wooler Steet, the unsatisfactory state of a ginnel leading from the Sunnyviews to St. Mary's Church, road markings outside the houses of individuals who are infirm, the state of the road on Gipsy Lane

3.3 Christine Thornton noted that local issues are now dealt with under the auspices of the Area Committee. She asked what telephone numbers and e mails we need; adding that it is possible to ignore a telephone call but not an e mail. Russell Martin said that the general Leeds City Council telephone number is probably no good , and that the best e mail address for dealing with issues is probably highways@leeds.gov.uk . Russell Martin added that it is also possible to write to him, or his colleague Martin Barnes who deals with the area (e mail martin.barnes@leeds.gov.uk) He suggested using the highways e mail address in the first instance then writing to Martin Barnes.

4. The minutes of the meeting of the Beeston Forum held on 5th April 2012 were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising. Christine Thornton pointed out that Robert Winfield had taken a decision to separate the note of the discussion about the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme from the remainder of the minutes.

5. Correspondence:

5.1 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Insp. Paul Akerman of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Policing Team, who would be attending the October meeting of the Forum as a guest speaker. He said that he would additionally attend the Forum whenever he can. He added that he is in the process of enhancing the police's contribution to community forums and hope that they can develop a more positive approach to addressing the issues arising from the meetings.

5.2 Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Councillor Geoff Driver (whom Robert Winfield noted is no longer a councillor as he declined to seek re election at the recent Leeds City Council elections), about Stank Hall Barn, which had been raised at a Forum meeting several months ago. Robert Winfield said that in view of pressures of time, he would not read the e mail unless members of the audience wished him to do so, but the e mail would be available for inspection by members of the Forum who wish to see it, at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. Report of the Committee meeting held on 19th April 2012.

6.1 Christine Thornton noted that much of the meeting had been taken in discussing a possible campaign against the proposal for a Park and Ride Scheme at Elland Road. The committee felt that we should take the bull by the horns , not just let the matter pass by. Bill Birch had drafted a newsletter which it is intended to give out at the Forum's stall at the Beeston Festival. Christine Thornton felt that the Committee's proposal should be approved by the Forum. It was also agreed that there should be a petition against the proposal. The meeting agreed to the Committee's proposal. John Hodgson suggested placing Bill Birch's draft on the Forum's website. Robert Winfield said that he would do this. Ernest Holmes noted that he had been absent from the last meeting of the Forum at which the Elland Road Park and Ride Scheme had been discussed and asked what had happened. Robert Winfield said that although no vote was taken as to whether the Forum should oppose the scheme, the sentiment of the meeting was running very strongly against the scheme with not a single Forum member speaking in favour of it. It was therefore plain that any vote about the scheme would have been strongly against, with , at most, a very small number of members supporting the Park and Ride Scheme. Ernest Holmes felt that the park and ride scheme would generate too much traffic. Bill Birch noted that Robert Winfield's note of the discussion at the meeting quoted one of the guest speakers as saying that there has been extensive consultation of the Park and Ride Scheme and that this is a part of the master plan for the area. Bill Birch said that this is not true; the master plan does not mention Elland Road and that instead a survey mentioned the possibility of Park and Ride Schemes at Gildersome and Tingley. Greg Turton said that Leeds City Council want a park and ride scheme at Elland Road as they would be able to get it on the cheap. Ernest Holmes said that he thought that the site of the former Greyhound Stadium had been earmarked for a police station. It was noted that it has been. John Hodgson noted that in paragraph 3.9 of the notes, Councillor Richard Lewis had been quoted as saying that no one likes park and ride schemes. John Hodgson expressed surprise that the Forum had been presented with a 'Mickey Mouse' report about the Park and Ride Scheme. He noted that the report presented to the

Executive Board had been considerably different and had specified a five year contract and had also referred to a win win situation for the Council. John Hodgson suspected that no one will be building in the current economic climate. He hoped that the plot of land, which has been an eyesore for twenty years would be developed. If the Park and Ride Scheme is built, there would be 1000 extra cars in the area for five years. He asked who benefits. Is it the people here? He noted that Keith Wakefield had spoken about the inequalities in Leeds. Christine Thornton noted that similar concerns had been expressed by the Director of Public Health. John Hodgson added that mental health is also bad in South Leeds. He noted that the bus passing through Holbeck goes to the front of Leeds City Railway Station, not to the South side. He noted that Adam Ogilvie and the other Beeston and Holbeck Councillors had spoken out against the proposal for a park and ride scheme, but were now up against sixty or so councillors from the Leeds City Council Labour Group who are in favour of it. He noted that Keith Wakefield formerly lived in the Nosters when there were more shops in the area than there are now. John Hodgson asked what benefits will come to the people of this area and who will get the pollution.

Robert Winfield read an e mail from Dave Pearson of Metro. He noted that since Neil Holt spoke at the Beeston Forum meeting , Metro has been involved in developing a strategy and have explored in greater detail the potential for a Park and Ride Service from Elland Road. The site is close to radial routes into the city centre and the bus journey time between the site and the city centre is similar to other successful schemes. Dave Pearson added that Metro's initial appraisal would suggest that after it has been established for several years, the service will generate sufficient fares revenue to be able to operate without subsidy. He added that there is more work to do to develop the feasibility of the site, but confirmed that the Leeds City Council Strategy has support from Metro. Bill Birch said that this e mail demonstrates that Metro knows that the Park and Ride scheme will definitely make a loss, but was hoping that the scheme would be profitable. He described the e mail as pathetic. Greg Turton noted that the three Beeston and Holbeck Councillors had consistently said that they are against the Park and Ride scheme but that Adam Ogilvie had abstained on the issue when it had been discussed by the Leeds City Council Executive Board. It was noted that the Committee had resolved to write a letter to Adam Ogilvie seeking an explanation for his actions. John Hodgson suggested that the Forum should support the letter. This was agreed unanimously. Christine Thornton said that she would draft the letter. Christine Thornton stressed that we would need the help and support of Forum members for the campaign.

6.2 Robert Winfield apologised to members of the committee for the fact that owing to pressures of other commitments, he had not been able to write the minutes of the last committee meeting yet.

6.3 Robert Winfield outlined the guest speakers at Forum meetings for the remainder of the year as follows:-

June- Buses with Dave Pearson (Metro) and Graham Riley (First Leeds)

July- Councillor Keith Wakefield, Leader, Leeds City Council and Shaun Harvey, Chief Executive, Leeds United FC . It was noted that Shaun Harvey had expressed an interest in coming to a meeting of the Forum to discuss plans by Leeds United FC to build a casino

August- Tom Smith, Inner South Leeds Area Committee, Leeds City Council

September- Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP

October- Insp Paul Akerman, West Yorkshire Police

November- Representatives of the South Leeds Investment Partnership

December- the Forum AGM

6.4 John Hodgson noted that when representatives of Metro and First Leeds had attended previous forum meetings, we had sent them a letter in advance of the meeting describing issues which are of concern to local residents. He noted that many issues which we had raised in the past are still a matter of concern to local residents; for example, buses had been taken away from Wesley Street , but there are now more and more buses running along Wesley Street, but only those going to and from the depot! He noted that he had received a promotional leaflet from First promising a beautiful service with brand new buses operating every ten minutes. He also noted that councillors in the North of Leeds were complaining about the unreliability of the no 64 bus service in their area. John Hodgson noted that he had stopped driving, and now uses the 64 bus to get to the White Rose Centre and Morley. He described the bus service as unreliable, with long queues. John Hodgson added that it is now possible to travel from Wakefield City Centre to Leeds Bus Station on a bus with leather seats (journey time 30 minutes) , faster than the journey takes from Beeston to City Square

7. Planning Applications by Asda and Tesco. It was noted that Tesco had circulated copies of a newsletter, seeking support for their plans in the area. Robert Winfield pointed out that there are a number of copies of the newsletter available at the meeting for collection by members of the Forum. Meanwhile, Robert Winfield had received a response from Asda in connection with the conditions under which the Forum would be willing to withdraw our holding objection to Asda's planning application. Asda has responded as follows:-

- i) Traffic levels in the vicinity of the store are not expected to rise appreciably as a result of the development. Asda responded that Asda's anticipated levels of traffic are similar to those for Tesco in Beeston. They add that as the Forum has accepted Tesco's figures, it can be presumed Asda's levels can reasonably be considered not to be rising appreciably.
- ii) Asda will ensure that any landscaped areas on the site are properly maintained. Asda agreed to this.
- iii) Asda will enter into a routing agreement which will restrict delivery vehicles to travel to and from the store via Dewsbury Road, Tommy Wass Junction and Old Lane. Asda has agreed to this.
- iv) Asda will resurface the footpath along Moorhouse Avenue subject to any issues relating to land ownership. Asda has agreed to this.
- v) Asda will make money available for traffic calming measures if the building of the store leads to a significant increase

in rat running in the area around the store. Asda has agreed to this.

- vi) The store will not open 24 hours a day and there will be no deliveries to the store between 11 p.m and 7 a.m . Asda stated that they will agree to any reasonable constraints on opening and delivery hours as instructed by Leeds City Council
- vii) No fixed plant and machinery will come into operation until details of such machinery and mitigation measures to reduce noise are submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Asda has responded as with vi) above.
- viii) Any jobs created to the store will be marketed to residents of the LS10 and LS11 postal districts. Asda has agreed to this.
- ix) Asda will finance mitigation measures if noise levels in the vicinity of the store rise to unacceptable levels due to the development. Asda has agreed to this.

Ernest Holmes noted that Asda had promised to market jobs created by the planning application in the LS10 an LS11 postal districts but noted that he is aware of a resident of Waincliffe Mount who had applied five times to Asda for employment , but had not received a reply. He said that this undermines Asda's assurance that jobs would be marketed to residents of this area. John Hodgson said that he did not realise that Asda calls itself a superstore. He recalled that when Tesco visited the Forum he asked about their pricing policy. John Hodgson noted that Asda are saying that the proposed store will not be a large Asda. He noted that the basic prices are the same, but the store would not have the same offers as Asda in Morley. He suggested that we seek clarification of this issue. He asked why the Tesco planning application has taken two years to be considered, and noted that he had missed a meeting where a Forum member had complained that Asda had promised a lot but not delivered in Middleton. Ernest Holmes recalled that Councillor Angela Gabriel had observed that the Asda planning application had been submitted suddenly. John Fenton noted that he had worked in retail all his life and pointed out that Asda's promotional leaflets refer to 'selected stores only' . Sandra Burton suggested that we should seek clarification of Asda's proposed opening hours. Christine Thornton noted that Asda has not stated the opening hours for their proposed store. Ernest Holmes said that Asda had submitted the planning application in order to prevent another store being built in the area. Robert Winfield noted that the delay in the consideration of the Asda and Tesco's planning applications is due to the Colliers International Report. Robert Winfield noted that the Forum's Committee had taken the view that the Asda and Tesco planning applications should be determined by the wishes of local residents alone, not by the views of expensive consultants who do not live in the area and who would therefore not need to live with the consequences, whether good or ill, of any new supermarket in the area. Robert Winfield noted that he had written several letters seeking an explanation of the impact of the Colliers International Report on the planning applications but had heard nothing by way of reply. Greg Turton noted that he had found the Colliers International Report on the internet. He noted that it is a very long report , and he had tried hard to find any passage saying that there should be no development in the area , but had failed to find this. He noted that the report breaks shopping areas into two types; areas with a high concentration of shops 'Town Centres' and those with a lower concentration which are described as local centres. The nearest 'Town Centre' to this area is the concentration of shops on Dewsbury Road close to Tunstall Road. This area is described as a local centre. Greg Turton noted that the Colliers International Report has made no direct recommendation for this area and noted that if anyone is seeking to stop development it is by neglect. John Hodgson urged Forum members to look at the minutes of a Leeds City Council Development Panel meeting which had taken place on 9th August. He noted that this committee does not include a single councillor representing South Leeds. John Hodgson added that the Colliers International report is a lengthy document and even councillors had to approach Colliers International to seek an explanation of the report. He noted that the report says nothing about the centre of Beeston. John Hodgson noted that a member of the committee had asked a question about this area and asked why the question had been asked. He noted that Councillor Keith Wakefield had referred to the health of South Leeds; John Hodgson noted that Beeston is the healthier and wealthier part of South Leeds. He was, however concerned that the pattern of housing ownership is changing from ownership to renting. It was agreed that Robert Winfield write to Asda to seek clarification of these issues.

Robert Winfield had received an e mail from Richard Anderson, who is assisting Asda in connection with their planning application , seeking to arrange a meeting between 'the appropriate members of the forum' and Philip Bartram of Asda Stores Limited to update the forum about Asda's plans for Beeston and to discuss any outstanding concerns. Robert Winfield noted that the Committee of the Forum had taken the strong view that organisations such as Asda and Tesco should meet with the Forum as a whole , rather than the committee or any other group of Forum members. Robert Winfield also noted that as all meetings of the Forum have guest speakers allocated, any meeting with Asda would need to be a special Forum meeting. He wondered whether Forum members would favour this. John Hodgson felt that any special meeting should involve both Tesco and Asda , and that we should also invite planners and councillors. Robert Winfield suggested inviting representatives of Colliers International, to discuss their report. John Hodgson noted that the report defends the Hunslet Centre, Middleton Centre and the Morley Centre, but not Beeston. It was agreed that there should be a special meeting along the lines of the suggestions of John Hodgson and Robert Winfield and that Robert Winfield would liase with Christine Thornton and the intended guest speakers with regard to the timing.

8. Beeston Village Community Centre. Christine Thornton noted that she had recently hired the main room for a table top sale, and had compiled a long list of issues of concern such as the state of the kitchen and broken furniture. Robert Winfield noted that he had received an e mail from Brian Pine explaining that there would be a meeting of users of the centre at 12p.m on Thursday 24th May. He hoped that Forum members would be able to attend.

9. The Police. PCSO Johnson circulated copies of the latest police newsletter. She noted that overall crime figures had showed a fall of 6% between January and now, but that burglaries are slightly up (35 to 47). There are particular concerns about sneak in burglaries (involving people who had not locked their doors) and burglaries involving bogus officials. Ernest Holmes urged people to lock their doors and windows even when inside.

