

Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

Summary of questionnaire results

1. Introduction

During June 2014, an information leaflet outlining the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Beeston was delivered to the 6500 households within the designated area.

The leaflet included a questionnaire which residents were invited to complete in an effort to identify what they perceived as issues relevant to the area and suggestions for improvement.

In total, sixty two (62) questionnaires were returned. Forty nine (49) were returned via collection boxes left in various venues throughout the area. Thirteen (13) were returned online between 3rd June and 17th October 2014.

This was a disappointing return of less than 1%.

All but one (1) were completed anonymously, with all respondents speaking about Beeston from an informed perspective.

Two (2) did not address the questions in the expected way. These wrote a single racist remark across the questionnaire, which are included in the table at question 5.

The answers/comments outlined in this document will form the basis of the way forward in “Let’s make Beeston better”, (Neighbourhood Plan strap line).

Question 6 is purely quantitative data and is dealt with first to give an overview of the respondents’ status.

Questions 1 to 5 contain qualitative data and are dealt with in numerical order.

2. Findings

2.1 Question 6.

**Are you a Resident/Local Worker/Business Owner/Elected Representative?
(Please circle the most applicable)**

Resident	48 (Forty eight)
Local Worker	1 (One)
Business Owner	1 (One)
Elected Representative	0 (Nil)
Resident and Local Worker	1 (One)
Not specified	5 (Five)

2.2 Question 1.

What do you believe is good about Beeston?

Schools	5	Buses	6	Shops/good range of facilities	13	Churches	3
Parking places	1	Diversity	2	Library	5	Launderette	1
Leeds United	2	White Rose Centre	3	Community diversity	2	Lots of space/open spaces	2
Cross Flatts Park/Bands in the Park	10	Beeston Village Community Centre	1	Community feel/spirit	11	We seem to live and work together	1
Transport links to surrounding areas	6	Good housing mix	1	Hard working medical services	1	People who care for properties/gardens	1
Not too much congestion	1	Near to town	13	New Police Station	1	Rich local history	2
Nice/friendly people	11	Community groups improving area*	2	Everything within easy reach	5	You don't feel as if you are in the middle of town	1
Peaceful in parts	3	In a developing area	1	People make you feel welcome	1	Clean and quiet **	1
Not much at the moment/ Not sure at the moment	2	Nothing – it's becoming a ghetto/neglected/dumping ground	2				

* Beeston in Bloom, Canopy, Live at Home Scheme were specifically mentioned

** Around Wesley Street was specifically mentioned

What is good about Beeston? The dominant themes are:	Number of Responses
Shops/range of local facilities	13
Near to town	13
Community spirit	11
Nice friendly people	11
Cross Flatts Park including Bands in the Park	10

2.3 Question 2.

What improvements are needed in Beeston?

More things for younger people to do	1	More work places for young	1	Businesses should work to help to improve the 5rea	1	Tackle anti-social behaviour in the park and other areas	7
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						including music and loud parties	
Clamp down on drug dealing on streets	1	Make the park safer with more lights and police patrols – less drinkers/gangs and more family friendly	7	More police patrols	2	Improvements to youth provision including youth clubs, skate parks and recreation for teenagers	1
Clean up shop fronts	1	General litter throughout area. Clean up of ginnels, park, shop fronts, bin yards	7	Regular cleaning of entrance to Middleton woods on Southleighs overgrown and subject to dog fouling	3	People caring for property and gardens/hedges	2
Dog fouling	10	Tidy up spare land and eyesores	1	Litter around Cross Flatts Park and other areas	5	Fly tipping	6
Tidying up of gardens/hedges *	6	More/better streets cleaning	5	Bushes/paths kept tidy	1	Less takeaways/eating places	2
Do something about litter from takeaways	2	Employ wardens with powers to take action for littering/dog fouling	2	More rubbish bins with a penalty for not using them	1		
More community pride	1	A local bank	1	Needs smartening up	2	Community café	1
Traffic management plan	1	Road calming	1	Introduce speed/traffic cameras	2	Less traffic	1
Tackle teatime traffic congestion between Tommy Wass and Broadway	1	Improved traffic calming measures in Cross Flatts Avenue/ Cross Flatts Grove.	2	Speed bumps in Dalton Avenue	1	Support for 20 mile speed limit around area	1
Extend double yellow lines at Cross Flatts Grove/Dewsbury Road and same at Cross Flatts Avenue/Dewsbury Road junction	2	Should be greater regulation of rented properties to improve maintenance	1	Replace some (not all) of the poorer back to back streets	2	Affordable new houses for first time buyers encouraging people to stay	3
Criticism of private landlords for neglecting	6	Housing	2	More bungalows for elderly and disabled people	1	More flower beds/community food	1

properties						growing in Cross Flatts Park	
No more businesses	1	Better residents	1	A solicitor for house buyers	1	Less charity shops	1
More/improved integration of ethnic/diverse communities Ethnic minorities should do more to engage with the community	3	Closer integration of communities	1	Three ward members should launch a campaign to evoke a community pride for Beeston	1	Shuttle bus service as Beeston covers a wide area	1
Instil greater pride in the area	1	Playground in Cross Flatts park	1	Spread good news about Beeston	1	Local private shops	1
Relocate Beeston in Bloom's hanging baskets	1	Children need to learn at school not to litter	1	Need for an arts and education centre	1	Replace grass verges with more sustainable substances	1

* Grovehalls, Old Lane were specifically mentioned

What improvements are needed in Beeston? The dominant themes are:	Number of Responses
General untidiness/litter throughout the whole area, including dog fouling, fly tipping and enforcement	43
Tackle anti-social behaviour throughout the area and in the park	14
Housing issues, including lack of affordable housing, more bungalows for elderly, lack of maintenance by private landlords	14
Traffic issues. Including traffic calming, double yellow lines, cameras	12
Untidy gardens/hedges/houses	8

2.4 Question 3.

What do you believe are the opportunities for Beeston?

People should be educated to keep area clean/ tidy	1	Trees near BVCC* need tidying	1	Clean up Southleigh estate and provide seating and flowers	1	Make it smarter	1
Improve standards and make Beeston an area where families/elderly want to live	4	More police needed	1	Council could make it a really good/safe community (traffic control), improving living standards to make it a great place to live in	1	Not too much development – keep the feeling of openness	1

More businesses in Leeds and surrounding areas	2	To make businesses more aware of local over 50s knowledge	1	Small businesses	1	Work with businesses to create a skills strategy for young unemployed	2
Encourage economic growth	1	Finance for local businesses	1	Business facilities represent opportunity	4	Should be greater scope for people to go into business	1
Not a lot – it was a wonderful area years ago	1	Not many at the moment	2	None! – the way Beeston is going	1	Don't think I'll live to see any (80+)	1
Schools	1	To keep a village feel	1	Decent people don't want to live here	1	Good bus services	1
Could be a nice area if money spent on it	1	More safe places for children to play	1	Near motorways	1	Praise for Beeston in Bloom	1
More community areas	1	Park and Ride scheme	2	Less supermarkets	1	Beeston Junior's success	1
Area needs to be revamped	1	White Rose Centre fantastic	1	The area has deteriorated over the past 10 years or so	1	Better shopping opportunities locally	2
Use spare land to build houses and attract industry for jobs	3	Demolish pockets of old/vacant industrial premises for more housing	1	. Landlords should be more choosy regarding their tenants	1	Too many houses rented out	1
Good transport links should make Beeston an attractive base for professionals, but that the reputation of the area prevents this.	1	Affordable housing to keep people in Beeston	2	Has the potential to remain one of the nicer mixed areas in Leeds. To make it how it used to be – safe and friendly	1	Missed opportunity by refusing planning permission for Tesco	1
I hope that neighbourhood Plan gives local people more power to decide what we want in Beeston and to	5	Beeston has a diverse population and we 'should be capable of pretty much	1	Create a pride in the area. Beeston should 'return to the pleasant place it was'	2	Beeston could become a focal point for other parts of Leeds to follow	1

improve the area		anything'					
Could be better if locals were listened to	2	Lots – building on community	1	Improve community cohesion and work together	3	We need to communicate better	1
Arts Festival to bring communities together	1	Local centre in Beeston similar to Penny Hill in Hunslet	1	Community centre offering a diverse range of activities	1	Develop sporting skills**	1

*Beeston Village Community Centre **in the past, many top class sportsmen have come from Beeston

What do you believe are the opportunities for Beeston? The dominant themes are:	Number of Responses
Community cohesion/building on what is there/shaping developments	15
Business opportunities includes support, development	12
Housing issues	9
Suggestions for new courses/classes/areas for community	8

2.5 Question 4.

What do you think are the greatest threats to Beeston being a good place to live?

Car chase issues	1	Volume of traffic	1	Traffic 1 congestion and volume of traffic on residential through roads	4	Aspiring communities development not needed	2
Too many foreigners	2	Too many Asians	1	Illegal immigrants	1	Community spirit going	1
We are beginning to feel like foreigners in our own country	2	Too many people who cannot/will not fit in	1	Too much planning consent for Islamic buildings which may drive non-Muslims out of area	5	Suspicious between racial groups	1
We are in danger of becoming a Muslim community	1	High unemployment and more unemployed moving in	3	Park a no go area	1	Vandalism and lack of respect for property	1
Anti-social behaviour	3	Criminal activity	2	Drug issues	2	Drinking in the park	1
Not feeling safe just walking in local streets. Some areas “no	1	Risk of anti-social behaviour if young people do not feel part	1	A deterioration in the identity of the community which has led to	4	Still has a bad name due to bombers and drug dealers	1

go " areas		of the community		the area becoming unsafe.			
Rubbish around shops and streets	5	Vermin (rats) in streets	2	Fly tipping	3	Bins left in street	1
Litter from too many takeaways	5	State of gardens/hedges	2	People not taking pride in their properties and home	5	Too many tenants not caring for properties	5
Poverty	1	Over population	2	Roadside shops	1	Good community	1
Lack of green spaces	1	Transient population	2	Too much over development	1	Advertising hoardings	1
General neglect of area	5	Decline in the quality of housing	1	Not enough affordable housing	1	People not wanting to live here/ Locals moving out	2
	5	Too many rented houses with uncaring landlords	3	People buying houses to let for high rents	2	Poor/old housing	2
Too many people with short term leases on properties and have no affiliation/interest for the welfare of Beeston and its community	5	Many tenants do not care about the upkeep of their properties	4	Excessive rents charged by private landlords	3	State of houses/gardens etc. owned by private landlords	5
Do not want businesses amongst residential areas	1	An anonymous district through which arterial road runs (Dewsbury Road). Also a motorway junction	1	Loss of residential status as a result of influx of businesses	1	Local families leaving and being replaced by people from outside the area	4
Too many takeaways/no more planning for same	2	Cuts in local authority funding	1	Level of noise pollution	1	Too many second hand shops	1
Not listening to older/retired people who have great ideas	1						

What do you think are the greatest threats to Beeston being a good place to live? The dominant themes are:	Number of Responses
Housing issues such as private landlords/ poor housing maintenance	28
Environmental issues such as rubbish/fly tipping etc.	28

Crime/anti-social behaviour	17
Community cohesion/racism	15

2.6 Question 5.

If you could change one thing to make Beeston better, what would it be?

No fly tipping	1	Keep the park clean/tidy	1	Cleaner, safer streets	3	Dog fouling	3
Make residents clear their gardens and rubbish	1	The provision of local wardens in the area to report problems	1	General appearance of area to improve	1	No littering	5
Encourage greater pride in every neighbourhood	2	A general upgrading of the area	1				
Make the park safe for children – too many people drinking and urinating	1	More police patrols	1	More CCTV to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	1	Give everybody a bar of soap	1
Too many immigrants moving in	1	No more Islamic buildings *	1	Get rid of the black b.....s	2	More Polish people coming into area and in danger of being overrun	1
Stop making it a dumping ground for undesirables/immigrants	2	People working together	1	Improve the reputation of Beeston	1	Enable communities to get to know each other	1
That people take an interest and be enthusiastic about making Beeston better	1	Work together to create amenities/practical projects to improve localities and lives	1	Refusal of the Aspiring Communities planning application for the Ice Pak site	1		
More housing for aging population – either housing association or residential home	1	Use Ice Pak site for houses for first time buyers	1	Improve the derelict jam factory site – use for housing/small business park	2	Build more houses for people who will stay long term	2
Require landlords to choose responsible tenants	1	Owners and landlords would need to be required to maintain certain standards	1	Redesign streets where back to backs are situated to make areas more pleasant to live and walk	1	Jobs for local unemployed	1

				through			
Stop traffic racing down Cross Flatts Grove More traffic calming	2	Improve junction at Beeston Hill and Elland Road	1	Right filter at traffic lights at Elland Road/Wesley Street junction	1	Restrict street parking	1
Landscape more areas	1	More parks		A cafe	1	Put on a shuttle bus	1
Community work targeted for elderly who live alone	1	Make people proud of their environment	2	Make it back into a nice community so that people don't want to leave	1	More community activities to keep children entertained	1
Improve evening bus service	1	Shops should be required to have uniform frontage	1	Beeston needs a positive image	1	How about doing planning for real?	1
More activities in Cross Flatts Park	1	Revert to residential status	1	Provide up to date community buildings	1		

*Ice Pak site was specifically mentioned

If you could change one thing to make Beeston better, what would it be? The dominant themes are:	Number of Responses
Making Beeston a cleaner, tidier, more pleasant place by tackling rubbish ,dog fouling, litter etc.	20
Address racist tendencies and for all communities to work together	12
Housing issues, including more accountability/legislation for private landlords and build more housing on vacant sites	9
Make Beeston a safer place to live in by addressing crime and traffic issues	8

3. Conclusion

There were six reoccurring themes in the answers/comments from the respondents. These were evident in all 5 questions dealing with the area. These were:

1. Environment

This includes:

- Rubbish in streets, gardens and park
- Fly tipping
- Dog fouling
- Unkempt gardens
- Reinforcement

2. Infrastructure

This includes:

- Poor housing stock
- Absent landlords
- Houses in a poor state of repair
- Lack of affordable housing

3. Criminal activity

This includes:

- Drug dealing
- Anti-social behaviour
- More police patrols
- CCTV

4. Traffic

This includes:

- Traffic calming issues
- Rat runs
- Speeding cars
- Improving specific junctions

5. Community cohesion

This includes:

- Perceived increases in immigration/attitudes towards it
- Working together
- Racist attitudes

6. Worklessness/Unemployment

This includes:

- Work with businesses to promote jobs for local people
- More unemployed people moving into area
- Lack of opportunities for young people

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