



## **Let's Make Beeston Better**

### **Beeston Neighbourhood Forum**

Minutes of the Forum held on 1 September 2015.

Attendance of Members: Christine Thornton, John Fenton, Ken Hewson, Arthur Kirby, Mark Parry, Greg Turton, Robert Winfield, Jean Birch, Bill Birch, Jo Maguire, John Peckham, John Cunningham, Sheila Brogden, Rev. Lindsey Pearson.

Apologies of Members: Angela Gabriel, Robin Scholefield, Lyn Dudley, Maggie McClellan, Adam Ogilvie, John Cockburn, Steve Rushworth, Gohar Almass, Leonie Upton.

Minutes of the Forum held on 19 May 2015: These were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Christine Thornton and seconded by Arthur Kirby. There were no matters arising.

New Members: The following were accepted as new members following a majority vote in favour.  
Fiona Gray, Tahir Ahmad, John Doherty, Steve Rushworth, Lorraine Taylor, Lyn Dudley, Jayne Lacey, Justine Danicis, Helen Windross, Pauline Mann, Stella Gawthorpe, Maggie McClellan, Eileen McClellan, Leonie Upton, Myra Munro, Pat McGeever for Health for All.

Yvonne Crowther was also accepted as a new committee member by a majority vote.

Finance: Bill reported on our grant of £4,980 for a 6 month period, but explained that access to this was delayed by the Council. He has also opened a Unity Bank account for non-grant income. We hope to receive some "MICE" money from our local councillors now that this account has been set up.

Developments: Most of our grant is to pay for our consultant who will be running workshops for committee members and task group members.

There have been several contacts with the Council. Our meeting on 28 April, described in the minutes of the 19 May Forum, was meant to result in a statement of resources available. Greg has chased this up but has received nothing.

Greg and Mark attended an event on the Community Investment Levy. This is money raised by a levy on new buildings. 70% of this income is to be used across the whole City. 30% is to be spent within the community where it has been collected. The levy varies by location and is dependent upon the local land prices. In Beeston the levy will only raise £5 per square metre so we will get much less than wealthier areas.

The Beeston Traders Calendar is progressing. This is to help promote independent traders in Beeston. 12 traders, one for each month, are taking part and a photo shoot has already been held in Cross Flatts Park. Each trader will buy 50 calendars at £2 + VAT each and can dispose of them as they wish. The Forum has subsidised this project with £350 from our grant. This pays £100 for design and £250 for the photography costs.

Vision: Minor changes were agreed to the Vision and Aims and it now reads as follows:

Vision: *Let's make Beeston better.*

Aims: To improve the reputation of Beeston by developing it as a proud, inclusive, ambitious community: a neighbourhood that is desirable to live in, prosperous to work in and supports the development of the whole community.

To make Beeston a safe, clean and sustainable place, by promoting improved housing, better air quality, reduced noise and traffic.

Skills Audit: Mark reminded members of the audit and said a form had been provided to encourage people to complete this.

**Action: Mark to email the new form to all members and encourage them to complete if they have not already sent in a contribution.**

Planning: The Council is now passing all applications relating to our designated area to Ken.

Aspiring Communities Project: The recent deferral of the planning decision was disappointing and a special committee meeting was held to discuss this on 12 August. We reviewed the history timeline of the project and compared it to that of the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Committee agreed to write to the Council asking for an explanation for the deferral and to the Secretary of State seeking clarification of our role in this situation. Both letters were read out along with the reply from the Council, which we felt was not useful. A reply from the Secretary of State is awaited. A vote taken was in favour of endorsing the action of the Committee, proposed by John Cunningham and seconded by Ken Hewson. The earliest this application could be decided upon again is 17 September.

A joint statement with the Community Forum was suggested, at the next Plans Panel. This would hopefully make the best use of the 3 minutes allotted to all opposition. John Cockburn emailed the Forum on this matter but as he was unable to attend his email was read out. He was against such a statement being made before the work of the Beeston Plan had really started. Bill pointed out that the Community Forum was against the application, but our part of the statement would be simply stating our dissatisfaction over the process. The Forum voted in favour of the Committee preparing a statement on these grounds. Since then, at the following Community Forum, it was pointed that complaining about the process was not appropriate for the Panel as this was not opposing the project on planning grounds. The Community Forum has voted against us adding to their statement.

Priority Groups: The Environment group has met and are hoping to monitor traffic speeds, have a walkabout survey of litter issues and have Paul Spandler/Dave Fisher from the One Stop Centre coming to their next meeting. The last committee meeting decided to kick start the Housing Group during September with Bill leading and Greg to start the Young Peoples' Opportunities Group.

Any Other Business: Christine asked that we go around the room asking people to introduce themselves, which we did.

**Action for Mark: Consider organising this for each Forum.**