



Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Forum held on 1 December 2015.

Attendance of Members: Christine Thornton, Ken Hewson, Arthur Kirby, Mark Parry, Robert Winfield, Bill Birch, Steve Francis, Eddie Leathem, Jeremy Morton, Ken Burton.

Apologies of Members: John Cunningham, Josephine Maquire, Leonie Upton, Susan Ottley-Hughes, Rev. Lindsay Pearson, Jean Birch, Edward Thornton and John Peckham.

Introduction: Robert Winfield chaired the meeting as Vice Chair following the resignation of Greg Turton, our former Chair. Robert paid tribute to Greg's work in setting up the Neighbourhood Forum. He also pointed out that the meeting was not quorate as we need at least 20 people present. Therefore no votes could be taken.

Minutes of the Forum held on 1 September 2015: These could not be voted as a correct record but there were no comments. There were no matters arising.

Action: Mark to ask for these to be agreed at the Forum on 25 February.

Positions of Chair and Vice Chair: It had been hoped that Robert could be voted in as acting Chair until the Annual General Meeting on 26 May 2016. But no vote was possible and Robert continues as Vice Chair. We were also unable to elect a replacement Vice Chair, however, Arthur volunteered to take on this role subject to future ratification. Additionally Susan Ottley-Hughes wanted to become a member and we could not ratify her.

Action: Mark to include ratification of Robert, Arthur and Susan at the Forum on 25 February.

Finance: Bill reported that we had access to our grant through the Council. This access was delayed and we now have to spend this money by the end of January or hand it back. We have received £100 "MICE" money thanks to our local councillors which is available in our Unity account, to which we have permanent and independent access.

Developments: On 25 November our consultant, Shaun Hanson, led a workshop for committee members, which the Committee found very useful. Three issues were highlighted from this event:

- He suggested we do not progress the task groups for organisational reasons and will offer alternatives in future workshops.
- He said we need to slow down and accept that this process to produce the plan takes time.
- He illustrated that the plan can only contain planning issues, that is, "things we can touch"; however, this doesn't stop us from highlighting other issues.

Mark offered to do a presentation to the next Forum on 25 February 2016, summarising key points from all the workshops, however, for copyright reasons, we cannot use the Consultant's slides.

Action: Committee to consider presentation on 25 February.

Calendars: These have been produced. However, two traders failed to pay, so two months are for our Forum. This means that we have 100 calendars for members and others which we will distribute. When we do we will prompt those receiving them for a donation.

Action: Bill to bring some of the calendars to the Community Forum on 3 December 2015.

Action: Mark to advertise these to members by email.

Committee Meeting: Mark summarised the meeting held on 2 November 2015.

Skills Audit: Mark reported that although only a few of the forms had been received, there were only two categories where we had no one claiming to have the skills. These were "Photography" and "Architectural, historic building and/or urban design skills to assist with such as character assessments."

Committee extra members: Steve Francis and Eddie Leatham volunteered to become committee members. They were invited to the next committee meeting on 8 December 2015, where the Committee will consider co-opting them. Then they will be hopefully ratified on 25 February Forum.

Action: Committee to co-opt volunteers.

Task Groups: Following the Consultant's advice, no further action was taken to encourage these and this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. The Environment Group will continue as planned so as to not lose momentum. They asked that two phone numbers are advertised.

Action: Mark to advertise two numbers: Fly Tipping 0113 247 5513 and Bulk Waste 0113 222 4406.

Community Centre: Robert is secretary of the Community Centre Group run by Health for All. In this role he was asked to write about access to the Centre regarding paths and lighting. Health for All are meeting with the Council, Lottery representatives and the Architect on 2 December, to discuss the re-building of the Centre. It could be closed during 2016 for a year.

Banner: Mark issued handouts of the new banner. Christine suggested a paler green background. Mark pointed out that it referred to the progress made which reflects the Task Groups' work, which has been "paused". The Committee is to review this.

Action: Committee to review the banner.

Action: Mark to change the shading of the banner.

Any Other Business:

- Robert has notified Hilary Benn MP and Ian MacKay of the Council of his taking over from Greg.
- Steve attended the Neighbourhood event at the Beckett University where four neighbourhoods related their experiences. He was concerned at the amount of work they had to do and the drop-out rate of members.
- It was suggested that we changed the constitution at the Annual General Meeting so the Forum is quorate with just 10 members.

Action: Mark to raise a change in the constitution at the Annual General Meeting.

Date of next Forum: 25 February 2015, at 19:30 hours in the Beeston Community Centre.