



## **Beeston Neighbourhood Forum**

Minutes of the Forum held on 25 February 2016.

Attendance of Members: Christine Thornton, Arthur Kirby, Mark Parry, Robert Winfield, Ken Burton, John Cunningham, John Peckham, Doris Brooke, Sheila Brogden, Lorraine Taylor, Lindsey Pearson, Peter Glossop.

Other Attendees: Anup Sharma, Wayne Norman and John Hook.

Apologies of Members: Steve Francis, Bill Birch, Dean Stratton, Ken Hewson.

Introduction: Robert Winfield said that as the meeting was not quorate many issues could not be ratified.

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

***Action: Mark to ask for these to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting on 26 May.***

Ratification of New Members: Mark pointed out that Steve Foster has replaced James Bailey at the White Rose Centre and he should replace James's membership.

***Action: Mark to ensure this happens at the next committee meeting.***

Positions in the Committee: It had been hoped that Robert could be voted in as acting Chair, Arthur as acting vice chair, Steve Francis and Eddie Leathem confirmed as committee members. No action could be taken as we were inquorate and these posts would be up for election at the Annual General Meeting.

Anup Sharma: is our council contact. He said the Council is keen to collaborate with us and has to provide help in our writing of the Plan. He prefers one point of contact which is Mark. He will attend our meetings if he can if we invite him. He compared us with the Hyde Park Forum and gave examples of what can be included in our Plan. He advised us that we can object to planning applications but only with planning issues. The Council is keen that we employ our consultant to help us progress our Plan.

Wayne Norman – Unity Housing: Unity Housing is a local housing association with 1,200 units in Leeds. They are building 18 3 bedroom houses in the Parkwoods area, and are ready to lay the foundations for completion in 11 months. They are also looking to replace some derelict garages nearby with a further 6 houses. Our Forum objected to this development as there had been limited consultation in our view. Wayne is involved in the Holbeck plan and maybe a useful link.

***Action: Anup to check that our objection was not removed but will have lapsed once the application was approved.***

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report had been received. However, Mark pointed out that the last grant had been spent apart or returned as required. Our other funds were exhausted.

Secretary's Report: Mark reported that Ian MacKay, from the Council, attended our Committee Meeting on 8 December and the discussion was mainly about our structure. As a result of this the Committee

decided to suspend the Task Groups at their meeting on the 10 February. This was to avoid problems in anaging so many groups. Sub groups can be set up as and when we need them.

Also at the February meeting the following decisions were taken:

- A large number of new members were ratified that could not be ratified at a previous Forum which was also inquorate.
- There was a debate about the validity of objecting to planning applications before we had sought the views of the Community and completed our Plan. Anup's advice was that we could object.
- We agreed to buy in further support from our consultant subject to a grant being available.
- We sent a list of data we would like to get from the Council to Anup.
- We proposed two constitutional amendments to be put to the Annual General Meeting.
- We have a number of calendars available which we are happy to give away in the hope of a small contribution.

Workshop Review: Mark explained that the Committee attended three workshops:

- The first was about the dos and don'ts of neighbourhood planning.
- The second was about project planning for the Committee.
- The final one was a meeting with council officers.

Mark briefly covered the first workshop by:

- Highlighting the 4 key stages culminating in the referendum and where we are.
- Stating what a Plan is and what it is not.
- Demonstrating what is a planning issue and what is not.

Constitutional Changes: Robert summarised these. 28 days notice in writing is needed prior to the Annual General Meeting. The following is a draft only.

8.1b Current wording: *Decision making - All voting will be determined by a show of hands or, if agreed by one third of those present, a secret ballot. The Chairman will have the casting vote in the event of a tie.*

New wording: *Decision making - will be by a majority vote of those members present, if agreed by one third of those present, voting can be by secret ballot. The Chairman will have the casting vote in the event of a tie.*

This leaves the method of voting to the discretion of the meeting.

8.1d Current wording: *Quorum - the number of people who need to be present at Forum meetings is the lesser of 25% of the membership or 20 members in order to carry out a vote.*

To be replaced by:

*Quorum - At least 10 members need to be present at a Forum for a vote to be taken.*

**Action: Committee to verify new wording and consider email and postal voting in case the Annual General Meeting is not quorate.**

Any Other Business: No one is attending the Seminar at Beckett's University on 1 March.

The Community Centre Meeting on 29 February at 14:00 in the Centre was advertised.

Number 44 Barkly Road: Some members are concerned about the size of the improvements to this house and feel they are out of character. There is the possibility that light could be blocked for a house at the rear. It was pointed out that there had been no objections by any of the Neighbours and some felt the improvements would help boost the area. As the Forum was inquorate, no action could be taken, but a vote showed 8 in favour of objecting with 2 against.

**Action: Robert to organise an emergency committee meeting to decide if we should object before the planning application deadline.**

Date of next Forum: will be our Annual General Meeting on 26 May 2016, at 19:30 hours in the Beeston Community Centre.