

## **Armley Community Forum**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### **Present:**

Cllr Harper(Chair), Cllr A Lowe, Cllr McKenna, Rachel Reeves, M Pugh, H&D Boutle, D & T Maynard, Ald. B Nelson, B Draper, D Peck, K Lemm, J Ramell, B&S Richmond, F Smyth, A Smithson, W Davies, E Bowes, E & B Rayworth, B Holmes, A Iqbal, H. Gardiner, D Dunlevy, J Corcoran, S Hellewell, H Evans, Superintendent Ian Whitehouse, Inspector Anwar Mohammed, J Granger, M Litherland, I Broughton, JK & JP Newsome, J Ford, A Covey, A Paul. R Boon.

**ACTION**

### **1.00 WELCOME**

1.01 Cllr Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2.00 APOLOGIES**

2.01 Ian Penman, Dawn Newsome, David Stead, Kath Draper, Mr Cook.

### **3.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

3.01 The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

### **4.00 MATTERS ARISING - none**

### **5.00 Community Safety Update and Tension Monitoring – Inspector Anwar Mohammed.**

5.01 Superintendent Ian Whitehouse introduced himself to the forum. He has replaced Superintendent Howard Crowther. He informed the forum that he has been in the force for 21 years, 14 years in Leeds and the past 7 years at Headquarters in Wakefield. He welcomed the opportunity to return to Leeds and especially neighbourhood policing which he believes in wholeheartedly. He is keen to build on successes already achieved within the division. One notable success is the seizure of £358 K in April from criminals. These criminals have largely seemed untouchable until recently but the police are now achieving considerable success. Superintendent Whitehouse encouraged the forum to access the web site to check what was happening with community policing.

5.02 Inspector Anwar Mohammed addressed the meeting. He stated that he had met with Wyn Davies Housing Manager re specific crime issues in the New Wortley neighbourhood. An action plan is to be drafted to attend to these items.

5.03 Operation Champion is to take place in New Wortley In July. This will entail 4 days of action focusing on community safety and environmental issues.

5.04 Local successes to date are with seizure of motor cycles.

5.05 It is proposed that Branch Road may be closed in the future as part of traffic calming measures. The police are keen to support this as it would help them in their work.

5.06 Police action taken in Little Scotland of late had given some good results. The police are keen to maintain this improvement and will be undertaking repeat visits to some nominals houses in the near future.

5.07 The police have recently teamed up with the Taxi Enforcement Unit to ensure that taxi drivers were operating legally.

5.08 **Inspector Mohammed advised everyone to be very careful over the summer months to prevent opportunist burglary. Please lock your door if you are in the garden and do not leave windows open if you leave the house. Also be careful and ensure sheds and outhouses are secure.**

5.09 Members of the forum raised a number of issues with Inspector Mohammed. These were:

- Drug Dealing and Anti-Social Behaviour in Cedar Place.
- Mistress Lane and the area around Christ Church – Drinking in public
- Persistent speeding on Mistress Lane
- Speeding motorbikes on Tong Road where no helmets are being worn and there are pillion riders (between New Wortley and Barnet Road)
- Quad Bikes racing around the neighbourhood - 4 bikes 1 silver, 3 black specifically in the Grasmere. The bikes are stopping to use the shop in the Grasmere.
- Increasing problems with ASB and Vandalism around West Leeds Family Learning Centre where a garden has been vandalised.
- Noisy Cars – a resident asked if there was legislation to deal with this ? Insp Mohammed advised that if the car was legally operating (eg MOT, Road Tax etc.,) then there was nothing he could do but they could always stop cars to ensure they were road legal.
- Drinking and intimidation of local children by other young people attending Christ Church Youth Club.

5.10 Insp Mohammed responded to these queries and asked a number of people to speak to him after the meeting to give additional details. He is aware of some of the problems and they are currently being dealt with by the local neighbourhood policing team.

5.11 A local resident asked about the response time by the police to a crime being reported and a statement being taken. This refers to a problem of drug dealing on Wyther Park Hill. Insp Mohammed asked to speak to the residents after the meeting.

5.12 Cllr Harper updated the meeting re a 20mph zone to be installed adjacent to West Leeds High School. Cllr Harper asked for public support for this scheme. Cllr Lowe said that one objection had been received as a local resident is concerned that it will lead to a noisier environment.

5.13 **Tension Monitoring:** to be reported centrally – none.

## **6.00 Update from Youth Services in West Leeds – BARCA-Leeds and LCC Youth Service.**

6.01 The forum received an update from Janice Dix – BARCA Leeds, Erin Weekes and George Bright LCC Youth Services

6.02 Janice Dix gave information on new activities to take place at the Wyther Community House on Wyther Park Crescent. The centre has been closed for some time but BARCA-Leeds have secured £40K from the Primary Care Trust to undertake some community development work in the Wythers neighbourhood. This work will focus on working with young people not in education, training or employment (NEET) setting up job clubs, giving 1:1 support, and providing accredited courses and general motivational support.

6.03 A Boys Club is also to be started addressing issues such as racism, employment, food and healthy living.

6.04 A Mum's and Tots Club will also start and also arts projects.

6.05 The work will re-invigorate the location and be up and running within the next 4 weeks.

6.06 Cllr Lowe addressed the meeting. As Chair of the Wyther Improvement Group (WIG) she is keen to see rejuvenation of the area, and for the neighbourhood to benefit in a similar way to the work undertaken in New Wortley and the Gilpins.

6.07 Georgina (George) Bright from LCC gave an update on the work carried out at the LAZER Centre Armley. Here youth workers work with 13-19 years predominantly but not exclusively. Vocational qualifications are offered in partnership with other agencies. A key scheme is the Motorbike project which is a city wide facility but serves local people very well. A new fleet of motorbikes has recently been delivered which will increase the opportunity for local young people.

6.08 Other programmes on offer are summer holiday activities, Leeds BMX Club carried out with the British Bike Union. Urban Arts are an organisation who work on arts projects especially graffiti which is taught in a responsible manner practising on boards at the

- centre. Other activities are archery.
- 6.09 Those attending the centre are local schools who use the facilities frequently, but the centre is also there to assist young people at risk of truanting and of being excluded from school. Good links exist with Premier Farnell a large local company and with Leeds Metropolitan University who have recently carried out 4 days maintenance work at the centre. Often young people who have come to the centre return as volunteers later.
- 6.10 Erin Weekes (LCC) added that in Armley ward the Youth service had set up a boys club in conjunction with healthy Living Network Leeds. The mobile youth bus is out most nights of the week specifically at:
- Tuesday evening at Cockshot lane.  
Thursday evening at Cedars.  
Thursday and Friday evenings at Jaily Fields New Wortley.
- 6.11 Friday night there is an Asian Boys Club at Strawberry Lane. Other activities are football at Castleton Primary School on Thursday evenings 8-10pm.
- 6.12 A project for the future is a joint project between the 2 high schools in the area prior to the merging of the 2 schools.

## **7.00 Update on Inner West Area Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008**

- 7.01 Morgan Pugh updated the forum on the committee business. Minutes of the meeting can be seen at [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)
- 8.00 Leisure Centre Update**
- 8.01 Helen Evans ( City Development, formerly Learning and Leisure, LCC), Sarah Hellewell (City Development formerly Planning) Angela Lawson ( Project Manager of PFI project) attended for this item .
- 8.02 2 PFI projects currently being delivered in Leeds , one in Armley and one in Morley. The schemes are being delivered with £30M worth of credits from central government. Regarding Armley the application for full planning permission will be going before the council on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Most of the 'problems' have been ironed out with only minor outstanding issues to be completed. Any objections should be sent to [peter.barnett@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:peter.barnett@leeds.gov.uk)
- 8.03 Regarding provision of facilities the new centre will not provide like for like but views of local people have been taken into consideration.
- 8.04 There will be : 25M pool, learning pool, hydrotherapy pool, 2 sports halls (football and other sports) larger gym - twice the size of the existing gym. New changing rooms, plus a family changing room. The centre will also incorporate a community atrium where people not attending for sports activities can meet and have refreshments.
- 8.05 There will also be a Multi-Use Games area outside which will be free and maintained by Parks and Countryside. Car parking will be enlarged with disabled car parking spaces. There will also be a Multi purpose room wired-up for computers but also with special floors and mirrors for dance and exercise classes.
- 8.06 Officers thanked the working group who had worked hard on the scheme and made invaluable contributions.
- 8.07 Car parking can also accommodate local shoppers and a small charge will be made. Double lines will be painted on the road outside but on one side. Some on-street car parking will be maintained.
- 8.08 Rachel Reeves (Prospective Parliamentary candidate Leeds West) asked a question. What is the cost of a 'swim' given that the pool will be smaller, and what provision had been made for local people whilst the centre was closed. Helen Evans replied that the pricing structure for all activities was the same as other centres and that activities would actually be enhanced with the additional learner pool. The Sports Development Unit are working to provide alternative facilities at other centres which is what happened when Morley closed.
- 8.09 A local resident asked 'how green would the building be ?' Helen Evans stated that they had considered re-use of water ie 'grey water' and the 'U' values of the building had

been improved. Solar panels were not an option for the building as the building will use more electricity than can be generated, but the design had addressed the need to conserve as much energy as possible.

8.10 Plans of the building can be accessed at the councils web site [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk).

8.11 The current centre will close Sept 2009 and the new centre will open 2010.

### **9.00 Update on Armley Fun Day - Hazel Boutle**

9.01 Hazel stated that she needed volunteers for the day and to contact her if they could offer help.

9.02 On the day activities on offer will be : Games, Line Dancing, Sikh Drummers, Circus, Parachute Games, Marshall Arts, Dog Wardens providing free chips for dogs (must be 6 months old). A stall featuring 'Made in Armley', West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Health Bus, 'E' Bus.

9.03 Hazel thanked the police for allowing Town Street to be car parking free on the day which proved popular with bus drivers.

9.04 Town Street Tales could not be installed as they were not free standing and there was no structure to which they could be attached.

### **10.00 AOB**

10.01 A local resident complained of the presence of graffiti in and around Tesco's and Mike's Carpets. To be reported to Frieda Haley for removal.

10.02 Diane Maynard – Informed the meeting that Werst Leeds Walking Festival would take place 14.07.08. Leaflets to be circulated with next minutes/

10.03 22, Cedar Place. Bin Yard railings remain a problem and a fire has recently been started in this yard. Police aware.

### **11.00 DATE & TIME of NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 7pm AOSC**