

## **Farnley and Wortley Forum**

**Date:** 19 February Lower Wortley Methodist Church

### **Present:**

**Chair: Cllr Ann Blackburn**

**Sam Woodhead (WNW Area Management), Cllr A Parnham, Brian Lonsdale, S Dibb, J Dibb, Eileen Bean, Derek Bean, Rev K Dowling, Alan Brummitt (SSC), Nicola Brooks / Paul Henry (NHS Leeds), GJ Mamud, S Wood (WNWHL), J Waldon, PW Wood, P Wood.**

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1.0 Introduction &amp; Apologies:</b></p>	
<p>1.1 Apologies Cllr D Blackburn.</p>	
<p>1.2 Minutes were agreed as accurate and no matters arising.</p>	
<p><b>2.0 Street lighting</b></p>	
<p>2.1 Alan Brummitt introduced himself from Scottish &amp; Southern Electric. Alan informed the meeting that he was at the meeting to talk about the new PFI scheme to install new lighting columns across the city.</p>	
<p>2.2 The Farnley &amp; Wortley lighting scheme commenced just after Xmas. It is aimed at bringing the lighting columns up to a more modern standard. Alan informed the meeting that it is not always possible to replace old columns with new ones. The position of the light is designed to be sympathetic, eg if there is a shared driveway the light is placed between the two driveways.</p>	
<p>2.3 If the resident does not like where the light column has been placed, SEC will always try and accommodate the resident's needs.</p>	
<p>2.4 Alan confirmed that if the road is adopted, then as many lights will be placed on it as currently exist. However, if unadopted the road will not be part of the programme.</p>	
<p>2.5 Alan informed the meeting that prior to the new light being installed, SEC letters will be sprayed on the pavement to indicate its position. In addition, a leaflet will go out to relevant homes, giving the resident the chance to object to the position.</p>	
<p>2.6 Project evaluations are carried out at the end of each ward's completion.</p>	
<p>2.7 Alan informed the meeting that Southern Electric can be contacted on the freephone number of 0800 0325349 if anyone has any queries.</p>	
<p>2.8 A forum member asked if Benson Garden was an ongoing project. Alan confirmed that if it is adapted then it will be changed, but if not, then it will not. Another forum member asked when the Kirkdale area would be done; Alan confirmed early March 09 hopefully.</p>	
<p>2.9 Cllr A Blackburn asked why new lights had been placed on the Cobdens, right in the middle of a mural designed by local schoolchildren. Alan stated that he would see if this light could be re-positioned. In addition, Cllr A Blackburn queried if lights that had been taken out of action would be replaced. Alan confirmed that if it is possible then this will be done.</p>	<b>A Brummitt</b>

### **3.0 Dental Procurement**

- 3.1 Nicola Brooks introduced herself to the meeting as a Dental Contract Manager. £2.5 million has been given to NHS Leeds to improve dental services and gain new patients. As a result of this, dental need has been mapped against ward plans and results showed that access to dentistry in certain areas was a concern / issue.
- 3.2 In Outer West Leeds, NHS Leeds are looking to put new dental services in Pudsey, Farnley and Wortley.
- 3.3 Work has already commenced, attracting tenders from possible dental providers.
- 3.4 Hopefully in May / June 2009 contracts will be awarded.
- 3.5 Nicola stated that she had attended the meeting to seek people's views on plans, and as a result of this a questionnaire had been circulated to the meeting, which also sought people's preferences on opening times etc. In addition, Nicola invited people who didn't have access to a new dentist to speak with her colleague Paul Henry and he would try and sort this issue out for them.
- 3.6 Cllr Blackburn asked for extra copies of these questionnaires for local community centres and churches. Nicola left these with the Councillor on the evening.
- 3.7 Cllr A Blackburn informed the meeting that she had been phoned by a dentist outside of the Leeds area, as he was very interested in meeting the Councillors to discuss establishing a new dental practice. Cllr Blackburn had suggested that the new health clinic on the ring road had been suggested to him as a possible venue.
- 3.8 A query was made from the floor as to what would happen to people who were not included in the 8000 new places that were on offer. Nicola stated that at this point in time she didn't know, however, hopefully if this occurred the government would supply additional income to secure additional places.
- 3.9 Cllr A Blackburn urged people to fill in the questionnaires and suggest additional dentists are needed in the area.

### **4.0 Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme**

- 4.1 Cllr A Blackburn stated that she had touched on this matter earlier under matters arising. She informed the meeting that planning permission was currently being sought to regenerate the area.
- 4.2 S Woodhead informed the meeting that not all local businesses affected had taken up the offer of this regeneration work being carried out. Cllr Blackburn informed the meeting that bollards had appeared on Cooperation Street to avoid dumping, and that this is an unadopted road.
- 4.3 A resident welcomed proposals for Lower Wortley Rd, however also stated that several roads and pavements along Oldfield Rd are in a terrible state, and an inspection is needed by Highways. Cllr Blackburn requested specific information to advance this as an action, however, stated that a rolling programme was rolled out across the city for Highways improvements.
- 4.4 Another resident raised the issue of double yellow lines on Granny Lane. These lines obstruct vision to cars entering in from Branch Rd, therefore the lines need moving back along Granny Lane.
- 4.5 The Rev Dowling queried if seating would be placed in the Bull Ring. Cllr Blackburn confirmed it would only be at the side of the bus stop, no other seats would be put in.
- 4.6 A resident queried if there had been any progress on removing fencing outside of the Community Centre on Lower Wortley Road. Cllr Blackburn stated that

**Cllr A  
Blackburn**

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she had only recently heard of this problem. She stated that this may be possible, and she would check if Cllr D Blackburn had made enquiries about this.

## **5.0 Housing**

5.1 Sue Wood introduced herself to the meeting and confirmed that the ALMO had undertaken to maintain the trees and shrubs which were part of agenda item 7.

5.2 A recent inspection had taken place of the ALMO and 1 star had been awarded, so a re-inspection of the ALMO would follow in 2010.

5.3 Sue gave a brief history of the ALMO. The main aim of the ALMO is to bring homes up to "decency standard" (part of the government agenda).

5.4 Sue invited anyone with general housing issues to speak to her following the meeting.

5.5 A resident asked why the flat on Fawcett Close which had been firebombed had not been cleaned up. S Wood stated that she thought this had been sorted out but would look into it, as it may be a private property. In addition, the resident raised the issue of security panels to these flats being smashed repeatedly – S Woodhead to refer to NPT for patrols by PCSO to occur. S Wood to refer for maintenance.

**S  
Woodhead  
S Wood**

5.6 A resident raised the issue on Dixon Lane of parking on grass verges down to Greenside Drive and around St Johns Church flats opposite St Johns Church – cars parked halfway on pavement and possibly resulting in a dangerous situation. S Woodhead to pass on to NPT and Cllr Blackburn to ask Highways to come and look at the situation and Cllr Blackburn to visit the area.

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Cllr A  
Blackburn**

5.7 A resident raised a query about the broken fence near the Queens Public House. Cllr Blackburn stated that this is the responsibility of the Trust who own the sports ground behind.

**Cllrs  
Parnham  
and A  
Blackburn**

## **6.0 Police Issues**

6.1 No member of the NPT attended the meeting. Cllr A Blackburn informed the meeting that the police are currently holding Police & Communities Together (PACT) meetings at 6.45pm at Lower Wortley Community Centre, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009, and invited people to attend and let their friends and families know about this meeting. Cllr Blackburn stated that she would request some of the police advertising from this event to put up in the community. Cllr Parnham added that from these PACT meetings, hotspots will be identified (3) and regular monthly meetings will be held to report back on progress on these hotspots. Cllr Blackburn asked S Woodhead to stress to the police the poor impression created by non-attendance at the forum.

**Cllr A  
Blackburn  
S  
Woodhead**

## **7.0 Grot spots**

7.1 A resident raised the issue of Barras Garth Rd behind Upper Wortley School on Upper Wortley Rd, where there is flytipping on the path which people use to come onto Benson Gardens. Cllr Blackburn to look at this.

**Cllr  
Blackburn**

7.2 A resident asked if Cllr Blackburn had heard anything further about Upper Wortley School developments. Cllr Blackburn confirmed the developer had stated no further work would happen in the current economic climate, however, they would maintain health and safety on the site. One of the ward Councillors will visit the site soon to check it out. Resident to remind Councillor if they do not hear anything soon.

## **8.0 AOB**

8.1 A Resident asked what had happened about the no. 5 bus parking over the church gate. Cllr A Blackburn agreed to see if her husband Cllr D Blackburn

had chased this up from the last forum in the area.

8.2 A resident raised the issue of parking by Connaught on some spare land. She confirmed that she had received a letter about it from Connaught, however it is still happening. S Wood to speak with Connaught about this issue if the lady forwards the details.

8.3 A resident raised the issue of a letter she had received about landscaping Cabbage Hill. Cllr Blackburn confirmed that this was from Parks & Countryside, who plan to develop it as a wildlife area, however, this was tied up with a development in the area, ie section 106 money from private developers. However, unfortunately this scheme was tied in with the Upper Wortley Rd Schools Development Scheme, so no development of Cabbage Hill will be imminent.

8.4 Dental Advice Line cards were issued to the meeting.

#### 9.0 Future Forum Dates

S Woodhead informed the meeting that future dates were 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm at Greenhill School and 10<sup>th</sup> Set 7pm at Hillside Community Centre in New Farnley. In addition, a "Your Community, Your Priorities" event will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at New Farnley Community Centre.