

HAREWOOD AND WETHERBY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

Thursday 20th January 2011 7:30 pm at Shadwell Recreation Hall

Agenda Items:

Voluntary Action Leeds – Cathy Faulks

Cathy introduced herself to the Forum and reported that VA-L has been serving the voluntary and community sectors in the whole of the metropolitan area of Leeds for the last 60 years. She was attending the meeting to raise awareness of VA-L and the different types of assistance they could give to groups including direct support, specialist advice, training, funding information, etc to voluntary groups to enable them to carry out their work in their communities. A pack explaining their work was circulated for information.

Wetherby & Boston Spa Children's Centres – Mo Parks and Julie Brady

Mo, the Children's Centre Improvement Manager explained the work she had been involved in with both the Wetherby and newly built Boston Spa Children's Centres. Julie, the Wetherby Children's Centre Manager, then went on to explain the work they do in the community, both at the Centre and through out reach work in the area and villages.

The Boston Spa Children's Centre, newly built on the old Deepdale site, was completed in November and the pre-school group started in the building on the 10th January 2011. The Centre is now working in partnership with the Deepdale Community Association and starts working with local groups next week. The Youth Service also offer provision at the Centre on Tuesdays and Fridays each week so in future, the mobile bus will no longer be used in the area. The official opening will take place before the end of March 2011. Parish Councillors were invited to visit either/both Centres if they wished to do so.

Planning Issues and Enforcement – Chris Sanderson and Sarah Hellewell

Chris reported that a key case list of enforcement issues in the past had been sent to Ward Members every 8 weeks giving them an update of cases which they had sent to enforcement. However from now on this list, with the addition of cases the parish councils pass to them, will be circulated to both Ward Members and Parish Council Clerks. The Forum was reminded that all enforcement cases are confidential and the information should not be passed to members of the public. The latest lists are currently being sent out to parish councils. Any problems or questions regarding enforcement issues should now be sent directly to Chris at chris.sanderson@leeds.gov.uk.

George Hall reported that he had recently sat on the Planning Charter Working Group and felt extremely disappointed that 18 months ago they were given assurances that this information would be available and that regular updates would be forwarded to them. He stated that all parish councils felt badly let down by the Planning Department and that this information is now long overdue. Other councillors felt that this was a serious situation which should be rectified.

Chris was asked if there was one planning officer allocated to looking after the key cases to which he reported that there were four compliance officers in East North East, but any queries should be sent directly to him.

It was hoped by all Forum members that this situation would now be resolved and progress could be made. They welcomed the decision to circulate the key case list.

Sarah reminded the Forum about the Planning Conference which has been arranged for 1st March 2011 at Boston Spa Village Hall and outlined the programme for the day. Councillors were encouraged to attend and let Sarah have nominations as soon as possible.

Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard Scheme: Sarah explained the scheme and suggested if any parish council was interested they should contact Martin Sellens direct on martin.sellens@leeds.gov.uk

Cllr Robinson notified the Forum that there was a document about the situation with the Regional Spatial Strategy entitled They Work For You.com which was available on the website.

Sarah reported that the decisions on the Public Inquiries on Syke Lane and Grimes Dyke should be known hopefully by 24th May

Parish Council Boundaries

Cllr Robinson explained that Alex Meek from the Electoral Office had been invited to speak at tonight's meeting but was unable to attend. However he had met with Alex earlier in the week and explained how the process of boundary changes works. A document explaining this can be found on the website www.communities.gov.uk and is entitled "Guidance on Community Governance Reviews". It was agreed that Alex be invited to attend the next Forum meeting in April.

Updates from Parish and Town Councils

Scarcroft – The main issue for the village has been the Syke Lane Public Inquiry and the chair of the Parish Council wanted to thank the officers within LCC for their efforts

Thorner – reported that the precept would remain the same as last year.

- An application had been received from the Leeds Festival

- The Village Design Statement was due for ratification

Aberford – reported that the wind farm inquiry decision had gone in favour of local residents

East Keswick – As reported at the last meeting there had been recent changes to the bus services. After discussions with Metro and First Bus from the 5th February the Leeds to Wetherby route will go through the village

Bardsey – the Parish Council have decided not to purchase grit bins as they felt that would be setting a precedent. Cllr Robinson explained that he was attempting to obtain grit bins for 2nd Avenue and the Congreves.

Bramham – are still trying to resolve issues with the Youth Service

Barwick in Elmet – main issue is the proposed closure of the library. A public meeting is to be held in February

Scholes – looking at the provision of a youth shelter

Shadwell – streetlights still not completed. Main issue is the proposed library closure and the fight to keep it open

Items Raised under Any Other Business

Consultation documents – there were concerns that a lot of publications that are sent to parish councils for information/consultation can be extremely lengthy documents and a question was raised as to whether a summary could be sent instead of the full document. Cllr Robinson agreed to raise this as an issue.

Cllr Robinson reported that this would be Sandra's last attendance at the Forum as she

had decided to take early retirement and leave the authority in March. Sandra was thanked for her support to both the Forum and individual Councillors and wished the best of luck in whatever the future holds. Sandra thanked those present and said it was a sad time but a decision she felt it was time to take.

Date and time of future meetings

Thursday 21st April 2011 – Deepdale Children’s Centre, Cllr John Procter to Chair

Thursday 21st July 2011

Thursday 20th October 2011

Update from Parish and Town Councils

- Thorner – concerns expressed about Planning Officers refusal to sign off the design statement due to it not yet being adopted. Sarah explained that the supplementary planning guide is still in draft and as such, does not carry any weight yet.
- East Keswick – reported that the road was being done at last.
- Bardsey – refurbishment of the sports facility is now complete.
- Bramham – a decision is expected imminently on the proposal for a new bio mass electricity sub station.
- Aberford – the funding is now in place for the Master Plan 2010 - 20 as replacement for the current Parish plan. The problems with the new street lights and hanging baskets have now been resolved.
- Shadwell – still having problems with the street lights. SF to refer to Cllr Robinson to progress.
- Collingham and Linton – still no progress with the Old Mill and the felling of trees in Goss Wood. The Lady Hastings Trust, who own both the Mill and the Wood, still refusing to discuss with the Parish Council. Cllr Procter suggested that as well as approaching the Charities Commission, Charter Jonas also be written to.
- Wetherby – the new Enforcement officers are having a purge on 'A' boards in the town centre.
- Boston Spa – biggest concern still is the public enquiry into the Church Fields development.
- Thorp Arch – gulleys on the bridge still not cleared. Cllr Lam has agreed to progress the issue on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Clifford – problems with street lighting still ongoing due to the change of painting contractor. Should be resolved shortly.
- Scarcroft – a summer event was organised at the Bracken Fox but concerns were raised by the Police regarding safety. It was also brought to their attention that in order to run such events a temporary events license was needed. In order to run the event, it had to be moved to the beer garden.

A1(M) Issues

No further issues to be raised. However agreed to leave as a regular agenda item for the time being until the project is completed and signed off by the contractor.

Parish Council Boundaries: Collingham and Linton wish to look at their parish boundary and asked if other parish councils would find it beneficial for an officer from the Electoral Reform Office be asked to attend a future meeting of the Forum. It was agreed that an officer be invited to attend the next meeting in October.

Grass Cutting: At Executive Board on 22nd June it was agreed that "approval be given to the contract being advertised on the basis of one, single city-wide contract, with the option to require a variant bid to allow interested parish or town councils to tender for work within their areas". It was agreed that the officer responsible for the contract be invited to attend the next meeting in October.

Dog Fouling: it was reported that a consultation is currently taking place regarding the proposals to introduce new orders to ensure public safety and cleanliness in areas. The consultation is taking place until the 31st August – contact details circulated.

Discarding of litter – a question was asked about people discarding litter from vehicles. It was thought that if Environmental Enforcement was notified it would be followed up and a fine issued. Area Management will clarify the situation and inform the parish councils.