

## **Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at Holbeck Working Men's Club at 6.30 p.m.**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Angela Gabriel  
Councillor David Congreve  
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal  
Mike Dando – Planning Aid England  
Anne Hopper – resident  
Ian Pickup – Holbeck in Bloom  
Dennis Kitchen – Voice of Holbeck  
Ann Hepburn – resident  
Graciela McIntyre – resident  
Roy Cadman – resident  
Janet Ford – resident  
Mr & Mrs Armitage - residents  
Tony Ray – Planning Aid Volunteer  
Andrew Picken – Health For All  
John Baron – South Leeds Life  
Tony Van de Bospoort – Hunslet and Hobeck Heritage Project  
Neil Diamond – Aire Valley Homes Leeds  
Ken Tidswell – Friends of Holbeck Cemetery  
Eve Tidswell – Friends of Holbeck Cemetery  
Harvey Pritchard – Planning Aid/Leeds Met University  
Quintin Bradley – Leeds Met University  
William Sparling  
Nicholas Hirst  
Rebecca Robson  
Wayne Noteman – Unity HA  
PCSO Claire Leech – West Yorkshire Police  
PCSO Kirsty Johnson – West Yorkshire Police  
Ian Mackay – LCC  
Tom Ridley – LCC  
John Hall - LCC  
Lee Arnell - LCC  
Steve Ross – LCC

#### **Apologies**

Steve Williamson  
Amy Tolliday  
Steve Peacock  
Steven Blackburn  
Inspector Paul Akerman  
Andrew McLaughlin

**1.0 Welcome**

- 1.1 Dennis Kitchen welcomed everyone to the meeting..
- 1.2 Dennis said that the aim of the Plan is to make Holbeck a better place to be and to live; in addition to issues about buildings there were important social aspects too.
- 1.3 Since the Forum last met in July, a lot has happened, including a walkabout in the area in September and visit and walkabout by civil servants in October and a subsequent meeting about Neighbourhood Plans. The civil servants were impressed by the close links between residents groups, close links with LCC Officers and Ward Councillors.

**2.0 Setting up the Neighbourhood Forum**

- 2.1 Dennis said that 21 members are needed to set up the Neighbourhood Forum. Those present were encouraged to sign up to membership of the Forum.

**3.0 Feedback from September walkabout**

- 3.1 Tony Ray presented the feedback from the September walkabout which included residents and others. Main points from his presentation:

**Good things**

- Variety of people
- Some good quality houses
- Important buildings and viaduct which give identity to the area
- Important open spaces
- Wildflower meadow/Holbeck in Bloom
- Some surviving features/remnants of old Holbeck/history of the area
- Close to the City Centre

**Poor things**

- Buildings/open spaces needing improvements
- Disused/derelict industrial sites/buildings – poor boundaries
- Shops on Domestic Street
- Apparently unsafe ginnels/pedestrian routes – some blocked off
- Poor integration with Holbeck Urban Village/poor connections with the city centre
- Quality of some housing
- Lack of shops and community facilities
- Poor maintenance of the area.

**Specific proposals for improvement**

- Set up an urban farm at Matthew Murray site
- Uplighting of the viaduct
- Scheme to improve the whole of Domestic Street
- Build a mix of new houses
- Have a new 'heart' for old Holbeck– a village green
- Convert the old, disused mills
- Improve the connections from Holbeck to the city centre.

**4.0 Vote on the boundary for the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan**

- 4.1 Ian Mackay introduced this item. He said it was important to have

- agreement about the boundary; this is critical to what the Plan is about. A paper had been circulated about the factors involved in deciding on the boundary and setting out options. Ian presented the options and said that issues to consider when deciding on the boundary included whether the Forum had the capacity to deliver a Plan which included a wider area; the need to improve connections between Holbeck and Holbeck Urban Village and the city centre. Once the application about the boundary is made, LCC will advertise this and it will open to representations for six weeks.
- 4.2 On a show of hands, 17 people agreed that the boundary should be areas 1,2 and 3 as identified in the paper submitted to the Forum on 'agreeing the boundary for the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan.'

## **5 Where do we go from here?**

- 5.1 Task groups are to be set up to take things forward and get people involved, these include:
- Designation of neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum – short term
  - Content of Neighbourhood Plan
  - Constitution for the Forum
  - Resources and finance – short term includes setting up a bank account
  - Publicity and promotion – longer term
- 5.2 What needs to be done over the next few weeks:
- 21 members to be signed up.
  - Application for designation needs to be submitted
  - Put together a constitution
  - Put out publicity.
- 5.3 What needs to be done over the next few months:
- Develop a vision for the area
  - Clarify the issues

## **6 Planning Aid support**

- 6.1 Mike Dando explained that Planning Aid was an independent charitable organisation which worked nationally and is supporting the Neighbourhood Plan in Holbeck; this support is provided free to the community.
- 6.2 A note outlining Planning Aid's support package had been circulated to the Forum. In a show of hands 16 people agreed to Planning Aid supporting the development of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan.

## **7 Any other business**

- 7.1 A Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan blog has been set up. Details to be circulated.

## **8 Next meeting**

- 8.1 The next meeting is to be held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December** at Holbeck Working Men's Club at 6.30 p.m. All to note
- 8.2 Cllr David Congreve said that exciting times were ahead for Holbeck and he paid tribute to Dennis Kitchen's chairing of the meeting.