

## **Wetherby & Harewood Town & PC Forum**

Thursday 24 January, Scarcroft Village Hall

### **Attendance**

Cllr Matthew Robinson (Chair)	Harewood Ward
Peter Hart	Scarcroft PC
Paddy Procter	Scarcroft PC
Don Suckall	Harewood PC
Peter Moore	Harewood PC
Margaret Williamson	Harewood PC
Derek Armitage	Collingham with Linton PC
Glyn Robins	Collingham with Linton PC
David Thomson	Boston Spa PC
Judith Pentith	East Keswick PC
Gaynor Anning	East Keswick PC
Andrew Batty	East Keswick PC
Linda Flockton	Bardsey Cum Rigton
Kate James	Thorner PC clerk
Ian Forster	Aberford & District PC
Ruth Reed	Aberford & District PC
Keith Dunwell	Aberford & District PC
John Barker	Aberford & District PC
Nicolas Fawcett	Clifford PC
Colin Pool	Thorp Arch PC/Walton PC clerk
Claire Hassell	Barwick & Scholes PC
Stella Walsh	Barwick & Scholes PC
Debbie Potter	Shadwell PC
Cllr Gerald Wilkinson	Wetherby Ward
Carole Clark	LCC Area Support Team
John Woolmer	LCC Environmental Locality Team
Andrew Birkbeck	LCC Area Support Team
Doug Meeson	LCC
Tom Holvey	LCC
Sarah Goodrum	LCC
Inspector Paul Dwyer	West Yorkshire Police

**Apologies:** Cllr Ann Castle (Harewood Ward); Cllr Neil Buckley (Alwoodley Ward); George Hall (SHLAA Partnership); Sheila Humphreys (Thorp Arch PC); Gwen Brown (Thorner PC); Paul Thomson (Scarcroft PC); Catriona Hanson (Alwoodley PC clerk);

**1.00** Cllr Matthew Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting & introductions were made.

**2.00** **Apologies** given as above.

**3.00** **Minutes of last meeting** agreed as a true record

**4.00** **Matters Arising**

4.01 4.01 A letter was sent to Metro by Cllr J Procter. The reply is circulated with these minutes.

**5.00** **Superfast Broadband**

5.01 Tom Holvey and Sarah Goodrum from Leeds City Council's Economic Policy and Programmes Unit attended to provide an update on two major funding schemes to deliver superfast broadband across the country by 2015.

5.02 Two projects, one to deliver superfast broadband to most areas of the UK, BDUK, and one to deliver ultrafast broadband to key business districts in the country. BDUK will be delivered at a West Yorkshire level, with £4.5m funding from the government which is matched by the local authorities involved. The aim is to roll out superfast broadband to 90% of premises.

5.03 The procurement process should be complete by July. The council would like feedback from parish councils and residents on where the problems are, and where the demand is. There will be a website up and running in a couple of weeks with all the information about the scheme and how to provide feedback. Information provided does not have to be technical, the council are interested in anecdotal evidence about where broadband seems slow.

5.04 Parishes can also help by publicising this. A form of words will be provided by the council for them to use in their newsletters and websites.

5.05 Superfast broadband speeds are 24 Megabites/second.

5.06 Further information is included in the slides circulated with these minutes.

**6.00** **Council Tax and Parish Precepts**

6.01 Doug Meeson. Leeds City Council Financial Management, attended to provide an overview of the changes to local government funding which an impact on Parish Precepts.

6.02 The Parish Precept is determined by the Parish Council and collected by Leeds City Council by adding it to the council tax. The amount collected is determined by dividing the total to be collected by the parish council tax base.

6.03 There are significant changes from April 2013 for people on benefits. Instead of receiving a benefit to cover their council tax, they will receive a discount. The switch to discount reduces the council tax base, which means that the precept per individual

will have to rise to get the same yield. LCC are proposing a grant (subject to council approval) to compensate for the loss in yield.

- 6.04 Parishes have already been informed of this. The feedback from parishes is that they need to know the council tax base earlier to enable them to set their budget to meet council deadlines. For this year DM will find out if the deadline for them submitting their precept requirements can be extended. For future years, they need the information earlier, plus confirmation that there will be a grant.
- 6.05 Parishes committed to not increasing their precept want to ensure that this is still reflected in bills going out.

Note: Following the meeting, DM was able to confirm to all parish and town councils that in the light of feedback provided at this meeting, they have today reviewed the timescales, and extended the return date for completed Precept Returns to Friday, 15th February.

## **7.00 Wetherby & Harewood Neighbourhood Policing Team**

- 7.01 Inspector Paul Dwyer attended to give an overview of policing in the Harewood and Wetherby District. Priorities are Anti social behaviour, domestic burglary, rural crime, road safety issues, supporting local events.
- 7.02 The most recent survey shows that only 6.7% of residents think that ASB has increased, which is one of the lowest rates in West Yorkshire. The number of reported incidents of ASB is the lowest in North East Leeds, and therefore the lowest in Yorkshire.
- 7.03 Domestic burglary is a priority for Leeds and West Yorkshire. Initiatives in the inner areas of Leeds have displaced burglaries to the outer areas, but additional resources have been deployed to tackle the problem and stop any significant increase. The initiative to replace replacing Euro-locks with a more secure type of lock is proving successful.
- 7.04 Rural crime is showing a reduction. Farmwatch will continue; acknowledgement to the Outer North East Area Committee for their support in funding fuel for the two landrovers and for additional policing patrols.
- 7.05 Road safety continues to be an issue for most communities. The police will continue with speed checks, with a focus on vulnerable areas, and where problems are apparent.
- 7.06 Last year the police gave support to 120 community events in the Wetherby and Harewood area. Major events were the Jubilee, Olympic Torch and Leeds Festival.
- 7.07 For the next quarter until the end of April, there will be a focus on increasing the visibility of Police officers, PCSOs and specials.
- 7.08 Any information on drug related activities is acted upon, although it may not always

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be apparent.

- 7.09 In response to questions Inspector Dwyer said that officers do patrol in Harewood Village, sometimes during the day, and sometimes on the Harewood Estate. The Farmwatch vehicles are always out and about, and will be seen in the villages.
- 7.10 Speed cameras are installed by LCC Highways, and the police are consulted on where they are sited. Revenue from speed cameras goes into the Treasury's consolidated fund – basically the government's main 'bank account'. Local authorities then receive grants back from the government to spend how they will.
- 7.11 The police do work with the probation service and will repeat visit re-offenders. It was suggested that the probation service might be a topic for a future meeting.

## **8.00 Environmental Issues – John Woolmer**

**8.01** John Woolmer introduced Bev Kirk who is the enforcement officer for the Outer North East Area.

An example of work John's team has been involved in is a recent prosecution for illegal advertising of a local game fair which resulted in an £800 fine.

**8.02** JW's team has gone through a restructure to resolve some differences in grades. Bev will be staying in this area.

**8.03** Gully cleaning – a lot of referrals have been dealt with and JW is working with Highways to look at some of the issues with blocked gullies. Litter bins have been delivered and installed. The new ones can be moved easily if it becomes apparent they are not in the best place.

**8.04** Ginnel clearances ongoing.

**8.05** Grounds maintenance, JW would welcome any feedback from the parishes. The next round of cuts will start in February/March. A stretch of road between Harewood Village and the Grammar School requires gully clearing and litter picking. This will require some traffic management work and will be done in the next few weeks.

**8.06** The East North East Locality Team's Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/LCCEnvServENE](http://www.facebook.com/LCCEnvServENE)

In response to questions:

**8.07** JW can order a replacement metal insert for a bin at Aberford; A bad smell is emanating from a commercial premise which affects East Keswick and sometimes a wider area. Bad smells can be investigated by LCC specialist team. JW/BK will raise it with the team and get a contact for the officer who is dealing with the case mentioned.

**8.08** JW's team do not deal with moles;

## **9.00 Localism – Andrew Birkbeck**

- 9.01 AB informed the Forum that a final site allocations meeting involving Harewood and Wetherby Ward Members is to be held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. Following that meeting a report should be going to the Development Plans Panel (<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=450>) in February. It is via this report that the initial proposals for site allocations in Outer North East Leeds will be put in the public domain.
- 9.02 The consultation on proposed changes to council's Core Strategy closes on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013. More details can be found here: <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/council/Pages/Core-Strategy---Pre-submission-Changes.aspx>
- 9.03 Planning Minister Nick Boles has announced that 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy monies associated with new development will go to any Town or Parish Council producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. See link for more details: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-to-receive-cash-boost-for-choosing-development>
- 9.04 AB urged the parishes to arrange a meeting with planning officer's Ian Mackay and Heather Suggate in order to discuss a package of support. Heather, who is coordinating the meetings, can be contacted on [Heather.Suggate@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Suggate@leeds.gov.uk) or 0113 2478084.
- 9.05 AB concluded by saying he is currently working on an exit strategy as his post concludes 31st March 2013.
- 9.06 This was AB's last meeting and Cllr Robinson asked for a big thank you to AB to be recorded for his work and support for the parishes. This was endorsed by Peter Hart who also acknowledged a thank you to the ward members for supporting this post.

## **10.00 Area Committee business plan priorities**

- 10.01 CC circulated copies of the Area Committee's business plan priorities for 2013/14. Parishes can comment on these if they wish to do so. Feedback has already been received from Barwick & Scholes.
- 10.02 In response to a comment that the priorities were not tackling day to day issues such as highways work, Cllr Wilkinson responded that the Area Committee could not take on highways issues without any transfer of budgets to the committee.

## **11.00 Update from Parish and Town Councils (sent by email)**

### **11.01 Boston Spa**

Our new Clerk (Mrs) Vivienne Skinner is settling in well to her role.

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Tesco's interest in opening an Express store is still hanging heavy over the village, and the possibility of a major housing development at Thorp Arch Estate continues to exercise our minds. The Neighbourhood Plan is making steady progress through five Topic Groups and the Steering Group.

We are trying to develop land for an additional 10 plots for allotments.

The response from John Woolmer's team to environmental problems in the village continues to be first class but when they are handed on to Highways they seem to disappear into the long grass.

#### 11.02 **Collingham**

Tesco expects to be on-site at The Old Star, Collingham for 12 weeks in preparation to open the Express store in the derelict building. The aim is to open the store by June.

#### 11.03 **Barwick and Scholes**

With thanks to Ward Councillors for their support with MICE funds and sponsorship from Talk Talk, Barwick in Elmet Village Hall has a very smart new Notice Board.

2 new Councillors have been co-opted to the Scholes Ward - Stella Walsh and Tom Crosfill. Tom, at 18 is the youngest Councillor ever to serve the Parish.

Matthew Robinson commissioned a survey of Barwick, Scholes and Aberford in relation to our poor bus service. Barwick has returned over 400 responses.

Our NDP is progressing well.

We have encountered problems with a pressure group set up in Scholes regarding possible planning responses to things like the Manston Lane Link Road, East Leeds Orbital Road and East Leeds Extension all of which are outside the Parish. They run two Facebook pages which contain inaccurate information and unpleasant criticisms.

#### 12.00 **Any Other Business**

12.01 For the next meeting, Cllr Robinson suggested an item on Welfare Reform.

12.02 Harewood Parish Council suggested Treetops Community Centre on Shadwell Lane as a potential future venue.

12.03 Cllr Robinson acknowledged that Peter Hart is standing down as clerk to Scarcroft Parish Council and extended a big thank you to him for his work and contributions.

12.04 Cllr Robinson asked parish clerks to send an updated contact list for their councillors.

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12.05 Information was made available for parishes to take away on:

- go:cycling delegated fund – an initiative funded by the Department of Transport to encourage cycling.
- SAFER – Scams and Frauds Education for Residents a project to equip residents with the skills to protect themselves against rogue traders and scams.
- Alcohol awareness

**12.00 Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm

Venue to be confirmed