

## Wetherby & Harewood Town & PC Forum

Thursday 25 April, Scarcroft Village Hall

### Attendance

Cllr Gerald Wilkinson (Chair)  
Ben Hogan  
Claire Hassell  
Stella Walsh  
Ruth Reed  
Kevin Sedman  
Peter Moore  
Nicholas Fawcett  
Harry Chapman  
Julie Brady  
Ron Aitken  
Derek Armitage  
David Thomson  
Gwen Brown  
Kate James  
Gina Carter  
Paddy Procter  
Val Whitbread  
Judith Pentith  
Gaynor Anning  
Glyn Robins

Wetherby Ward  
Barwick & Scholes PC  
Barwick & Scholes PC  
Barwick & Scholes PC  
Aberford & District PC  
Harewood PC  
Harewood PC  
Clifford PC  
Wetherby Town Council  
Wetherby Town Council  
Wetherby Town Council  
Collingham with Linton PC  
Boston Spa PC  
Thorner PC  
Thorner PC clerk  
Scarcroft PC clerk  
Scarcroft PC  
Bramham PC  
East Keswick PC  
East Keswick PC  
Collingham with Linton PC

Carole Clark  
John Woolmer  
Paul Longthorpe

LCC Area Support Team  
LCC Environmental Locality Team  
East North East Homes

**Apologies:** Colin Poole (Thorp Arch/Walton PC clerk, Linda Flockton (Bardsey), Margaret Wilkinson (Harewood)

**1.00** Cllr Gerald Wilkinson welcomed everyone to the meeting & introductions were made.

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

**2.01** **SHLAA** (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Partnership) representative. It was reported that George Hall has resigned from the SHLAA partnership and therefore will no longer be attending this forum as the SHLAA representative. The forum expressed their thanks for George's time and support.

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

#### **4.00 Matters Arising**

- 4.01 Superfast Broadband, no further information has been sent by Tom Holvey, CC to chase up. The presentation slides have been circulated to parish clerks.
- 4.02 Property on High Street, Clifford – the Council's conservation officer is aware of the property and is intending to contact the owner.

#### **5.00 Welfare Reform**

- 5.01 David Longthorpe from East North East Homes Leeds (ENEHL) attended the forum to give a presentation on the impact of Welfare Reform. In response to questions the following points were made:

- 5.02 7,300 ALMO tenants are affected. The current ALMO housing stock is 69000.  
17% of those affected by loss of benefit because they will be underoccupying a property would like to move. The turnover of properties means that there are a sufficient number of one bedroom flats, but they are not necessarily in the areas that people want to move to.
- 5.03 The average waiting time for re-housing into a one bedroom flat is 31 weeks. Any rent arrears accrued during this time will not prevent people transferring to a smaller property; the arrears will transfer with them to their new property. There is no assistance with removal costs.
- 5.04 Further information is included in the slides circulated with these minutes.

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

[www.facebook.com/LCCEnvServENE](http://www.facebook.com/LCCEnvServENE)

- 8.01 **Grounds maintenance** - John presented a written update from Continental Landscapes. The responsibility for overseeing the grounds maintenance has now passed to Parks and Countryside within LCC under the management of Simon Frosdick.
- 8.02 Any discussions regarding the feasibility of sub-contracting grass cutting to In Bloom groups need to be with Simon.
- 8.03 The grounds maintenance contract includes litter picking from the grass verges which has meant that litter has built up during the winter months.
- 8.04 JW circulated a paper with a list of proposed priorities for the 2013/14 Service Level Agreement which he is seeking views on. Those in attendance were supportive of these proposals. Any further comments on the proposals should be fed back to JW.
- 8.05 It was agreed that some better information, such as stickers telling people that dog waste can go in normal litter bins, would be helpful. JW's team can assist with the design of stickers, and posters. The new litter bins have A4 frames for posters, and parishes can have the keys to these frames.

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- 8.06 Motorway junctions – Highways Agency responsibility usually starts at the beginning of the slip road.
- 8.07 Gully cleaning on the A61 was originally scheduled in February, but postponed due to problems with getting a licence to close the road on weekdays. Hoping to overcome these problems, and reschedule for May.
- 8.08 JW clarified information in an article in the Wetherby News about areas of the city receiving additional patrols. This is a pilot scheme for 6 months using a private company, and does not mean a reduction in the current levels of service for the Outer North East area.
- 8.09 Problems with dogs in Bramham, the dog warden service has very limited resources, but any specific information can be passed to JW.
- 8.10 JW's team was thanked for their prompt response to an issue in Scarcroft.

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

### **9.01 Scarcroft**

- Our new Clerk Mrs Gina Carter is settling well into her role.
- LCC have started a review of the Conservation Area in Scarcroft, which they hope to complete by October 2013.
- Land on the Castle Mona site adjacent to the Village Hall is being transferred under Sec 106 to the Parish Council.
- Work is progressing on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and work being undertaken to tie this in with the Conservation Area review and prospective development of the land on the former YEB site in Scarcroft.

## **10.00 Any Other Business**

- 10.01 Planning Charter revisions have been submitted to the council;
- 10.02 Cllr Wilkinson asked all present if they would ask their Town and Parish Councils for support in opposing the closure of Primrose Hill Nursing Home.
- 10.03 A questionnaire has been circulated to clerks to seek feedback on the effectiveness of the Localism Role. Please return the questionnaires to CC (One per town/parish).

## **11.00 Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 11th July, 7:30pm  
Venue to be confirmed