

Armley Community Forum

Date: 20th March 2007

Present: Cllr Harper (Chair), C Clark, A Friebe, J Scroggie, E Bowes, D Peck, K Lemm, I Penman, B Holmes, M Tyson, M Burgham, J Owen, J Ramell, M & D Stead, K & B Draper, S Nightingale, D Spellman, Hon Alderman B Nelson, A Covey, J Ford, J Parsons, J Gill, L & M Murphy, M Woodward, J Kerry, JL Holdsworth, M & S McGill, W Gregg, H & D Boutle, T Maynard, F H Smyth, S & B Richmond, D Smith, R Pickford, A Wilkinson, I Newsome.

ACTION

1.00 WELCOME

1.01 Cllr Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 J Grainger, A Stephenson, T & D Maynard, M Broughton. Cllr Lowe, E & B Rayworth, I Stephenson, D Newsome, Cllr Mckenna. D Pemberton, Fr I Wright, K Donnelly.

3.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3.01 The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record with no amendments.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING

- 4.01 (4.01) Todd's Butchers site: Cllr JH attending Planning Panel on Thursday 22nd and will make all concerns/objections clear. Cllr JH appealed for a forum member to attend the meeting to speak on the forum's behalf.
- 4.02 (8.03) This letterbox is still in use.
- 4.03 (8:06) Yum Yum Pizza – application for late licence. Cllr JH has written a letter to oppose this.
- 4.04 (8.09) Cllr JH has contacted Highways re. this matter and hopefully something will now be done.

5.00 POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES – Sgt Nick Boyes

- 5.01 There has been a 13% reduction in crime in this beat area.
- 5.02 Tenancy sweeps have proved very effective over the last 5/6 months and recently in the Gambles/Poplars.
- 5.03 Ley Lane – ASB reports decreased – possibly offenders have moved back to the Salisburies.
- 5.04 Police are aware of raised vehicle crime in the are and are taking steps to combat this.
- 5.05 There are still reported problems with small motor bikes in the area and speeding vehicles. Any information re offenders or where the bikes are being kept – please pass to Police.
- 5.06 Sgt NB appealed to the forum to complete a questionnaire re. the future of policing and gaps in the service provided. **Anyone interested was asked to stay behind at the end of the forum to give name/address details.**

All

6.00 Advertising – Anne Briggs, LCC

- 6.01 AB discussed the billboards at Mistress Lane. These are experimental in that 2 of the 3 pay LCC for use which in turn pays for LCC to use the third. This billboard can be a useful resource especially in the face of a changing Armley to inform and alert people to the regeneration of the area.
- 6.02 The Mistress Lane billboards are temporary for about 3 yrs – the time estimated for land to be sold and construction to begin. They have been tidied up and when adverts changed (fortnightly) – any rubbish dumped will be reported and dealt with. The LCC board will change every 6 months – maybe more often depending on what content. It is £145 to change the board each time – Cllr JH felt this money could be found if eg the forum wanted a message/advert displayed.
- 6.03 Comments/Discussion included:
- The location of the boards is such that they are at the traffic lights so traffic can see them whilst static. However this does mean they block residential views.
 - AB has undertaken an audit of billboards in the area and several will be taken down and/or replaced.
 - AB – there is an agreement with LCC that nothing seen as detrimental or inappropriate to the area will be advertised.
 - AB – guidelines for all advertisers are available on LCC website. Please do complain if you think these are not being adhered to.
 - AB – each board has an ID number and name of the company using it. This is the info needed when complaining.
 - The effectiveness of the billboard advertising is measured in depth by the companies involved – the process is seen to be a subliminal one.
 - Cllr JH – could use the footbridge by the prison for a slogan eg ‘Welcome to the Gateway or Armley’? However this would be funded by sponsorship therefore advertising.
 - Suggestion by the forum was made to use the walls of the railway? These are unused and very scruffy? AB to follow up.

7.00 Improving Armley Mills

7.01 The Armley Mills site should be a fantastic resource and draw to the area – it has an extensive site, is in a good location and the educational side is well used. How then to utilise this for the future? **The forum were invited to give their views and to complete questionnaires before leaving.**

7.02 Comments included:

- The area around the site is very run down.
- The access is poor - down a long muddy lane. Cllr JH suggested some interesting & fun method such as the train at Kirkstall.
- Should be looking at dual use ie. Open day and evening.

8.00 Any other business

8.01 Cllr JH reported back on the most recent West Leeds Gateway Board meeting (6th March at HMP Leeds). Reports presented included Dave Pickles from Grangevale homes and their plans in the area; Alison Shaffner re the West Leeds growth Initiative; Carole Clark re. the Armley Town St Heritage Initiative. A list of the present planning applications in the area was also submitted.

8.02 The forum had shown concern regarding several issues seen to be having a negative impact on the Armley area. Carole Clark updated the forum on the initiatives and schemes taking place locally. These include:

All

- £700k awarded from the Town & District Centre scheme for improvements to the public realm.
- £25k from the Townscape Heritage Initiative for application for a larger amount (£1m) for Armley conservation area.
- New health centre – completed.
- New leisure centre – in progress.
- Adrian Millward now in post as head of the dedicated Regeneration team for the area.
- West Area management etc working to secure new investment in the area.

CC has prepared a newsletter which will be included with the papers for next Forum.

AF

- 8.03 Suggestion - the shops available on Town St were more widely advertised. Burley Lodge Centre are now holding a financial advice surgery (appointment only) on Friday 1-3pm at AOSC.(enquiries 0113 275 3498)
- 8.04 Inquiry re pubs blocked up near Living World pet shop: CC – these are privately owned and therefore the Council has no control over the use/present state of these.
- 8.05 Hon Alderman Nelson informed the forum of the new Dog Walk ACRT have set up. This is signposted and with this the hope is to promote pooping/scooping. This is the first of its kind in the Leeds area. Cllrs have been approached for funding for special bins along the route.
- 8.06 There is still a problem parking around Armley Moor health centre – Highways have been investigating residential parking scheme and this is recommended for approval.
- 8.07 The old leisure centre is not being demolished before the new one is built, however the new one at Morley will be built first.

Complaint about the cleanliness of the Armley leisure centre. Cllr JH to write a letter to Learning & Leisure dept.

Cllr JH

Cllr Harper has emailed Denise Preston (Chief Recreation Officer) since this forum meeting. She has asked for the text of this email to be included in these minutes:-

'Denise

At the Armley Community Forum last night a number of complaints were raised about the cleanliness of the Centre. They varied from a smell of bad eggs to dirty pool and pool side. There was a particular complaint re the Ladies changing rooms, it seems that parents come in in dirty shoes bringing buggies and prams into an area where most of the users will have bare feet.

I think it is something to consider for the design of the new changing rooms, but is there anything we can do in the meantime to make the Centre more customer friendly and hygienic.

Best wishes - Janet Harper'

9:00 DATE & TIME of NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 17th April, 7pm AOSC