

Armley Community Forum

Date: 18th September 2007

Present: Hazel Boutle (Chair), R Boon, A Friebe, Cllr A Lowe, Cllr J Mckenna, D Boutle, B Gregg, E Bowes, R Edwards, S Hellewell, D Collins, G Shaw, D & T Maynard, W & K Anderson, C Walker, D M Peck, E Hey, E & B Rayworth, J Gill, J Preston, J Collins, Rev A Kaye, J Wordsworth, J S Bahra, B & M Guthrie, P Kempster, T & W Jones, B Holmes, M Bruce, H Shields, G St Quintin, H Gardiner, M Pugh, K Donnelly, L Campbell, J Parsons, J Ford, A Willis, J Kerry, AA & I Stephenson, D Best, R Wright, E H Smyth, D Smith, S & B Richmond, M Stead, K Draper, JK & JP Newsome, A Covey, A Iqbal.

ACTION

1.00 WELCOME

1.01 Hazel Boutle welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Cllr Janet Harper was unable to attend.

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 Cllr Harper, I & D Penman, K Lemm, D Stead, B Draper, B Nelson, J Grainger, M Liddle, I Broughton.

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 (8.01) The Theaker Lane site is now up for sale by auction.

4.02 (9.12) The Cedars binyards – work has started but residents in nearby streets have not been informed. RB to chase up.

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5.00 POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

5.01 Police have been carrying out several tenancy sweeps in high-rise blocks, Cedars and will be doing one soon at the Burnsalls.

5.02 Two problem families have moved – one to a known address – the other not known as yet.

5.03 School holidays have been very quiet – this may be due to the weather.

5.04 Speeding at Mistress Lane – very common. PCSOs aware.

5.05 Speeding at the Grasmere – this is being addressed by Police already.

5.06 Several cars vandalised at Christ Church. Not identified as a vehicle crime hotspot however as these crimes are not being reported. The Police MUST be contacted for the area to be flagged as a hotspot and therefore more resources assigned.

5.07 Travellers have moved from the Moor to the area next to St Barts.

5.08 Some railings are missing at 23 Cedar Place – these are being replaced .

5.09 Tension Monitoring: RB introduced what will be a permanent agenda item in future. The forum will be asked to report any growing ‘tensions’ in the area which may lead to problems. This is to enable early intervention by appropriate agencies to try and prevent further problems. This information will be held centrally and monitored across the city. No incidences were reported.

6.00 Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) for Armley Town Street – Gill Hunter, Community Safety Locality Co-ordinator.

6.01 Concerns about the rising level of alcohol-related violent crime have led to a DPPO proposed for Armley centre. There were 107 alcohol-related violent crimes reported

between 01/05/06 and 30/04/07 (55% increase on the same previous period) and already 49 reported in the last few months.

- 6.02 The DPPO will act as an extra tool giving Police powers to seize alcohol or carry out on-the-spot fines if people are seen to be drinking in public on the street within the designated area. This will also impact on criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.
- 6.03 This does not effect beer-gardens and the Police will exercise discretion.
- 6.04 The following public notice appeared in Saturday's Evening Post (15/09/07):

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES FOR THE AREA OF ARMLEY (CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE ACT 2001)

The City of Leeds Metropolitan District Council propose to make an Designated Public Places Order under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. The effect of the order is that the police will have the power to require a person not to drink alcohol in the designated area and to surrender alcohol to the police. Failure to comply with the request is an offence.

The proposed designated area comprises all public highways, streets, byways and other public places within the Armley area. This area is bounded to the north by the Leeds/Liverpool canal, to the south by Whingate and Tong Road, to the east by Canal Road and Wesley Road and in the west by Armley Grange Mount, Avenue and Redcote Lane. The area takes in such areas as Armley Town Street, the Aviary's, Aberdeen's, Cedars, Armley Moor and Armley Park.

A map identifying the specific location of the designated public place and a list of licensed premises within the area is available for inspection at Leeds City Council, Armley One Stop Centre. Alternatively you can view the information at www.leedsinitiative.org/west

The order will not apply to premises with a premises licence or club premises certificate granted by the Licensing Authority. It will not apply within the curtilage of such premises. It will not apply where a temporary event notice authorises use of the premises for the supply of alcohol during the authorised times and for 30 minutes afterwards. It will not apply to outside areas covered by a street café licence.

Any representations as to whether or not the order should be made must be made in writing to Gill Hunter West Leeds Area Management Office 3rd Floor Pudsey One Stop Centre Robin Lane Leeds LS 28 7BL by no later than 15th October 2007. Alternatively you can contact us by email at nhd.innerwest@leeds.gov.uk.

- 6.03 DPPOs are in place in several other areas where they have been deemed successful eg Headingley, Wetherby, Pudsey etc. Ultimately the Licensing Committee will decide if this proposal is successful – comments/concerns to be sent to Gill Hunter (see above for contact details).
- 6.04 Ley Lane field – full of cans and bottles. RB to report to Streetscene.

7.00 Christ Church Social Projects - Alistair Kaye/ Julie Collins

- 7.01 AK/JC explained how the project grew from the troubled history of the Church – linked to drug dealing and criminal damage. The aim was to create something positive for the area. The project holds sessions for various age-ranges and provides a meal for all who attend. The project now has fulltime workers and volunteers and also involvement from the Youth Service. They do various activities including visiting schools, doing school assemblies, work with the Prison Visitors Centre, outreach work, train volunteers etc. They also run the HeightBites Community Café (Heights Lane) and Healthy Snax projects.

The project has existed through a variety of funding sources including the Inner West Area Committee and is seen as successful – being reported positively in the Press. Cllr JH offered supportive funding if possible.

In future the project plans to be more involved in community work especially with their

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older age group.

7.02 Linda Campbell has recently been awarded the MBE for her youth work in the Armley area. She was congratulated by the Chair and the forum.

8.00 Viaduct Road Arches improvements - update

8.01 There has been some delay with this project; the estimated date for the start of the works on site is now late September 2007. Due to a number of complications, the work is now expected to last for 16 weeks. The works will take place on the straight section of road, between the west side of the railway viaduct, and the end of the road before the corner that continues into Canal Road. To carry out the work, it is still proposed to close one lane and only allow traffic to travel uphill to Canal Road, maintaining access over the bridge at all times. Traffic travelling downhill to Kirkstall Road will be diverted via Armley Gyratory. Pedestrian access across the bridge will be maintained at all times. In advance of the lane closure, road signs will be placed at the end of the bridge, notifying users of the exact start date. Letters will subsequently be delivered to businesses and the local residents, informing them of the exact start date. Information about the works will be displayed in the local libraries.

9.00 Any other business

9.01 **Tower Works site:** Sarah Hellewell (Armley Principal Planner) attended with several of the architects to discuss the plans for a residential scheme on the site. The site was initially bought in 2004 and plans have been proposed and gone out for public consultation a number of times to date.

Public consultation results summary: 97% wanted to see the site redeveloped. 86% liked the proposed scheme. 11% were ambivalent and 3% wanted changes to the plans. Generally people felt houses were needed and wanted to see an otherwise derelict site utilised. However there were concerns re traffic impact, the loss of 2 houses for the access road, building height etc.

- These concerns have been addressed where it was possible:
- The building height is only 2 storeys in part.
- The access will now be via Moorfield Rd along edge of playing field. Traffic survey – this is felt to be more safe and visible.
- The site will be landscaped and additional shrubs etc planted. 2 trees may still be lost – however there are health problems with the smaller one anyway). This is still under discussion as residents feel strongly about retaining these.
- Asbestos will be removed from the site before building starts.
- The site will not be fenced and allow for travel through
- The playing fields will also benefit – developer will improve drainage etc

Further comments/discussion included:

- Start date – probably after Christmas and construction will take approx.18 months
- Security is a very high priority as many youths accessing the dangerous buildings – there will be 24 hr security once building starts and these buildings will be demolished.
- An element of the build will be affordable housing but this is still being negotiated. SH to keep Cllrs informed on this
- The brick will be a natural tone
- Access still felt to be an issue as many schoolchildren cross road here etc. A one-way system may be a solution – SH to follow up with Highways
- SH – these current plans (on show in AOSC until 19th September – and going to the next Plans Panel – 4th October) are felt to be the best way forward – all comments are welcome but must be in writing and sent to SH before Plans Panel.

9.02 Town & District Centre Improvements – Armley: There will be a sign in place (on Town St by Armley Moor) as part of these public realm improvements. RB asked the forum if they were happy to have the sign to say – Welcome to Armley Town Street. The forum agreed but any further suggestions will be considered.

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- 9.03 Charliecake Park Baking Competition – This will be Saturday 6th October in Charliecake Park. Entrants to attend at 12:00 entry free – open to the public from 2:30-4pm entry £1. Winning recipes will appear on this years Charming Armley calendar. More details about this and other events etc – www.armleytouristboard.com
 - 9.04 Armley Common Rights Trust have completed a 10yr plan. This is available to see in Armley Library. This is subject to change depending on funding available.
 - 9.05 ACRT also asked for volunteers to attend a clean-up on Armley Moor Saturday 22nd September.
 - 9.06 The Squash Club are to apply for an all-night license – Cllrs AL & JM will object to this.
 - 9.07 Advertisement Hoarding at Henconnor Lane has been vandalised. RB to follow up previous referral.
 - 9.08 Request for 'Armley in Bloom'. ACE – provide hanging baskets in some areas. The Town & District Centre Improvements will also provide hanging baskets in Town St from next year.
 - 9.10 Cedars Binyards – resident requested keys? GH to follow up.
- 10:00 DATE & TIME of NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 16th OCTOBER 7pm AOSC**

**Cllrs
AL/JM
RB**

GH