

Armley Community Forum

Date: 20th May 2008

Present: Cllr Harper(Chair), Cllr A Lowe, Cllr J McKenna, Cllr A McKenna, R Boon, A Friebe, H&D Boutle, G Shaw, W Davies, E Bowes, B Gregg, E & B Rayworth, S Hellewell, Judith Kahn. Les France, D Peck, K Lemm, M Bruce, M Litherland, Ald. B Nelson, J Grainger, I Broughton, I Penman, F Waspe, B Draper, B&M Guthrie, P Kempster, B Holmes, J Earnshaw, T&M Collins, JK & JP Newsome, J Ramall, FH Smyth, J Gill, W&K Anderson, P Fathers, A Willis, P Netwon, M Pugh, P Seddon, D Chary, S Rostron, A Mohammed.

ACTION

1.00 WELCOME

1.01 Cllr Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Cllr Alison Lowe on being re-elected.

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 K Donnelly, M&D Stead, K Draper, M Pryce, D Newsome, R Bruce, J Morgan, S&B Richmond, M Burgham.

3.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3.01 (8.09) – This should read Armley Ridge Drive not Avenue.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING - none

5.00 Armley Community Forum Elections

5.01 CHAIR: Cllr Harper stepped down. Rebecca Boon announced the only nomination to be Cllr Janet Harper. Seconders – David Boutle and Keith Megson. The forum voted and Cllr Harper was re-elected to the position of Chair of Armley Community forum.

5.02 Vice Chair: Hazel Boutle was nominated - seconded by Gillian Worsnop and June Simmons. The forum voted and Hazel Boutle was elected to the position of Vice Chair of Armley Community forum.

5.03 Treasurer: Morgan Pugh was nominated - seconded by Cllr James McKenna and Dawn Newsome. The forum voted and Morgan Pugh was elected to the position of Treasurer of Armley Community forum.

5.04 Co-optee for Inner West Area Committee: Hazel Boutle was nominated - seconded by Gillian Worsnop and June Simmons. The forum voted and Hazel Boutle was elected to the position of Area Committee Co-optee.

5.05 Co-optee for Inner West Area Committee: Morgan Pugh was nominated - seconded by Cllr James McKenna and Dawn Newsome. The forum voted and Morgan Pugh was elected to the position of Area Committee Co-optee.

5.06 West Leeds Gateway Representative: Eric Bowes was nominated - seconded by Cllr Alison Lowe and Bill Gregg. The forum voted and Eric Bowes was elected to the position of. West Leeds Gateway representative.

6.00 Community Safety Update and Tension Monitoring – Inspector Mohammed

6.01 Success story – the North West Division came in under target for all crime types in the last year. This is largely due to the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Insp.AM thanked the team for all their hard work.

6.02 DPPO – 6 bottles of spirits and 24 cans confiscated in the last week. Police are expecting more of this with the warmer weather now here and lighter evenings. 12 more signs will be put up in the area soon – Area Management funded.
ACE asked if Police can make regular checks on Charlie Cake Park as many empty bottles are being left.

Sgt Rostron appealed for any information re. which shops are selling to these underaged drinkers.

- 6.03 Armley Moor Health Centre – recent spate of damage: using a covert camera the culprit has been caught and charged. The number of reports has dropped since.
- 6.04 PCSOs are to visit all shops in the Town St and possibly instigate a local ShopWatch scheme.
- 6.05 There is an ongoing operation at the Clydes and funding has been secured for a 4-day Project Champion in this area in July. There continue to be problems with drugs, prostitution, burglary and criminal damage.
- 6.06 Over the next 2 weeks- there will be extra resource put into the Little Scotland area to target ASB etc.
- 6.07 Acting on info received from the forum the Police have successfully seized one of the nuisance motorbikes in the area. Although there is still one around the Privelege St area.
- 6.08 Reports of speeding in the area: The Police have arranged for 2 designated Road Traffic Dept Officers to use a hand-held camera in Mistress Lane. These cameras are hard to get hold of as very few to cover the whole city – but hopefully can arrange to also use in other areas of Armley.
- 6.09 Youth Nuisance: residents reported incidents at Cedar Place (by the Leisure centre) and also in Leisure centre carpark.
- 6.10 Cross Grasmere shops:- nearby carpark is being used by Amber Taxis – residents have reported drug use and sexual activity here. Speeding cars from Tong Rd to Fearnley Place linked to this carpark. Police to link in with Taxi Enforcement. **PCSO**
- 6.11 Christchurch/Oriental St: residents reporting youths drinking and a couple of related assaults. Nothing reported to Police but they will look into this. **PCSO**
- 6.12 New family have moved in to 173 Wyther Park Hill and the property is now attracting lots of young people. Police will speak to Housing and PCSOs will visit complainant. **PCSO**
- 6.13 Serious assault to take-away deliverer in Cedars – Police aware.
- 6.14 **Tension Monitoring:** to be reported centrally – none.

7.00 Independent Living Project – Les France/Judith Kahn

7.01 What is the Independent Living Project

The Independent Living Project (ILP) is a modernisation project undertaken by Leeds City Council which aims to significantly improve the accommodation, housing related support and care services for adults with a learning disability and adults with mental health needs in Leeds. The project also includes services for disabled children

7.02 Why things need to change

- Buildings no longer fit for purpose
- Government Policy
- Service user expectations

7.03 New Accommodation and Services

- Application for £65 million funding (credits under Private Finance Initiative) has been approved by the Government
- We have chosen an organisation to design, build and manage the new accommodation. The organisation is called LILAC.
- Building 72 properties on 39 sites across Leeds
- Sites in Armley:
 - Victoria Park – Block of flats for 9 people with mental health needs.
 - Outgang Lane – 2 bungalows for 8 people with learning disabilities
 - Outgang Lane – Short breaks service for 12 disabled children

7.04 Timetable

- Independent Living Project begins – December 2005
- November 2005 – Government approval
- November 2005 – Nov 2007 – Identify sites and submit Planning Applications
- January 2007 onwards – planning with individuals
- October 2007 – March/May 2008 – Award Contract
- July/August 2008 – Build phase at Victoria Park

- November/December 2008 – Build phase at Outgang Lane
 - May/June 2009 – Service users begin to move into new homes at Victoria Park
 - September/October 2009 – Service users begin to move into new homes in Armley and begin to use short breaks service
- 7.05 Cllr JM – local residents living near these new developments may have concerns – possibly LF/JK can speak to the forum nearer the opening dates and possibly bring some of the new residents to the forum.
- 7.06 Cllr AL – Armley has a proud tradition of welcoming residents and of inclusion. LF – local consultation results were very positive.
- 7.07 Concerns were expressed re the security of the sites and the safety of the new residents. LF – security was taken into account during design phase – there will be electric entrances and CCTV – also 24/7 carer presence.
- 8.00 Update on Local Planning Matters – Sarah Hellewell**
- 8.01 Mikes Carpets – 2 Branch Rd: on-going discussions- have assessed what uses would be acceptable on site and what the site issues are. Mike Smith has been given all this information.
- 8.02 Tower Works: planning permission for 62 units. 15% has to be affordable housing. They have also agreed £75k for the recreation land and £75k for greenspace improvements. Cllr JM questioned if changing facilities would be included – Sarah to discuss with Cllr JM. **SH**
- 8.03 Bexley Carpets – on-site, discharging conditions – 20 units.
- 8.04 Christchurch Vicarage: amendments have been made – 24 flats still planned with front access. Ward Members concerns re. tree issues have been taken on board.
- 8.05 Theaker Lane Clinic: outline permission granted for mixed use development. Further discussion as to density required.
- 8.06 37 Moorfield Rd – land adjacent to Laundry site – 26 starter homes. Awaiting signing for 106 monies. Developer to possibly pay sum of money as altering greenspace.
- 8.07 Cockshott Lane(former pub site): There are viability issues here – ongoing.
- 8.08 Land to rear of Working Mens Club – Elder Rd. Permission for 3 storeys 22 flats – discharging conditions.
- 8.09 West Leeds Boys School – 14 extra units agreed making 80 in total. 16 extra parking spaces have been granted. Cllr JH – residents and Members have complained re the design and the size of this development. SH to investigate. **SH**
- 8.10 Upper Armley Tennis Club: permission has been granted and they are on-site.
- 8.11 16-22 Branch RD: New application in – refurbishment of existing retail units with 7 flats above. There is reduced parking – only 4 spaces. Working with Conservation Officer and will also meet with Members,
- 8.12 Armley Leisure Centre – application is in and will go to Plans Panel in July. Any comments – contact Peter Barnett in Planning: 0113 247 8860 or peter.barnett@leeds.gov.uk
- 8.13 43 Carr Crofts: demolition being considered for new development of 8 units. SH to meet with Members. **SH**
Cllr JM warned that person making application is known to them. Residents commented that this is an historical building – originally Armley Library. Could this building not be preserved and converted for community use eg for young people?
SH – not all buildings are preservable unfortunately. Many buildings in the Armley Conservation Area are only designated as such because they are near buildings of interest or they are too run down to save. However it is a long process to get permission to demolish buildings in a Conservation Area.
- 8.14 St Barts development: 2 sites to be developed here.
Cllr JH declared an interest as member of the Plans Panel.
A proposed new housing development on land across the road from St Barts which will pay for the planned new Community Centre next to the church. This would include building on old allotments site which supposedly has not been in use for many years. Residents agreed that the site was a mess and not used. Complaints earlier however had failed to have any impact as no-one would admit ownership of this piece of land.

Local residents were disappointed that the church only admits this now they plan to build there! SH – looking at the area allotment provision to see if this area will be missed.

David Chary(Sanderson Weatherall) – the Parish are very excited at the prospect of a new Community Hall. The allotment part is only a small area of the total site. There have been issues there however in the past. New fencing to the rear of this should be started soon and also the Japanese Knotweed will be treated. All profit from the housing devt will go into the new Hall.

SH – only in principle at present. The next stage would include looking at issues such as access to site etc.SH will keep the Members and forum up to date.

Cllr AL advised that the developers consult with the local residents. Cllr JM expressed concern that further greenspace would be lost. SH will meet with the ward Members. If there are any comments residents wish to make – please contact Sarah on 0113 247 8017 or sarah.hellewell@leeds.gov.uk

SH

8.15 Silvercrest House: new application in for 14 flats.

8.16 Mistress Lane – 1 scheme is being considered which is very modern/conceptual and will be an amazing key site in the Gateway Area. This includes 15% affordable housing, eco-homes, flats and family homes.

8.17 Members at this point expressed concern that so many flats were being built in the area. Armley must not become another Headingley where local people are priced out of the market among other issues. SH is aware of this concern and has asked for information on numbers of flats being built. New legislation – national and regional guidelines are to be published soon and LCC will have to take this on board.

8.18 Crab Lane – have permission for 12 flats but are asking now to add a further storey.

9.00 **Brief Encounters, I Love West Leeds Festival Update** - Jane Earnshaw.

9.01 This years Intergenerational Arts Festival is for 2 weeks – 5th-20th July. There are over 37 events planned including the Drive-In movies, Armley the musical (directed by 2 directors from the West Yorkshire Playhouse), Roller discos, Exhibitions etc.

9.02 The funday will be at Armley Mills museum on 6th July.

9.03 The Brief Encounters project involves decorating white Y-fronts. These are to be made into bunting for the Museum – JE has given out 2,700 pairs so far! If you want to take part – contact Jane on 0789 631 8657.

9.04 The Pride of Place project – Photographer Phil Moody is producing an exhibition and mini-book featuring mantelpieces from West Leeds. If you would like to take part – contact Jane on 0789 631 8657.

9.05 The brochures should be delivered to every home in West Leeds about 2 weeks before the festival starts.

10.00 **AOB**

10.01 Resident at Cedars has measure gap under binyard gate to be 11.5”. The ALMO are aware of this design error in those replaced recently by Groundwork. ALMO now looking at replacing those missed by the Groundwork program and these will be larger gates. A bid is to be made to the Area Panel for funding.

10.02 Residents reported problems with binmen – Armley Grange Drive and elsewhere. The men are emptying one bin into another and then leaving open so these then fill with rain or then not emptying at all. Cllr JH to email a complaint to Glenn Maude,

10.03 Cllr JH was asked to arrange for 2 more green bins to be delivered to Weavers Court.

Cllr JH

Cllr JH

11.00 **DATE & TIME of NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 17th June 2008 7pm AOSC**