

Armley Community Forum

Date: Tuesday 20 June 2006

Present: Cllrs Harper, Lowe, Mckenna, C Clark, E & B Rayworth, H & D Boutle, T Maynard, D Peck, Ellie McKinlay, J Grainger, T Broughton, A Lawson, Jack Wordsworth, J Bahra, B Holms, P Ellis, K Donnelly, David Stead, M Stead, B & K Draper, Jane Scroggie, Beate Rohle, Harry Shields, John Kerry, Honorary Alderman Brook Nelson, E Hey, W Gregg, S Jordan, H Gardiner, A Powell, Isobel Stephenson, Joan Ranell, J Ford & J Parson, M Burgham, M Tyson, Alison Covey, Kathleen Morris, Judith Gill, Morgan Pugh, W H Devine, M Dew, Kat, Zoe Stead, Martin Sellens

ACTION

1.00 WELCOME

1.01 Cllr Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 John Barber, Kirk Mann, Margaret Guthrie, P Kempster, Don Laxton, Alan Stephenson, Gill Shaw, Mrs Lemm, Diane Maynard

3.00 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3.01 Agreed as a correct record.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING

4.01 (4:03) A yellow box has now been painted at Armley Ridge Road junction, thanks expressed from local residents.

4:02 Martin Sellens answered a number of planning queries:

4.03 Negotiations are ongoing regarding access for the Kent Meters site, and the development is still too dense.

4.04 Westfield Mills was originally 69 student bedspaces. The application has been changed following feedback from the West Leeds Gateway Regeneration Board and will now be 35 flats. The forum were supportive of this, although it was acknowledged that the presence of students in a community can make a positive contribution to the local economy.

4.05 The enforcement officer has contacted the owners of the vicarage site to request that it is cleaned up. Planning take a proactive approach to vacant land to encourage such land to be brought back into use.

4.06 Negotiations have been ongoing regarding the industrial units at Pickering Street, and a revised planning application will be submitted in July.

4.07 There has been an outline planning application for flats at Hall Road. The former GPs office has gone for offices.

4.08 Mikes Carpets is a key site, and the aim is to find a suitable use for the building which will attract a developer.

5.00 POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

5.01 Two PCSOs attended the meeting. They are looking for information following an incident in the Salisburys and Aviarys area where a large number of car windows were broken.

5.02 There has been further incidents of young people causing problems (verbal abuse, graffiti) in the vicinity of West Leeds Family Learning Centre.

5.03 Motorbike problems in the Edinburghs, the PCSOs need as much detailed information as possible to tackle this problem. They are aware of the problems.

- 5.04 Cllr Harper said that anyone who is nervous of contacting the police directly can ring one of the councillors.
- 5.05 Concerns were voiced about difficulties in getting through to the Police and about police response times. This is a problem nationally which the police are trying to address. .
- 5.06 PCSOs stressed the importance of reporting incidents. Contact details for the Neighbourhood Policing Team are:

Email Contact: LeedsWestNPT@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Telephone **0113 241 4837**. Officers may be out patrolling so please leave a message and someone will call you back. In an emergency always dial **999**. To contact the main police switchboard for non-urgent enquiries ring **0845 6060606**.

If you have information about a crime, you can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

6.00 PFI LEISURE CENTRE PROPOSALS

- 6.01 Angela Lawson and Mark Almond attended the meeting to outline the proposals for the new leisure centre and address issues raised by the forum.
- 6.02 Cllrs stressed that they were supportive of the centre being funded through a private finance initiative, but wanted a guarantee that the old centre would not close before the new one opened.
- 6.03 An outline planning application to site a new leisure centre on land adjacent to the existing centre will be submitted. This will enable the existing centre to remain open whilst the new one is built.
- 6.04 The building of a new leisure centre is subject to securing the funding. A business case is being prepared for submission to the government. This business case will include a written statement that the existing leisure centre will remain open until the new one is built.
- 6.05 It is early days in the process, and there are still discussions to be had with Planning, urban designers and the developer about the siting and design of the building.
- 6.06 Concerns were raised about the size of the centre, and the facilities. The amount of funding will place limitations on the new building. We will have to design and build the best for the money available. A bar/cafe is not currently included in the facility but officers will reappraise this in light of comments. There will be an opportunity for the public to have input into the design through the planning processes.
- 6.07 The need to consider improving the public open space was highlighted.
- 6.08 This is a different scenario to South Leed where a leisure centre was closed and did not reopen.
- 6.09 Refurbishment is not the preferred option for a PFI project. A new building offers better value for money. There would also be issues over continuity of service provision if the leisure centre was refurbished.
- 6.10 There is a need to consider the provision of facilities for sports teams as they provide a regular income for leisure centres.
- 6.11 It will not be feasible to build a bigger leisure centre in Armley to accommodate people currently using the International Pool which closes in 2007 due to limited funding.
- 6.12 The linkages into Armley are very important for the centre to ensure it plays a role in the regeneration of the West Leeds Gateway.

7.00 EXTENDED SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- 7.01 Zoe Stead introduced herself as the new extended schools development officer.
- 7.02 Zoe is working with five primary schools, Castleton, Holy Family, St Barts, Armley and Christ Church.

- 7.03 By 2010 all schools should be extended schools. For the Armley Schools, there is 2 year funding for developing extended schools. Five key areas: Offering Childcare, out of school activities, support or parents, referral to specialist support, community access.
- 7.04 Zoe can be contacted at St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School, tel: 2639292, Email: zedstead@gmail.com.

8.00 NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

- 8.01 Councillor Harper gave notice that at the next meeting, elections will be held for the positions of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, 2 co-optees for the Area Committee and a representative on the West Leeds Gateway Regeneration Board.
- 8.02 Papers for nominations will be sent out with the next agenda, with details of what these posts entail. **CC**

9.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.01 When will the white lines of Grasmere Estate be put back? To check with highways **Cllr H**
- 9.02 Concerns about where residents of Armley Lodge Road will park their cars, car parking will be provided to meet planning requirements.
- 9.03 Extended schools will not impact on cleaning of schools.
- 9.04 Some of the roads in the area are quite poor. Copies of the highways maintenance schedule will be provided for the next meeting. **CC**
- 9.10 Grass cutting is still poor.

- 10.0 DATE & TIME of NEXT MEETING** Tuesday 18TH July, 7.00pm, Armley One Stop Centre.