

Armley Community Forum
Date: 20th September 2011
Present:

Cllr Janet Harper (Chair), D Boutle, Hazel Boutle, P Foster, G Attack, E Bowes, T Maynard, P Kempston, D Peck, E Hey, B & D Armitage, B Holmes, B Mason, A Aziz, A Willis, JK & JP Newsome, J Ford, W Anderson, J Kerry, L Cheney, S Friend, M Hugh, H Gardiner, A Iqbal (Yorkshire Evening Post), N Conder (Town Centre Manager), Sohail Effendi (WNW Area Management)

Apologies:

S Betts, D Newsome, Wyn Jones (Townscape Heritage Initiative), J Ramell, D & M Steed, K & B Glover, K Lemm, E & B Rayworth.

		ACTION
1.00	Welcome	
1.01	Cllr Janet Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.00	Previous minutes / matters arising	
2.1	Previous minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
2.2	Cllr Harper and Chris Gott (Community sports Officer) introduced Cameron Barras (a local young man) to the meeting and informed that Cameron was on the 2010 – 11 West Leeds Coaching Scholarship. Cameron attended a Level 1 Football coaching course at Carnegie University, which he passed along with his 1 st aid and child safeguarding certificates. He then offered his services voluntarily to his old primary school, to come along and help coach the pupils alongside his old teacher. Cameron has since enrolled on an NVQ football course at Leeds City College, to further his football and vocational qualifications in the hope of attaining full time employment.	
2.3	Cllr Harper informed the meeting that a woman from Armley was fined for dog fouling.	
3.00	Police - Crime update – Inspector Mark Brown	
3.1	MB informed the meeting that burglaries and overall crime figures for the area are down. Five people have been arrested on suspicion of burglary.	
3.2	Reports of Anti Social Behaviour have dropped due to an increase in the police presence.	
3.3	The meeting was assured that as dark nights are approaching and fireworks are going to be sold, Police presence will be increased to prevent any possible incidents.	
3.4	MB reported that DPPO restrictions on Armley Town Street are working well.	
3.5	Combining PACT meetings with forum meeting was raised and agreed unanimously. Forum meetings taking place from 18 th October 2011 will become 'combined Armley Forum & PACT meeting. Area Management and Police to promote this	SE / MB
4.0	A647 Bus Priority Lane - Paul Foster	
4.1	Paul Foster attended the forum and informed the meeting that a feasibility study was undertaken to consider improving bus facilities and road safety on the A647 Leeds Bradford Corridor and produced a raft of potential measures along the corridor. The most significant delays were identified at the junction of the A647, Ledgard Way, Crab Lane and Branch Road and therefore this scheme was prioritised for development first. Following the feasibility study, a priority lane was designed which widened Armley Road on the approach to the Ledgard Way junction, however this scheme which required significant civil engineering works proved to be unaffordable. Further improvements to the junction capacity are not practical due to third party land requirements and listed buildings on the frontage. In order to produce the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) bus priority programme, bus journey time data was assessed for the city to identify hot spots of bus delay.	

	<p>Possible low cost, quick win schemes were then prioritised on the basis of potential journey time savings, cost benefit and state of readiness. This scheme was identified as one to be implemented in year one of LTP3 ie before March 2012. The scheme comprises a westbound bus lane on Canal Street between the gas training centre and Gloucester Terrace, signals and an island at the bus lane exit, relocating the bus stop at Gloucester Terrace to a point downstream of the signals, narrowing the central reservation opposite the proposed bus stop to prevent obstruction and a half width lay by at the westbound bus stop opposite the junction with Pickering Street to prevent stationary buses obstructing traffic flow on Armley Road.</p> <p>The scheme uses the principles of queue management, using signals to hold back westbound traffic in Canal Street and release it into Armley Road at a rate which matches downstream junction capacity. Allowing free flow on the single carriageway length of Armley Road and relocating queuing to Canal Street where there are two lanes in each direction. The nearside lane on Canal Street could then be used as a bus lane to allow buses to bypass queuing without the need for widening. The scheme relocates the existing queue but will be managed to ensure there is no additional delay for general traffic.</p> <p>Queue relocation is now a common and proven technology and is used on the A65 Abbey Road scheme with further examples to be implemented as part of the A65 major scheme. Detection loops and Urban Traffic Control (UTC) cameras will be installed as part of the scheme to provide effective management of the displaced queues. A bus lane enforcement camera is to be provided as part of the scheme, to ensure the time saving benefits are maintained</p> <p>There are 27 buses within the pm peak 2 hours carrying approximately 1700 passengers travelling towards Armley, Bramley, Pudsey, Bradford, and Halifax. In the same pm peak time period some 2200 vehicles used this route.</p> <p>Based on average journey times, this scheme can be expected to produce bus journey time savings up to 255 seconds when the full 400m of queue relocation is utilised. As well as journey time savings the scheme will improve journey time reliability and safeguard the benefits into the future.</p>	
5.0	Town Centre Manager (TCM) – Nigel Conder	
5.1	Nigel Conder (Town Centre Manager) attended the meeting and reported that Many of the units are now let on Town Street but not necessarily the ones Armley would ideally like to have there. Armley TCM has had a dialogue with various letting agents who have properties in Armley. This was to see if there was scope for new business start ups to be able to negotiate and get favourable rents. In most cases letting agents would be willing to offer this incentive and in some cases a rent free period	
5.2	The TCM budget has now been fully utilised. There are some possibilities of private sponsorship. However these will probably be few and far between. Companies are willing to sponsor events but most prefer offering man power or goods, and not monetary contributions.	
5.3	There are plans to run a keep Armley tidy education event in other schools in the town of Armley. The plan is to liaise with EAT who could do some sort of education in schools about this subject along with the poster design competition. The first trial of this was a big success and the poster looked very good on the billboard when it was put up.	
5.4	All the events for this year have been run. Unfortunately because of some unforeseen expenses such as paying for the billboard poster, the TCM could not run the summer celebration. The events that were held were very well attended when the weather permitted. Armley Common Rights Trust was very instrumental in helping with these events.	
5.5	It is planned that once the structure of the EAT department has been sorted out, that there would be continued days of action. These would still be led by EAT with police support.	EAT/ Police
5.6	There are still reports of problems by some of the local shops about groups of Eastern European youths and Asian youths shouting racial abuse at one another. There have been	Police

	reports that English white youths have been seen joining in with this behaviour. The police have been made aware by the TCM and they were looking into the problem.	
5.7	This continues to be one of Armley's main issues. The cleansing side seems to be a little hit and miss with the town looking tidy one day and for a number of days afterwards very untidy. Cigarette butts seem to be one of the biggest issues the town faces.	
5.8	Many shops and shoppers are continually complaining about the number of people they see street drinking. Unfortunately the police are unable to be there 24 hours a day to catch the people responsible. The police have been made aware and will take appropriate measures if anyone is caught with opened containers of alcohol.	
5.9	Again another continued problem at the bottom end of Town Street near to the one stop and Stocks Hill. Is the problem with speeding cars? This is an issue that is not going to go away. The police have done some work around this problem, but it does still continue.	
5.10	Following discussions with the BBC in relation to the Mary Portas TV programme, they have now advised the TCM that they would like to come and visit the town and discuss any possibilities of moving forward with the TCM suggestion that they could do a programme looking at the whole of Town Street rather than one shop.	
6.0	Any Other Business	
6.1	<p>A resident asked for an update on the Lyric Picture House Project, which was presented to the members in the June meeting. SE to obtain an update before the next meeting.</p> <p>Update received on 3rd October 2011. Lucy Skaer's 'Film for an abandoned projector' opened on Wednesday 28th Sept. There were one hundred and fifty visitors who enjoyed watching Lucy's 35mm film play continuously in the auditorium, visiting the projection room and meeting the projectionist Allan Foster who worked at the Lyric between 1979-1988. The exhibition was covered by BBC Radio 4 Front Row, the presenter Mark Lawson interviewed the artist and projectionist, broadcast on Thurs 29th September and available on BBC i-Player.</p> <p>The Lyric neon has been restored, a new screen erected in the amphitheatre and spare parts found for the Kalee projectors. The exhibition is free and open to the public on Thursdays, 6-8pm. Pavilion are taking education and group bookings for daytime tours of the exhibition. On the week commencing 17th October the entire St Bart's School is coming for a tour exhibition and to learn about old fashioned film. If you would like to book a group tour of the exhibition please call Gill at Pavilion on 0113 343 2718.</p> <p>Linzi Stauvers will be at the Lyric with Lucy for an In Conversation on Thursday 6th Oct. Complementary tickets to forum members for this event can be provided.</p>	SE
6.2	Provision of grit bins for the Raynville Way and Raynville Gardens was mentioned . Cllr Harper agreed to look into this.	Cllr Harper
7.0	Dates of Meetings in 2011	
7.1	18 th October 15 th November 20 th December	