

Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum Meeting

Minutes from Meeting

10th December 2012



Attendees:	Councillor Angela Gabriel	Ken Tidswell (Friends of Holbeck Cemetery)
	Councillor David Congreve	Eve Tidswell (Friends of Holbeck Cemetery)
	Councillor Adam Ogilvie	Harvey Pritchard (Planning Aid/Leeds Met University)
	Mike Dando (Planning Aid England)	Kirsty Sharpe (Planning Aid Volunteer)
	Anne Hopper (Holbeck Area Residents Association)	William Sparling
	Ian Pickup (Holbeck in Bloom)	Rebecca Robson (Planning Aid Volunteer)
	Dennis Kitchen (Voice of Holbeck)	Joe Varga (Planning Aid Volunteer)
	Ann Hepburn	Adam Greatrix
	Roy Cadman	Jennifer Kirkby
	Anne-Marie Ward	Christine Schofield
	David Ward	Dan Starkey (Planning Aid Volunteer)
	Neil Ward	Simon Bradley
	Joanne Ward	Steve Williamson
	Steven Blackburn	Wayne Noteman (Unity HA)
	Steve Peacock (Cross Ingrams Residents Association)	Deborah Kirkley (West Yorkshire Police)
	Lucy Potter	PCSO 610 Steve Marriott (West Yorkshire Police)
	Dawn Wright	Diane Whiteside (West Yorkshire Police)
	John Leckenby	Ian Mackay (LCC)
	Tony Ray (Planning Aid Volunteer)	Tom Ridley (LCC)
	Andy Picken (Health For All)	John Hall (LCC)
	John Baron (South Leeds Life)	James Kilroy (LCC)
	Tony Van de Bospoort (Hunslet and Hobeck Heritage Project)	
	Neil Diamond (Aire Valley Homes Leeds)	
Apologies:	PCSO Claire Leech (West Yorkshire Police)	
	Alan Lane	
	Steve Ross	
	John Cummings (Groundworks)	
	Christine Davies	
Interim Chair:	Dennis Kitchen	

The minutes were agreed for the previous meeting on 25th October 2012.

1. Neighbourhood Plan update

Dennis Kitchen (Interim Chair) updated the Forum on progress made since the last meeting:

Constitution – A draft constitution has been sent to Beth Logan (Leeds City Council) for comment. Dennis stressed the importance of getting the constitution right.

Publicity – Leaflets and letterheads have been produced which will be posted to businesses. Dennis mentioned he had recently spoken at an event in Sheffield on the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum.

Finances – Members were reminded that a bank account cannot be opened until constitution is approved. Anne Hopper and Ian Pickup have agreed to be joint treasurers.

Membership – Approximately 20 members signed up to the Forum after the last meeting. A further 60 signed up at the Holbeck Christmas Fair on the 1st December. The next step is to make contact with businesses.

2. Next Steps

Ian Mackay (Leeds City Council) was asked what the next step was in terms of designation. Ian outlined the following key points:

- The most pressing concern is the lack of business representation. Ian pointed out that the **Forum must be fully representative**, and urged members to **contact businesses** in the area and get them to sign up (particularly in areas 2 and 3).
- He hoped businesses will offer sponsorship and support.
- **An application for designation could be made end of February/March.**

Action

Dennis picked up on Ian's point about contacting business. He said the next step was to send **a letter and information pack out to businesses** and, to see them in person. Dennis asked if any members were interested in helping contact local businesses.

Action

Dennis said that more needed to be done to raise awareness

of the Neighbourhood Plan among residents. He suggested producing a **newsletter** which could be posted through letterboxes, while Ian thought a **website** would be a good idea. Jennifer Kirkby, who has some experience setting up websites, kindly offered her time and expertise.

**Action
J Kirkby**

Mike Dando (Planning Aid England) said that Jo Hill (a Planning Aid volunteer) had kindly agreed to assist with the setting up and running of the Publicity task group. An email with details of the first meeting would be circulated to all those who had shown an interest in joining the group (according to Dennis, 6 people have shown an interest).

**Action
M Dando/
J Hill**

Ian and Dennis said that, in order to maintain interest, the Forum should think about 'short term wins', as well as longer term objectives, and perhaps me something more akin to a Community Forum.

3. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) update

Dennis asked Ian to update the group on the Holbeck PFI scheme.

Ian assured the Forum that the PFI scheme was '**still very much on**'. Ian pointed out that considering the recession, the fact the PFI was still pressing ahead demonstrated the commitment the Council has to the scheme. Although he wasn't able to go into detail, a lot of work was 'being done behind the scenes'. He assured members that the specification hadn't changed and that it would be the same number of homes and to the same design and density.

Concern was expressed among some members about information and delays with the scheme.

Dennis highlighted **the importance of communication and openness**. Despite the concerns over the PFI, he was pleased that other things did seem to be moving forward. He used the Post Office moving to Domestic Street and occupying a more prominent position as an example (he hoped the Post Office would have moved by March).

4. Challenges

Dennis spoke about the importance of local residents becoming more involved, having more responsibility and taking ownership of the Plan.

A Forum member complained that many residents don't feel they have any power to influence planning, and therefore are

not interested in getting involved. It was agreed that **more publicity and greater networking between community groups** would help to resolve this.

Anne Hopper said that, while residents are quite happy to voice their views, they are often negative and don't help move the discussion on. Anne believed that by showing residents they can make a difference, people would get involved.

A couple of Forum members also spoke about the opportunity to get children involved (maybe helping out with producing posters) and strengthen links with Ingram Road Primary School. It was also agreed that it would be a good idea to promote the Forum at other Holbeck community events.

Action

5. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be **Saturday 23rd February 11am – 1pm, at St. Matthews Community Centre**. It was suggested that the meeting on the 23rd could begin to focus on the content of the plan and could involve a display and series of workshops. Refreshments will be provided.

Dennis was asked what progress would be made between now until February.

Dennis listed 5 things he hoped would be complete by the time the Forum reconvened;

1. **Have the constitution approved**
2. **Set up a bank account**
3. **Contact and sign up businesses in areas 2 and 3**
4. **Find out more about the PFI**
5. **Step up publicity and create website**

Actions

6. Brown Lane East

The final item on the agenda was a talk by James Kilroy (Leeds City Council) and Wayne Noteman (Unity Housing) on the redevelopment of the Brown Lane East site.

The schemes main points;

- A mix of 18 2x bedroomed flats and 23 family houses (17x 3 bedroom and 6 x 4 bedroom)
- 100% Affordable housing
- For rent and shared ownership purchase
- Better Energy efficient (Code for Sustainable

Homes Level 3)

- Will help to create an attractive boulevard linking Brown Lane East with Mathew Murray site
- Funded by Homes and Community Agency.
- Unity HA & the Council wish to work with the forum to develop the scheme in preparation of submitting a planning application early 2013 and be on site Summer 2013
- Not part of the PFI but will complement the PFI
- Opportunity for local employment
- A Local Lettings plan will be developed giving local residents preference for the properties once completed

Concerns were raised about affordability¹ and the re-housing of former tenants².

James and Wayne said they were keen to get formal feedback from the Forum. Dennis said a small group would meet to discuss the proposal and report back at the next Forum meeting. Most were happy to hear that things were progressing.

**Action
D Kicthen**

After thanking people for attending, Dennis closed the meeting.

¹ There may have been some confusion over what was meant by 'part ownership'. People won't have to buy the property outright, but can own a 'share'.

² Former tenants have been re-housed.