

Armley Forum Minutes of meeting 19th February 2013

Chair: Hazel Boutle

Present: Cllr Lowe, T Maynard, D&D Armitage, C O'Keefe, S Myers, P Eason, J Ramell, P Hannah, J&J Newsome, P Kempster, L Cheney, S Friend, L Wigley, E Bowes, K Anderson, B Davies, B Mason, K Buckley, B Holmes, B&G Lancashire, Ald B Nelson, S&S Richmond, F Smyth, J Lyksky, D Peck, D Lemm, H Shields, D Boutle

Apologies: Cllr Harper, Cllr McKenna, K Harrison, D Newsome, B&M Stead, B&E Rayworth, B Draper, X Chevillard

1	Welcome and introductions	
1.1	Forum Vice Chair, Hazel Boutle welcomed everyone to the forum. Wyn Jones was to present on the Town Street improvements but will attend the next meeting.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting	
2.2	Attendance - Mr Maynard and D&G Armitage missed from the list.	
2.3	K Sibson reported that the damage to the fence at Moorfield Recreation Ground has been repaired. Remind Parks to check the area for illegal bonfires next year.	
4	Environmental Enforcement	
4.1	John Pearson introduced himself as the new Environmental Enforcement Officer covering Armley ward. He provided a written report on his first few weeks in the role and contact details: John.pearson@leeds.gov.uk, Phone 07891 272168	
4.2	Little Scotland - action being taken about bins left on streets. An audit has been completed ahead of a multi agency action day on 14th February. On the day, John and colleagues did the following: 21 waste in garden letters 100 stickers on bins left in the street 120 letters about waste in bin yards John is looking to do similar work in the Nunningtons and Aviaires	
4.3	Dog fouling is one of the most frequent complaints. John will fine anyone he sees not picking up their dog's mess, but he also needs residents to let him know where it's happening and even who is doing it. Forum members reported the Cedars and Carr Crofts as areas of concern.	
4.4	John will visit Town Street over the coming weeks looking at litter and business waste. Cllr Lowe queried whether the promised chewing gum cleaning machine had been purchased. John to find out.	JP
4.5	Forum members reported residents and businesses suspected of dumping waste on Town Street. Cllr Lowe to pass on names.	AL
4.6	John took comments and referrals from the floor: Rats and smell at waste plant on Carr Crofts - K Sibson has spoken to John's predecessor who advised no action was taken as there is a pest control contract in place at the site. The issue of the smell is with the Environment Agency - John to chase.	JP
4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discarded KFC wrappers at the crossing on Stanningley Road. The restaurant has 	

	<p>previously been suspected of dumping commercial waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beer cans and bottles a problem on Fearnley Pace. • Graffiti on Lay Lane sub station. John has a walkabout planned for that area as black bags are still an issue on non collection days. • Glass recycling centre behind Wilkinsons & Tesco - rubbish always dumped. • Rubbish and fly tipping by the Commercial pub on Wortley Road. 	JP
5	Police	
5.1	Sgt Gother attended on behalf of Inspector Wheeler and circulated the latest edition of the NPT newsletter.	
5.2	There has been a small increase in burglary, theft from and of motor vehicles and one more robbery compared with last month. Burglary is still 45% down year on year.	
5.3	NPT officers carried out checks on vehicles to target burglars and made seven arrests including one person being equipped to burgle and one who has cocaine and £5,000 in his car.	
5.4	The police supported the multi-agency day of action on 14th February in Little Scotland and seized 8 nuisance vehicles including a quad bike. On that day, no crime was recorded in the whole ward.	
5.5	Sgt Gother reported improvements on Friday and Saturday nights on Town Street. The Eastern European volunteers are providing very useful support speaking to other migrants about acceptable behaviour and the street drinking ban.	
5.6	A member of the forum complained about a police officer ignoring a suspected speeding bike on Carlton Road. Sgt Gother responded that without a speed camera and if the rider was wearing a helmet, no action could have been taken.	
6	Any other business	
6.1	Community First - Still grants of up to £2500 available for voluntary and community groups working in Armley. Please publicise widely as if the money doesn't get spent, it will go back to the central pot. Go to the website http://www.armleyfirst-leeds.co.uk/ for more information. There is also an online survey that the Armley First team would like members of the public to complete - www.surveymonkey.com/s/WKFQPBH . It's asking what the Armley First money should be spent on.	
6.2	Rose Garden at Gotts Park - what has happened to the York stone paving, and can we have an update on the TCV project? K Sibson to find out and invite TCV to the next forum meeting.	KS
6.3	Cllr Lowe told the forum about an action group that has been set up to protest against the 'Bedroom Tax', a charge levied to council house tenants that are under occupying their current property. Cllr Lowe expressed the concerns Ward Members share about how this will affect many local residents. She cautioned anyone planning on withholding rent as a protest that they could face eviction, and to keep the rent in an account just in case.	
6.4	Complaint made about lack of pavement sweeping on Nancroft Terrace since Christmas.	KS
7	Date of next meeting	
7.1	Tuesday 19th March, 7pm Armley Library	