

Armley Forum Minutes of meeting 16th April 2013

Chair: Cllr Harper

Apologies: Margaret Quirke, Liz Wigley, Mrs Meadowcroft, Xavier Chevillard, Mrs Lemm, Mr & Mrs Rayworth.

1 **Welcome and introductions**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the last meeting**

2.1 Environmental Enforcement:

KFC commercial waste still being dumped by phone box on the opposite side of Stanningley Road. POST MEETING NOTE – This has been investigated and it is not commercial waste but litter from customers. KFC are increasing the area they litter pick. Branches not cleared from ginnel on Station Road.

KS

Royal Pub - landlord been warned about the cigarette butts around the entrance.

KS

3 **Police Update**

3.1 Inspector Nathan Franklin circulated a newsletter with the current crime statistics and police initiatives.

3.2 Crime continues to drop with burglary showing a 62% decrease on the same month last year, down from 24 to 9. Criminal damage is down by twenty incidents and vehicle crime has also reduced.

3.2 In Armley, police have seized counterfeit cigarettes from a shop and carried out road check operations leading to arrests for various offences. One robbery offender is now in prison awaiting trial.

3.4 Now the evenings are lighter, the police are urging residents to lock their windows and doors, as many burglaries are committed on insecure properties.

3.5 The police are keen to recruit volunteers for a variety of roles, not just special constables. Whatever your skills, there may be a role for you. Contact Inspector Franklin or the NPT for more information. 0113 241 4999
aa.nptarmleybramleystanningley@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

3.6 Cllr Harper welcomed questions from the floor:

3.7 Concern that suppliers of equipment that can be used to grow cannabis are advertising with leaflets door to door.

The equipment itself isn't illegal, so the police can't stop the advertising. If they are entering local authority housing blocks, housing officers can ask them to stop.

3.8 There seem to be fewer police patrolling on Town Street. There is a problem with young people congregating around the library being rude to staff. Groups of men are also gathering around the co-op and bookmakers, blocking the pavement which is intimidating. Fights have also been witnessed.

Please call 101 to report non urgent issues like this. If groups are behaving there is little the police can do, but fights and abusive or dangerous behaviour is not tolerated.

3.5 Cllr Harper congratulated the police on the reduction in crime and thanked the inspector for attending.

4 Interplay History Project

- 4.1 Steve Byrne and Lucy Scott from Interplay Theatre Company on Armley Ridge Road introduced a new project about play in Armley. They have a display of around 300 photographs at their HQ next to Christ Church Upper Armley showing children playing throughout the years. The project will also build an audio archive of stories from the local community. Members of the forum and wider public are invited to come along to Interplay to view the photos and share their memories.
- 4.2 The project complements their current production of 'Spit Nolan' a story about a group of children who build and race carts in the 1950s. Interplay are touring the show around schools and community groups including Armley Helping Hands. On July 6th there will be a cart building competition for children and young people in Gotts Park with a tea dance and other entertainment.
- 4.3 Forum members are asked to promote the project among family and friends and pop down to Interplay to record their stories. For more information log on to interplayleeds.co.uk/playingout, email playingout@interplayleeds.co.uk or call 0113 2638556
- 4.4 Cllr Harper thanked Lucy and Steve for attending and encouraged forum members to participate.

5 Gotts Park Rose Garden Project

- 5.1 John Preston from The Conservation Volunteers at Hollybush attended to update the forum on the proposal to transform the Rose Garden at Gotts Park into a kitchen garden and training project.
- 5.2 TCV consulted widely on the proposal and looked in more depth at costs and potential funding sources. Feedback from the community was generally supportive but concern was raised that the garden would only be open to the public during the daytime. Changes to government skills and health funding also meant that securing sufficient resources for the scheme would be very difficult.
- 5.3 After looking at all options, TCV have decided that the project isn't feasible at this time. Parks and Countryside have looked at the feedback from the community and have agreed to do some minor improvements to the garden, but it is not known when this may happen. Cllr Harper is pushing for these to be done sooner rather than later.
- 5.4 All residents who left their contact details during the consultation have been contacted, and some interest has been expressed in setting up a 'Friends of Gotts Park' group.
- 5.5 Other projects TVC are running include setting up a training scheme with West North West Homes to help vulnerable tenants maintain their garden, using volunteers to support Armley Common Right Trust, and setting up a pop up refreshment stall on the newly opened Armley canal towpath. Members of the public are urged to put forward environmental projects for their trainees and volunteers.
- 5.6 Cllr Harper thanked John for attending. If anyone has any questions, they can call TCV on 0113 274 2335.

6 Trading Standards Safer Project

- 6.1 Carrie Wilson from Trading Standards introduced a new project to combat door to door fraud, particularly aimed at elderly people. Carrie circulated a newsletter introducing the scheme and raising awareness of the risks of doing business with door to door traders.
- 6.2 The scheme will also run workshops in communities across Leeds and Bradford, and one is already scheduled with Armley Helping Hands. If there are any other community groups who want to host a workshop for their members, please contact Carrie on 0113 3939809, email cwilson@wyjs.org.uk.

6.3 The project is recruiting volunteers to help run the workshops and write the newsletter, please get in touch if you think you can help.

6.4 Cllr Harper gave her support to the project and thanked Carrie for attending.

7 Any other business

7.1 The pathway on Gotts Park from Armley Ridge Road to the Mansion is full of potholes. Cllr Harper will raise with Parks but the budget cuts mean that there are fewer resources to deal with highways and parks maintenance.

7.2 There is part of a garden shed on the traffic island near 87 Tong Road. KS

7.3 The new speed humps on Cockshot Lane were installed without fixing the potholes which means cars are driving over the hump into a hole.
The humps were most likely done by a contractor and potholes weren't part of the scheme. Highways will be made aware. KS

7.4 The new interpretation panel on Armley Moor mentions all local churches except Christ Church Upper Armley which is actually the nearest to the Moor.
K Sibson to raise with the project manager. KS

7.5 Rubbish and insecure entry points at the former Loony Bin joke shop.
This is very difficult to resolve as it's private property and the owner is in prison. Cllr Lowe to see if Environmental Enforcement can help get it cleared as a one off. AL

7.6 Road and pavement still not swept on Nancroft Terrace, mentioned at last 2 meetings. KS

7.7 Leaves on steps between Tong Road and Tong Avenue are very dangerous. KS

7.8 Overgrown vegetation on bridge at Amen Corner, can't see oncoming vehicles. KS

8 Election of Posts

8.1 Each year the Armley forum elects a vice chair, a treasurer and two co-optees to the inner West Area Committee, a formal committee of the council where Members from Armley and Bramley and Stanningley receive reports and make decisions on local issues. This year there will not be an election of Chair as the council's constitution requires the Area Committee to nominate a local Ward Member to chair community forums.

8.2 Nomination papers will be included with the minutes. For further information on the roles and responsibilities of the posts, contact Kate Sibson on 0113 3367871. Nominations can be posted to the address on the form or submitted in person at the next forum meeting. If more than one nomination is made for a post, there will be a secret ballot at the next forum meeting.

9 Date and time of next meeting

9.1 Tuesday 21st May at 7pm Armley Library. An officer from Highways will attend.
Forum members are asked to nominate other speakers for this and future meetings.