

Armley Forum Minutes of meeting 21 May 2013

Chair: Cllr Harper

Present: B Mason, B Davies, K Anderson, E Bowes, Cllr A Lowe, J Ramell, H&D Boutle, J&J Newsome, K Harrison, S Moss, D Peck, G Lynskey, X Chevillard, J Mistry, D&D Armitage, A Willis, M Greenwood, D Biddle, C Keefe, S Myers, J Gill, D Gregory, Cllr McKenna, M Pugh, L Scott, A Coburn, C Clarkson, M Quirke, T Kempster, D&M Stead, M Stead, B Draper, T Maynard, S Richmond, F Smyth

1 **Welcome and introductions**

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the last meeting**

2.1 The minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

- Debris on Tong Road now cleared
- Cockshot Lane was inspected for potholes by the speed humps, no issues reported
- Armley Moor interpretation panel doesn't list all buildings, it highlights the 'green pathway' through the town
- Rear of former joke shop on Town Street now cleared
- Overgrown vegetation on Amen Corner will be cut back.

3 **Police Update**

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

3.2 Burglary down to 12 in the period 16th April to 20th May from 28 the year before. Theft from motor vehicles was also down to 21 offences from 38, a 45% reduction. Theft of vehicles went up slightly from 8 to 11. Criminal damage stayed the same at 44 offences. Robbery recorded just one offence compared with 7 the previous year.

3.2 Burglary would be even lower if people kept their doors locked, it's estimated 25-30% of offences are on insecure properties. Warmer days bring out opportunist thieves who will sneak into homes when people are out in the garden.

3.3 The Police, council and other agencies held an action day on Mistress Lane to address the reports of anti-social behaviour. Victims are urged to come forward and report anti-social behaviour to the police or Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, or call Crimestoppers anonymously.

3.4 The Chair welcomed questions from the floor:

Drug paraphernalia found in church grounds – the police will investigate.

Mini motorbikes, the same people reported to different agencies – Police and housing do share information. The off road motorbike team is now based at Pudsey and is regularly patrolling the area.

Can police access CCTV in tower blocks? - Yes, police can get quick access to footage. West North West Homes are investing £500,000 in new CCTV cameras for their blocks.

3.5 Cllr Lowe reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner attended Bramley forum and suggested he be invited to Armley.

4 **Gotts Park Golf Club Open Day**

- 4.1 Gotts Park golf club are holding an open day on Sunday 9th June where anyone can come and see the course and facilities and play a low price round of golf.
- 4.2 The course is threatened with closure unless it can become more financially viable, so local residents are urged to use the facility.

5 **Highways**

- 5.1 Chris Way updated the forum on highways schemes in Armley ward.
Completed traffic calming measures on Cockshot Lane and Armley Ridge Road.
- 5.2 Two new schemes have been approved for the coming year:
- Improving the junction at Crabb Lane / Stocks Hill. The traffic island will be removed to improve visibility and the footway by the pub will be moved. Cllr Lowe recommended that arrows be put down to stop cars jumping the queue.
 - The pedestrian island by the petrol station on Tong Road will be improved.
- 5.3 Cllr Harper welcomed questions from the floor:
Poor sightline coming from Moorfield Road onto Stanningley Road. Cllr Lowe reported another councilor had previously complained but no action was taken.

Can the traffic lights by Mikes Carpets on Branch Road and by the Venerable Bede have a right hand filter? No, it's been investigated and the lights are part of a run of lights into the city centre which are all linked. A delay on the Armley lights will cause traffic to back up elsewhere. A member of the forum asked whether a right hand filter from Branch Road could run at the same time as the right hand filter from Ledgard Way on the other side.
- 5.4 The bend on Clyde Approach has cars parked all day, difficult to see. Yellow lines were put down nearby, Chris to monitor and report back. CW
- 5.5 Copley Hill – Parked cars causing an obstruction. Will look at putting yellow lines down if funding is made available.
- 5.6 When will the resurfacing on Brooklyn Mount take place – Chris to check. CW
- 5.7 Cllr McKenna complained that the bus lane on Canal Road causes traffic to back up and sometimes impacts the Gyratory. CW to meet on site with Cllr McKenna. CW
- 5.8 Could the crossing point by the Offices on Armley Road be made into a pelican crossing, the textured pavement makes it seem like a formal crossing but it's very dangerous.
Sites that don't meet the strict criteria for pelican crossings but are used as a crossing point are given this treatment with dropped kerbs and an island. The textured pavement indicates a dropped kerb to blind people rather than a safe crossing point.
- 5.9 Steep steps on Canal Street need repairing. CW to refer. CW
- 5.10 When will the bus bay next to the Travellers be used? Very soon, Metro are moving the bus stop.
- 5.11 Resurfacing requests – Whingate by Old West Leeds Boys School and Armley Ridge Road by Christ Church. CW to refer. CW

6 **Environmental Enforcement**

- 6.1 J Pearson updated on his work as the local Environmental Enforcement Officer.
Over 100 cases have been closed in the past two months.
Supported action days in Edinburghs, Wythers and Mistress Lane.
Served 25 legal notices for issues like waste in gardens and bin yards.

Ordered removal of waste from behind former Loony Bin joke shop on Town Street.
Visited KFC four times, they are now litter picking the surrounding area.

- 6.2 Members of the forum raised a number of issues that John will follow up:
Overgrown garden in former Christ Church vicarage
Dealing with dog fouling – John can take a statement and speak to the owner,
sometimes a statement can lead to a fine.
Can community groups borrow litter picking equipment – JP to check.

JP

- 6.3 Any other environmental enforcement issues, please contact John on (0113) 378 2143

7 **Armley Fun Day competition**

- 7.1 Local school children have entered a competition to design a poster for the Armley Fun Day. Six finalists have been chosen and Forum Members were asked to vote for the winning entry that will be displayed all over Armley.

8 **National Heritage Weekend**

- 8.1 Armley Library will open its doors on 12-15th September with an exhibition of photographs of Armley through the years for the National Heritage Open Days weekend. Further information to follow nearer the time on www.heritageopendays.org.uk.

9 **Interplay Playing Out Project**

- 9.1 Lucy from Interplay Theatre returned to the forum to thank everyone who has contributed so far to the 'Playing Out' project celebrating play in Armley. They have even more photos on show at their base on Armley Ridge Road, and are looking for more people to share their experiences and memories.

- 9.2 There will be a 'bogey' (go-cart) race at Gotts Park on 6th July. Teams are invited to enter the race with their hand built bogeys, subject to a quick safety check. For more information go to www.interplayleeds.co.uk/challengerace or call 2638556. There will be all sorts of activities on the day including a vintage tea party and old fashioned games. Stalls will be available for local producers and crafts people.

10 **Any other business**

- 10.1 The Bramley Forum is on Thursday 13th June at Trinity Methodist Church on Town Street next to the shopping centre. It will focus on debt and welfare reform. The centerpiece is a powerful performance by Shontal Theatre Group about a woman who falls into debt after losing her job. Everyone from the Armley forum is invited, and please spread the word to anyone who is struggling financially as there will be a lot of help and advice on hand.

- 10.2 Complaint from forum member about anti-social drinking on Tinkers Lane by the side of Wilkinson. There are needles and human waste that needs clearing urgently. KS to refer to police, JP to investigate.

JP

11 **Election of Posts**

- 11.1 A ballot was held for the posts of Area Committee Co-optees and Forum Vice Chair. The votes were counted after the meeting and the Co-optees are Hazel Boutle and Eric Bowes, and the Vice Chair is Tom Maynard.

12 **Date and time of next meeting**

- 12.1 Tuesday 18th June, 7pm Armley Library.