

## **LITTLE WOODHOUSE COMMUNITY FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING: TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011, LEEDS CIVIC HALL**

**Attendance:** Gerry Harper, Babette Dorton-Scott, Ryan Platten (Community Planning Officer: Inner North West), Deryck Piper, Garance Rawinsky, Norman Cairnduff, Bill McKinnon, Christine Tower, Emma H (Leeds U. rep), Patrick Hall (Acting Chair + Membership Secretary), Maggie Butterworth (LWCA + Director of Swarthmore), Rachel McCormack (Streets + Enforcement WNW locality).

**1) Welcome from Chair:** Councillor G. Harper: Introductions from attendees.

**2) Apologies for absence:** Barbara Mitchell, Sue Thomas

**3) Minutes from last Forum meeting:** 5th July 2011: not available.

#### **4) Matters Arising:**

a) Michelle Honey (WNW Homes Team Leader), Norman Cairnduff + Garance Rawinsky met at Swarthmore to discuss **Kendals and Consorts** re. improvements in infrastructure. Nothing much has been done over the year. Surprise/concern expressed by Michelle at lack of maintenance. Garance has researched who is responsible: shared. A lot of the properties are now in private ownership. **Graham Bricklebank from Kendal Close to walk round with Ayesha Malik** to plan for the future. (Leeds Met project drawings exist).

b) Streetscene: presentation on **new academic year and enforcement in the Autumn. Student changeover** went well this year. Bulk waste collection suspended city-wide to focus on student areas. Presence 7.00am the week before and 6.00am for specific days to tackle “bag slashers”. Landlords, etc, thought it had improved. **CHRIS FIRTH WAS CONGRATULATED ON HIS DEDICATION TO POST.**

#### **5) Item 5: Planning Applications (Ryan Platten):**

- a) **The 99 Steps:** As a result of Babette’s query, Garance contacted Mr. Rehman who replied to all LWCA members with plans. Ryan also had a copy which he gave to Gerry. Plans consist of Corduroy paving of high quality and finish.
- b) **Hawthorn Hedge, Belle Vue Road/Kendal Walk:** Bill spoke about this item. He explained that the hawthorn hedge had been a planning condition for the Kendal estate. It was valued even more now that the “belle vue” (beautiful view) has been lost as the hedge is something to look at. Rushbond bought it from Barratt’s in 2002/2003. Rushbond have “hacked it back” rather than applying proper “hedge laying”: i.e. lay branches across to create thicker hedge. Work done possibly because of complaints from No. 6. There was a massive cherry tree in the garden of No. 6 which was cut back a couple of years ago. Current claim is that the hedge

- is causing the clay subsoil to dry out (rather than the house extension and garage covering the garden). Tree expert report 2 years ago showed roots in soil. **Ryan to check that the LWCA objection** had been received ( LCC on-line objection system difficulties with objections from Organizations rather than individuals).
- c) **Queens' Pub, Burley Road – Tesco's:** This did not need a “change of use” as it was already a retail outlet. Despite a petition containing 1300 signatures and Councillors’ objections, the application still got passed.

Garance asked whether there could be a clearer title for planning applications so that they are not “missed”. Ryan explained that it cost £70,000 last year in newspaper advertising bills, hence briefer headings.

Bill asked whether the initiative of local influence on planning decisions had been dropped. Ryan explained that this was a move for communities who want to encourage development but it is not in force just yet. It could be a Parish or Town Council or Neighbourhood Forum: 21 individuals who live, work or play in the area (Neighbourhood Forum). Localisation bill in November, details re. how it will work: March/April 2012.

- d) **St. Anne's Car Park, Woodhouse Square:** Ryan informed the meeting that Officers had had a meeting on 26/07/11 with the person running it and that agreements were in place.
- i) landscaping: timescale October 2011-March 2012: the person running the Car Park wants to do it ASAP and according to the scheme.
  - ii) Boundary treatment: some of the works have been carried out- painted some black, removed boards and replaced with chain link fence, removed some signage, ordered security barrier. In process of ordering limestone chippings.
  - iii) Community Garden Space: Some confusion re. finances on Mr. Mohammed's part but Swarthmore **can fund** planting but need topsoil putting down and land leveling off. That land cannot be used for parking (Planning). Goodwill re. Garden. 6 year lease for Car Park. Future: 130 flats – new student dwellings.
  - iv) Users of Car Park littering Brandon Road. Person running Car Park agreed to **put bins near Exit.**

The person running the Car Park has done a lot of things that have been asked of him.

Discussion ensued on Car Park Policy: suggestion that a “new car park” should absorb cars and not add to it. Fly parking on Chorley Lane, Hawthorn Park, Little Woodhouse Street. Issues with ownership: Chorley Lane: Ministry of Health 1970's; Little Woodhouse Street: as more than 10 years -deemed consent. Highways: offence is parking on a pavement not crossing it.

Bill questioned the size of the sign, as St. Anne's Car Park is in a conservation area. If the sign is within the fence it is OK.

It was noted that the Site Hut at St. Anne's Car Park is a Container.

- e) **4-6 Denison Road:** Ryan informed the meeting that there had been discussion with the owner. Council had said that they would withhold enforcement if the owner came and spoke with them re. re-development. He came 1 month later to talk but have heard nothing since (in the last 2 months). **To be chased.**
- f) **Airedale Mount, Clarendon Road:** planning permission passed.
- g) **144 Woodsley Road (removal of “To Let” signs):** planning permission for change of use from a doctor’s surgery to a 10 bedroom HMO + basement flat + 3 parking spaces.

Removal of “To Let” signs: planning enforcement?? Is it in a “Code” area??  
 Headingley is. Leeds wanted to expand the “Code” area but in 2005, Inspector restricted it and in 2008-2009 was knocked back. **Voluntary code to be applied?**

**6) Item 6: Streetscene and Enforcement (Rachel McCormack):** Rachel informed the meeting that there had been a big reorganization, Fly Tipping/Bulk Waste had been separated and Streets had joined with Enforcement. Chris Firth had Refuse and **Rachel will take any Refuse enquiries** back to him.

Cleansing and Enforcement: Rachel manages 4 Area Committees in the wedge drawn-up policy. There was a Service agreement (de-leafing, dog fouling, waste in gardens, etc). Examples of activities been involved in were:

- a) clean up in Ryder Road (rat infestation)
- b) reviewed what to do to avoid things getting out of hand again
- c) At weekends had worked with Parks and Countryside at Woodhouse Moor to tidy up
- d) Jason Singh (locality manager) was in high level discussions, working with Parks and Countryside
- e) Bins on Streets Project in Hyde Park Road to get bins in (warnings, fixed penalty notice). It had worked with the Ash Road Project 2 years ago but then there was the bin strike and reorganization
- f) Haddons Project
- g) Operation Champion in Hyde Park: Bin Yard Project – Quarry’s and St. Christopher’s – Probation to clear the yards. Section 46 notice served on Occupiers on how to store and present waste.
- h) Bins on Streets Project to start in the next few weeks.

Patrick asked whether on completion of that Project it could be **rolled out to another street. Rachel responded that it could be looked at.** Such operations were very resource intensive, taking people away from other work.

Garance spoke about the rubbish collection in white bags from Hannover Square at weekends: great that the rubbish had been picked up but the **white bags had not been collected!** Garance also reported that there is a lot of rubbish on the pavements at weekends (boxes) at the **Shia Mosque, Park Lane. Action: Rachel** to pass on this information.

Patrick informed the meeting that the **bottle banks** in the car park at the bottom of **Hyde Park Road** were overfull and that there was fly tipping there. Patrick suggested a **relocation of the bottle banks** to the new pedestrian island at the junction of Hyde Park Road/Woodsley Road. **Action: Household Team** will look at fly tipping there for evidence.

Garance informed the meeting that she had left a message for Steve Waterhouse (City Manager) that the **bins need emptying more often at Bridge L2212** (between Clarendon Road and St. George's Church).

Gerry Harper asked who cleans the rubbish on **Woodhouse Moor**. Answer: Parks. Patrick suggested that there should be a **mixed glass/cans unit** next to the bins there. Rachel commented that the contractor prefers to collect from 1 location point, i.e. at Hyde Park.

Garance brought up a **boundary issue** with regard to **Burley Road**. As a result of the student flats and takeaways there were more plastic and food detritus. Got 2 bins 2 years ago. Amanda Jackson (Leeds University) strategy to educate customers and shops. The 2 Universities are not responsible for those flats as they have independent owners. However rubbish and riotous behaviour are increasing. **Action: Gerry** to talk to Police and he will bring it up at meeting with University on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. **Rachel offered education work** with them.

**7) Item 7: Police:** not in attendance.

Gerry spoke about **Parking in the Hyde Park area**. Since parking permits had been introduced, the problem had moved to the Royal Parks, Brudenells, etc. There had been a community meeting at the Cardigan Centre. Rubbish cannot be cleared because of the parking. To introduce a Parking Permit scheme from the bottom of Alexandra Road, Cardigan Road to Headingley Lane would cost too much: £150,000. Leeds is one of the major cities which does not charge for parking permits. A **permit charge** of £10, £15 would pay for the scheme.

Garance(?)/Patrick(?) suggested a **more joined-up approach** for the plethora of personnel in the area: Enforcement (waste/rodents), Community Enforcement Officers, PCSO's, Civil Enforcement Officers (Parking). **Action: Gerry** to suggest "**Multi-Tasking Enforcement Team**" at the Hyde Park Board meeting. Rachel informed the meeting that the ethos was now "don't walk past a problem, pass it on". **Action: Rachel** will arrange a walk-round with an Officer at a specific issue. When Refuse and Streets were together, streets got neglected. Hopefully issues can now be resolved more quickly.

**8) Item 8: Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 7.00pm,  
Leeds Civic Hall

**9) A.O.B:** NDS Statement.

**Operation “Walk Safe”:** both Universities paid the Police to do “Walk Safe”. Garance volunteered 1 evening. Garance asked **why this Operation did not cover our patch.** £65,000 was given by a benefactor.

Maggie informed the meeting of an event, “Steve Philips and The Rough Diamonds” at **Swarthmore** on Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, £10 per ticket, for the **“Raise The Roof Appeal”** (In excess of £100,000 is needed, as the roof covers 6 houses).

**10)** Meeting closed.

B.Dorton-Scott.