

LITTLE WOODHOUSE COMMUNITY FORUM

Held at 7pm Tuesday 3 April 2012 at the Civic Hall

Chair: Councillor Gerry Harper

1. Attendance

Cllr Gerry Harper, Ryan Platten (Community Planning Officer), Babette Dorton Scott, Trevor Eggett, Garance Rawinsky, Patrick Hall, Norman Cairnduff, Deryck Piper, Bill McKinnon, Maggi Butterworth, Barbara Mitchell (notes), Christine Towler (observer).

Cllr Harper welcomed back Garance Rawinsky and Deryck Piper after their operations, and welcomed Christine Towler as an observer for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Akhtar, Sue Thomas, Emma Hewitt (Leeds University Union), Jo Johnson (Leeds Met Students Union).

3. Minutes of the last meeting held 17 January 2012

The minutes were agreed as correct without amendment.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Tesco's at the Queen pub on Burley Road – Cllr Harper noted that Tesco's had started recruiting for the store. Hoardings round the building indicate work has started.

4.2 Denison Road property – RP reported that there had been no response from the owner since December to encouragement to enter pre-application discussions. Therefore referred back to Environmental Health for consideration by the Dangerous Structures Officer.

4.3 Streetscene – Bins on Streets project

PH expressed disappointment that there was no one from Streetscene again he had not yet contacted Area Manager Jason Singh. He had attended the Hyde Park Improvement Board meeting and he and Sue Buckle had stressed the problems with bins on streets. There seemed at last to be consideration of a different system for the area. The pilot area targeting information about bins left on streets had not worked. GH said whole streets were impassable because of bins left out. GR said that bin collectors were also at fault.

GH said there are door-to-door campaigns of information but the transient population is always going to be a problem.

Bmck said that in Meanwood area the Wharfedales were still on the old system because difficulties had been recognised. GH said they were considering going back to black bags. BDS said that bags left out were as vulnerable to rats and bag slashers as bins are. GR – big bins need a foot pedal to operate. GH said the problem was where to site large bins. DP said that the council should use its enforcement powers.

PH said that the council needed to recognise the specific problems of the area. Bmck said that if the Leeds economy relies on students, then it should recognise and invest in the additional costs with appropriate resources. GH agreed that this was a significant argument.

Action PH said he would take points to the next HPIB meeting in May.

Action PH to contact Chris Firth and Rachel McCormack of Streetscene and Jason Singh the Area Manager covering the Hyde Park Area.

NC enquired about collection days over Easter – no information has been given about changes so presume they are the same.

4.4 Police

Cllr GH said there had been no more spates of attacks in the area but PH said he had heard that the Little London cases had to be dropped so no prosecutions had occurred. It was agreed to agenda for the next meeting.

4.5 Planning – Belle Vue Stores

RP reported that the conditions in the agreed application had not been complied with and the matter was referred back to enforcement. BMcK asked if the illuminated sign, which had been re-erected, had been given permission.

Action RP to check.

4.6 Planning – Burley Road student developments

GR said there was a general problem because the boundary along Burley Road means the blocks are not technically part of Little Woodhouse. Both Police and Council boundaries are affected. It was difficult to get response to complaints about takeaways, litter and noise affecting Marlboroughs and Kendal Rise residents especially.

Cllr GH said this point had been made to the Boundary Commission but had been ignored. The boundaries set to cover 16-17,000 population ignore natural connections and means it is very difficult for the City and Hunslet councillors to cover dispersed areas.

GR - There is currently a particular problem with Park Lane students leaving litter in Hanover Square. Also motorbikes on the grass. This is a warden issue – there are none.

4.7 Woodhouse Moor Music Event

This would have involved large lorries bringing equipment and erection of high security fences around the park. However the event was not given permission.

5. Police

There were no police representatives in attendance. Cllr GH reported that the council budget protected the same amount of funding for local community support officers in the city. The police in the local area had effective

leadership and a policy of strong high profile response to any incident, e.g. recent burglary in Denison Road. This was an effective strategy for policing in the city, as shown in low crime rates.

GR reported she would attend the first meeting of the **police community panel** as requested by Inspector O'Brien.

BmcK commented on the spread of “**comedown**” parties of young people taking drugs after overnight celebrations – now in Hanover Square as well as Woodhouse Moor.

Action PH to request Inspector O'Brien to send a representative to July meeting.

6. Planning – update by RP

- 6.1 RP reported on the **Localism Act** – given royal assent in November. The council responded to the consultation – copy is available from website. Neighbourhood planning will be shaped by the regulations, now published in April 2012. This will inform how local groups need to be constituted in order to contribute a neighbourhood plan. The NW Inner planning group are looking at this and local groups are being circulated.

Action RP to forward documents on Localism Act to GR again.

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan would involve a lot of work and costs. The planning department will offer what support it can. Leeds have 4 pilot areas receiving funding each of £20k. These are Holbeck, Kippax, Otley and Wetherby. RP will attend the meetings.

It was noted that Planning Aid had had its funding cut despite its intended role in support for localism in planning.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Design statement is an appropriate alternative to a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 6.2 **National Planning Framework** – the government have replaced over 1000 pages of planning regulations with a 50-page Framework document. There are some concessions in response to National Trust concerns but big questions remain. This may mean a reversion to planning by appeal to get case law established.
- 6.3 **Leeds Core Strategy** – currently out to consultation which ends on 12 April – comments form on the website. This is the last round of consultation, about the soundness of the strategy. There is a list of criteria for the consultation. The NW Inner planning group will submit comments.

Action RP to forward list of consultation criteria to GR.

- 6.4 **The Household Design Guide** – this is now in force.

6.5 **Current Planning applications**

- 6.5.1 **Kendal Lane stores** – Peter Baker is now assisting to try and identify solutions.
- 6.5.2 **54 Hyde Park Close** - retro permission for 4 flats has been refused and passed to enforcement team.
- 6.5.3 **Faversham pub extension** for a large music extension and roof terrace. There are concerns about the design and the large noise problem affecting Clarendon Road, Springfield Mount and nearby University blocks. BmcK commented on the long licensing hours – he had heard noise on an early morning walk on a Sunday. Cllr Harper said he had not so far received complaints – people should let him know of problems. GR said there is a problem complaining because the council noise complaints line closes at 11pm.

Action RP to send details of Police Liaison officer based in council to GR

- 6.5.4 **Security grills on 28 and 30 Hanover Square** – require planning permission. It is complicated whether permission required – e.g. flats or large HMOs

- 6.5.5 **Unipol Code of Standards Review Group**–Meetings to be held on 16 March, 27 April and 10 May at 2.00pm at Unipol.

Action BM to forward to GR

7. **Streetscene**

There was no report.

8. **Date of the next meeting**

Tuesday 3 July 2012 at 7pm – Action PH to book room.

9. **Any other business**

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 12 April 7.30 – 11.00pm Jive Night Swarthmore Fundraising Event

Saturday 28 April 12.30 – 4.30pm Picnic on Rosebank, live music and arts and crafts

Saturday 7 July Unity day on Woodhouse Moor.

Other items of interest

1. PH reported The Rosebank had made a successful application for funding from the Wellbeing Fund
2. GR reported LWCA had applied for funding for replacement cherry trees from RAG – if unsuccessful would apply for MICE funding
3. GH – Area Committee agreed funding for wardens for Woodhouse Moor again. GR requested that Hanover and Woodhouse squares be covered as well.
4. GR reported on Community Housing Forum of University of Leeds on 16 March – are acknowledging they need to take some responsibility for student behaviour even if in private blocks.

Action PH and GR to ensure Amanda Jackson gets invitation to LWCA Forum.