

LITTLE WOODHOUSE COMMUNITY FORUM

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

Chair: Councillor Gerry Harper

1. Attendance

Cllr Gerry Harper, Cllr Christine Towler, Garance Rawinsky, Patrick Hall, Norman Cairnduff, Sue Thomas, Deryck Piper, Ursula Klingel, Gabrielle White, Barbara Mitchell (notes), Amanda Jackson (Leeds University Union), Zahid Butt(LCC Area Community Safety Coordinator), Jason Singh (NW Area manager), Sue Wood (WNW Homes manager), Inspector Ian O'Brien, Ryan Platten (Community Planning Officer)

Apologies

Richard Witt, Cllr Akhtar, Maggi Butterworth, Babette Dorton Scott, Trevor Eggett, Bill McKinnon, Emma Hewitt (Leeds University Union) has now left. Cllr Harper thanked Emma Hewitt for her contribution to the forum.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held 17 January 2012

The minutes were agreed as correct without amendment. Proposed PH, seconded GR.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Tescos at the Queen pub on Burley Road – Cllr Harper had been invited to view the store in operation. Noted the food thrown out but Tesco do not donate to Foodshare. GR raised the placing of the portable store sign across the footpath. **Action RP to refer this to colleagues.**

3.2 Robberies in Little London – Inspector O'Brien reminded the forum that the case had fallen from lack of evidence. The robbery team followed up with regular visits to check.

4. Streetscene – Jason Singh

JS reported on activity of Environmental Services Locality Team and Environmental Enforcement team over the student changeover period now at its peak. There is a high volume of litter on the streets – from landlords as well as students and rummagers. Enforcement action will be taken where required. This is the third year working with Leeds University Union to collect recyclable items. Additional crews are dealing with cleaning, collection and enforcement. The plan is to clear all gullies and channels, push back bins to have a clean start for next year's intake.

New solutions – For areas where wheelie bins don't work, officers are trying to do things differently, eg communal bin points with large bins. Pilot area has shown some success, though minor problem with fly tipping. Has to recognise that there is 100% changeover of people each year. Waste teams are answerable to area committee and will take steer from them. Will try to work with local groups, visit site and walkabouts to identify local solutions.

Questions –

- **GR** – 3 large bins in Denison Hall – lids are too heavy – could use lids with counterweight bar as in Europe?
- **JS** – communal bins will only work where good access and space
- **RH** – dustbin men do not return large bins in Kendals to their proper place and one in car park is never emptied. **Action RH notify Cllr GH**
- **ST** – **we** never see results from enforcement, eg garden full of rubbish in Kelsos – landlord just bagged it and left it on the pavement. In Birmingham landlords can fine students for excess rubbish.
- **JS** – this is a unique area – 50,000 students in one square mile
- **GW** – concern at sheer amount of rubbish on Kelso Road (at no. 1?) landlord left bags knee deep on footpath
- **DP** – it is not the fault of the council that there is so much volume at changeover – some of these properties should be classed as commercial not residential and charged per bag.
- **UK** – real problem is all year with bins overfilled and footfall through the area leaving street litter.
- **JS** – it is not an average residential area, high density and more like a high street. Waste management have struggled over the last year. Weekly collections will continue in this area – will not use black bags. All bins from the area have to go for secondary sort.
- **AJ** – welcomed what was said about wheelie bins. Students do care but there is a problem getting to know the system. Need to communicate with first years and in ways they want. Could do better on sorting waste – will focus on this in communications.
- **SW** – bottle banks in Becketts Park have been a godsend.
- **DP and ST** – problem of large amounts of food waste at cultural centre in Hanover Square after events – should be a commercial pick up.

Any problem in future – contact Jason Singh or Cllr Harper

5. Housing – Sue Wood, Team Leader for Little London area

Kendall Carr – no final decision has been made – due in August. Meetings with tenants and officers managing the project were held last week. GR and NC went to a meeting in June and sent email out.

Action GR to forward copy to SW

Tenants are mostly resigned to inevitable, though upset, and concerned they would get enough one to one support through the move.

Action – SW to follow up Social Services support

Vacant sites GR – what will happen when they have left? If building is demolished it will leave a large space. There will be a report by the Asset Management team – we have not yet seen a copy. Planning concern – older residents are part of the community and will be lost, skewing the population even more. SW said that there are vacancies because there isn't the demand there any more.

NC – is there a structure plan for the area – RP replied no.

Cllr GH – there are now 3 large sites potentially vacant – Kendall Carr, Police premises on St Johns Road and St Michaels College. This is concerning and he is seeking a meeting with Asset management to ask what is going to happen, what is the plan. **Action: GH meet with Asset Management**

Local housing reps – PH as a local council tenant (near Hyde Park estate) will be a contact point for liaison with WNW Homes. The local neighbourhood management officer is working to improve things on the council estates (Consorts Kendals Rillbank and Rosebank).

SW – Local plans for housing – are being put together, eg local clean up days, ways to encourage pride in the local area, seeking Area Champions to work with local neighbourhood management officers.

GR – Leeds Met. landscape architecture students had looked at Kendals and suggested ways to improve – had been given to Michele Honey, should have been included in handover when staff change.

Anti-social behaviour

SW spoke with Angela Maudsley concerning youths in Burley Road area using acceptable behaviour contracts – have things calmed down?

Inspector OB – Burley Road/Alexandra Road is a hot spot but hasn't come direct to the police. Police can identify through repeat calls, regular addresses if they are aware of problems but need to email him with concerns, otherwise the coding may not pick up.

GR – problem of border of police areas runs along Burley Road. Noise and rubbish affects Marlborough residents. Cllr Nash has done some work on takeaways but they are licensed till 4am.

ZB – wants to look at plan for student arrival, work with residents to get ideas, eg meetings with Leeds Met and LUU

AJ – it would be good to get residents' perspectives at student meetings – direct communication works best.

ZB - ideas for welcome meetings – want minimum standards and positive message - responsibilities in residential area, litter, where to go with problems and who to speak to.

GH Majority don't cause trouble and are affected by small number who do. They need to be identified and enforce action.

GR – what happens in private blocks – need to link with security staff.

ZB - is Woodhouse DPPO working? **GR** – more patrols would help. City and Hunslet Police have cleared up tents in the Bridge area and referred them to Space homeless service in Gt George Street. The council cleared the rubbish.

6. Police – Inspector O'Brien

Crime statistics – no significant change in the area. Up to date figures are on the Little Woodhouse police website. The new office on Woodhouse Lane is officially open at the end of July. There will be a review of patrol plans – to keep a visible presence in the area.

Operation optimal -Hyde Park and Woodhouse have been traditionally high area for acquisitive crime, because of student numbers. Operation has two approaches – first to visit area around a burgled address and speak to residents

about security, property marking etc, - second to predict where burglary may occur – plot offences and go back. This has reduced figures by 33%.

Anti social behaviour – calls are taken into account in patrol plans, with an average fall in overall crime of 33%.

NE Leeds – core members of robbery group on remand - likely to be problems when streets get darker. Need for community intelligence – phone police immediately e.g. if you see a group roaming with faces covered.

GH – meeting held in Royal Park School felt that some permanent police presence was required in the area. He would like to see a proper police station in the area, rather than office. The massive improvement in crime figures has been due to community policing. The one weakness is staff moving on – the inspector at least needs to stay and commit to the area.

DP – yellow telephone? Incident of two local lads setting a fire in St Michaels.

NC – any news of incident on bridge – it was closed on a Sunday 2 weeks ago.

6. **Planning – update by RP**

Current Planning applications

- i. **Kendal Lane stores** – application for 2nd floor extension was refused – redesign is under discussion but unlikely to succeed as this is a principle issue.
- ii. **Faversham pub extension** for a large music extension and roof terrace. Waiting for revisions to the scheme to address noise and parking issues. No date for panel yet.
- iii. **St Anne’s temporary car park** – new application for further 3 years permission. Deadline for comments 2 August.
- iv. **Denison Road** – no news back from owner – need to chase enforcement. **Action RP to email GH**
- v. **Student blocks on Burley Road** – there are 3 live applications. 4 – 22 Westfield Road (other side of 99 steps) for 119 bedrooms: issue is very close to Belle Vue Road, plans don’t show closeness of nearest buildings. RH – planning process doesn’t work – no-one can do anything about it. The policy was to build blocks to reduce student density and relieve Headingley. Now some housing returning to family use in Headingley but problem of higher density in Woodhouse. The new council Core Strategy was to try and spread them around.
- vi. **Blocking pavement on Belle Vue Road** – DP said developers were still occupying pavement at bottom of BV Rd (though kids have broken through the fence).
- vii. **Vacant housing** – GH said there are 30,000 on waiting list – should look to house in vacant private properties.
- viii. **Police office on Woodhouse Lane** – 22 car parking spaces on university car park
- ix. **St Michaels College / cultural centre proposals** – no contacts or discussions with planning has taken place.
- x. **54 Hyde Park Place** – retrospective application for HMO. Refused – going to appeal

7. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 2 October 2012 at 7pm Action Cllr Harper to book room

8. Any other business

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 7 July Unity Day on Woodhouse Moor.

RH – Graffiti wall in Kendals – Cllr Harper agreed to ask for it to be painted over.

Action SW agreed to look into it.

GR – replacement tree in Woodhouse Square – £250 cost - need to do it in October.

Request to Cllrs Harper and Towler for funding.

Action GR to email request to councillors