

Sixth Meeting of the Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum at New Burley Club on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 7:30pm

Minutes

Present: (27) Naomi Batten, Graham Bellamy, Bobby Bowker, Tom Brannigan, Fiona Butler, Jane Carr, Tom Carr, James Corah, Richard Dennis (LCC), Joanna Dickinson, Eddie Duncan (EA), Alleyne Ellis, Martin Groom, Steve Harris, Chris Hill, Paul Holdsworth, John Illingworth, Judith Judd, John Liversedge, Phil Marken, Paul Matthews (LCC), Amy McAbendroth, Lynn Pandis-Bury, Michael Park, Adele Rae, Andy Rontree, Carole Skene.

Apologies: Wendi Carson, Sam Meadley, Daniel Lipzith, Liz Minkin, Fiona Venner, Lucinda Yeadon.

Informal discussion: The meeting started with an informal discussion for about 20 minutes around the various maps and poster displays.

- (1) **Election of a Chair:** John Liversedge was proposed, seconded and elected.
- (2) **Endorsing the list of members:** The meeting approved 7 new members: Bobby Bowker, Jane Carr, Tommy Carr, Chris Hill, Joseph Morris, Lynn Pandis-Bury and Carole Skene.
- (3) **Minutes of the Fifth Public Meeting** held on 6 December 2016 were agreed as a correct record.
- (4) **Matters arising from the minutes:** members commented on the problems caused by satnavs directing unsuitable vehicles into St Ann's Lane, the need for improved safety measures such as 20mph speed limits, cycleways and pedestrian crossings more generally in residential areas, and the need to keep narrow footways clear of street furniture, such as the lamp post on St Ann's Lane. Members specifically requested a pedestrian crossing at the junction between Vesper Road and Morris Lane.
- (5) **Flooding Report** Richard Dennis assisted by Eddie Duncan reported on the huge scale of the Boxing Day floods in relation to historic flooding in Leeds, and answered questions from the audience. They reviewed the first stage of the flood alleviation work that was nearing completion in the city centre. A full report on December 2015 had only recently been sent to the design teams, so it was too early to present any detailed designs for stage two. The "whole catchment" approach would yield benefits along the full length of the river, but protection of the Aire Valley railway link would be a priority.
- (6) **Kirkstall Valley Development Trust:** Chris Hill (KVDT & KNF) reported on the Inaugural Meeting of the Kirkstall Valley Development Trust, which had taken place on 31 January, and explained how the Abbey Mills project might develop.
- (7) **Footpaths group:** Paul Holdsworth (KNF) reported on the work of the footpaths group, the lack of established footpaths within the old Leeds County Borough, and the difficult process for converting the numerous "claimed" footpaths into definitive rights of way.
- (8) **Rail users group:** Andy Rontree (KNF) reported on a recent meeting of the rail users group for the Harrogate line. This provoked a lively discussion about the role of volunteers in garden maintenance, and the duties of the train operating companies to maintain their stations and provide disabled access.
- (9) **Treasurer's report:** James Corah reported little change since the AGM.

- (10) **Draft Intentions Document:** Graham Bellamy proposed adding a new policy KNF12 on children's play areas: *"Policy KNF12 supports the provision of frequent outdoor play facilities throughout the neighbourhood, such that in principle there is a small outdoor play area with a swing and maybe a slide for example, within only a few minutes' walk of every child's home. The small local 'walk-to' sites will be in addition to larger 'drive-to' sites designed to serve a wider area. The plan will identify sites for these play facilities."* This was agreed by the meeting. During the discussion it was explained that the field at Old Farm Close was already identified as one such location in the Kirkstall Vision. The plan should support this and also look to identify others. It was also agreed that segregated facilities for scooters and for older children were important, and that a detailed playground survey should be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.
- (11) **General Policy discussion:** Bobby Bowker raised the issue of Nature Reserves and asked for a detailed report to a future meeting.
- (12) **Dates, times and venues for future open meetings.** The Secretary reminded the meeting that we must recruit more members if we want to win the referendum. It was agreed to organise further public meetings throughout Kirkstall, varying the days and times when meetings are held and publishing details well in advance so they could be linked to recruitment campaigns.

John Illingworth
19 February 2017