

Seventh Meeting of the Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum at New Burley Club on Wednesday 26 July 2017 at 7:30pm

Agenda and Reports

Informal discussion: The KNF Board want our meetings to be welcoming and inclusive. We start with informal discussion so people can meet, move around and talk in smaller groups. Light refreshments will be provided, and there will be some displays to stimulate discussion. When people are comfortable we will sit down to do the formal business.

- (1) **Election of a Chair:** Propose John Liversedge, who chairs the Board.
- (2) **Apologies for absence:**
- (3) **Endorsing the list of members:** The meeting is asked to approve new members who joined before the meeting plus all those who register on Wednesday night.
- (4) **General Election:** Neighbourhood Forums embrace a wide range of political views. To avoid conflict, we did not meet during the election period. With hindsight, this was an over-reaction, and we didn't explain it very well. Next time we must manage better.
- (5) **Minutes of the Sixth Public Meeting** held on 7 February 2017 (attached) and any matters arising.
- (6) **Treasurer's report** (James Corah) and any matters arising. We are applying for major government grants from Locality.
- (7) **Footpaths group** (Paul Holdsworth) We are promoting off-road public footpaths throughout Kirkstall Ward and seeking to create new footpaths and confirm existing paths as public rights of way. Inner Leeds has been neglected for many years, but now needs to make rapid progress with registration, signage and surface improvements.
- (8) **Kirkstall Valley Park** (John Illingworth) Leeds City Council owns about 50 acres of open space along the Kirkstall valley bottom, between Morrisons and Woodside View. This land is mixed quality, but includes 18 acres of **grade 1 agricultural land**, the only such area in the whole of Leeds. Very few people realise that it exists. When combined with Armley Park, Gotts Park and the Kirkstall Valley Nature Reserve on the west side of the river there is a continuous area of high quality green space stretching all the way from the A65 to the A647. This could become the largest inner-city park in Leeds, with a total area of 250 acres, serving densely populated areas. The riverside is beautiful, and suitable for canoeing, fishing, birdwatching, walking, running and cycling. **We can do this now:** a change in tenancy has coincided with the Leeds flood relief scheme and major town centre re-developments which could provide the necessary resources to get this scheme under way.
- (9) **Draft Intentions Document** (attached) Proposed addition of two new policies:
 - a. **Draft Policy KNF13** supports the confirmation of all existing Kirkstall footpaths as public rights of way, and also their extension, inter-linking and the creation of new accessible footpaths to serve all parts of Kirkstall Ward.
 - b. **Draft Policy KNF14** supports the creation of a Kirkstall Valley Park, in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and other environmental organisations, to link with existing public parks to the west of the River Aire and create a continuous tract of

open green space between the A65 and the A647, with a new visitor centre and footbridge at St Ann's Mills.

- (10) **General Policy discussion:** This is an opportunity to raise new matters, and possibly seek reports to a future meeting.
- (11) **Dates, times and venues for future open meetings.** We must recruit more members if we want to win the referendum. We aim to organise a series of public meetings in all parts of Kirkstall Ward, publishing these details in advance, so they can be linked to recruitment campaigns.

John Illingworth
22 July 2017

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

Current Intentions Document

This is version 3 of a document which will go through many drafts. It sets out broad policy objectives and is here to be amended. It will be brought back to future meetings. Since this is a planning document it does not specify who the providers will be, but in some cases this could be a local cooperative or community group.

Planning History: The last strategic planning document to complete the full legal process in Kirkstall Ward was the 1972 Development Plan Review! Local Plans in 1980 and 1986 did not complete the required public consultation. Large areas of Kirkstall were administered by the Leeds Development Corporation from 1988 to 1995 and were consequently excluded from the Leeds Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The only areas that were considered were those with limited opportunity for change. For obscure reasons Kirkstall was also excluded from the UDP Review in 2004, so the current Leeds Development Framework is the first strategic planning document since 1972 which residents could properly challenge and amend.

Scope: Our Kirkstall Neighbourhood Plan must comply with relevant parts of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) and [Leeds Development Framework](#) (LDF). Locally, we have opportunities to suggest amendments to the LDF to avoid conflict with our Neighbourhood Plan. If our suggestions are rejected by Leeds City Council, then we must comply with the LDF. The positive outcome from a recent [Judicial Review of the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan](#) in November 2016 suggests that residents have considerable power if they choose to use it.

Sustainable Development: This is usually defined as development which meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the needs of our successors. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and subsequent paragraphs explain how this should be applied. Paragraph 17 on *Core Planning Principles* includes the following bullet point:

- *support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);*

Draft Policy KNF1 restricts further built development in the highest flood risk areas (presently defined as the area between the Kirkstall mill goits and the main river) EXCEPT (1) for water source heat pumps and low carbon renewable energy; (2) greenhouse crops and agricultural activities; (3) physical recreation and active travel; (4) associated educational and scientific activities.

Draft Policy KNF2 requires high design and construction standards in all new developments, and public spaces, with zero tolerance for second-rate cheapskate developments in the older urban areas.

Draft Policy KNF3 supports development of the suburban rail network in Kirkstall Ward, including a new rail halt on the Harrogate line between the Hawksworth and Spen Hill estates, and a return to four track working on the Skipton / Bradford lines with the re-opening of all the rail halts and stations in the Aire Valley that were closed by the Beeching review.

Draft Policy KNF4 supports development of the bus network, with additional bus lanes to be created at traffic bottlenecks, and measures to improve road safety, and reduce traffic noise, vehicle speeds and air pollution.

Draft Policy KNF5 supports the development of a low-carbon suburban heat network linked to the progressive replacement / renewal of existing water, gas, electricity, telephone and data services and the separation of foul sewage from surface water drainage.

Draft Policy KNF6 supports the development of an off-road public footpath network, and requires the Leeds flood defence scheme to improve pedestrian access to the banks of the River Aire in Kirkstall Ward.

Draft Policy KNF7 recognises the need for (1) 500 additional parking places in residential areas that were built before mass car ownership, and (2) wide-area residents' parking schemes, with differential charging in favour of residents, to reduce the problems caused by commuter, match-day and special event parking in residential areas.

Draft Policy KNF8 identifies the former "Tesco" site bounded by Kirkstall Lane, Kirkstall Hill, Beecroft Street and Commercial Road as an area for housing development (reflecting the LDF site allocations policies) and further specifies affordable high-density low-carbon housing similar in design and tenure to the nearby "Lilac" scheme on Victoria Park Avenue.

Draft Policy KNF9 identifies the vacant historic Kirkstall Mills (Abbey Mills and St Ann's Mills) for various community / educational uses, for example: after-school / breakfast clubs; artisan workshop; café; children's play; community hub; library; performing arts; physical recreation; restaurant; scientific education, research and development; social care; sustainable energy.

Draft Policy KNF10 introduces weight and speed limits, one-way traffic flows and improved pedestrian facilities on St Ann's Lane.

Draft Policy KNF11 supports litter removal, footpaths, planting and future maintenance of the recreational open space between Latchmere View and the Leeds outer ring road.

Draft 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.

John Illingworth
23 February 2017