

Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum Board Meetings 27 January – 23 March 2016

Summary of the Minutes

Attendance:

Board Member	27 Jan	10 Feb	24 Feb	23 March
Graham Bellamy	apols		yes	yes
Tom Brannigan	yes	yes	yes	yes
Wendi Carson	yes	yes	yes	yes
Keith Collridge	-	-		yes
James Corah	yes		yes	yes
Steve Harris	yes	yes	yes	yes
John Illingworth	yes	yes	yes	yes
Daniel Lipzith	yes		yes	yes
John Liversedge	yes	yes	yes	yes
Paul Long				
Stuart Long	yes	yes	yes	apols
Amy McAbendroth	yes			
Adele Rae	yes	yes	yes	yes
Katherine Smith	apols	yes	yes	yes
Ken Stratford	yes	-	-	-

Officers: (elected by the Board) Chair – John Liversedge, Vice Chair – Daniel Lipzith; Secretary – John Illingworth; Treasurer – James Corah

Ken Stratford sadly died on 8 February and will be much missed in Kirkstall. The Board agreed to co-opt Keith Collridge who is Chair of the Gilberts and Sandford Road TARA in his place. Paul Long has not been able to attend any meetings and therefore stands down under the constitution. The meeting on 10 February was arranged with less than the required notice to deal with urgent problems and has therefore been ignored for attendance calculations. The Board has now agreed a regular schedule of meetings at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday each month throughout the year.

The Board is carrying out the necessary steps to establish the new organisation: a bank account is being opened, and we have applied for £500 start-up funding to the Council's well-being fund. Much larger sums are available to us, which could include consultants' advice, but only one such application can be submitted each year. Please see advice at http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/?_a=funding The Board is studying this guidance before making a major funding application.

We have established a basic website at kirkstallforum.org which includes email and is linked to Twitter and Facebook accounts. This allows documents to be easily shared with forum members, but it is not yet fully compliant with the latest HTML5 standards. Full compliance is expected shortly. The site is currently hosted by a-q Ltd. in Hunslet. It is good to have a Leeds ISP, but we are also looking at alternative providers.

“Locality” is the leading national network for community groups. More information is available from <http://locality.org.uk/about/> The board agreed to spend £100 to open a subscription, as soon as we have a bank account with funds.

The boundary dispute with Headingley Neighbourhood Forum remains unresolved. This problem results from inadequate public consultation when Headingley was established, but it could be difficult to correct unless Headingley cooperate. The Board did not want to delay progress in Kirkstall, so agreed to park this issue for time being, and to open negotiations with Headingley, seeking an amicable resolution. Kirkstall councillors and people living in the Foxcrofts and Queenswood Road / Drive can attend the Headingley meetings, and will put the Kirkstall view. It is desirable in any event to maintain contact so that we can align planning policies across the boundary.

The Board agreed to advertise for new members in partnership with Kirkstall community organisations, and encourage people to join both the Neighbourhood Forum and their local community groups. Age and gender equality are important here. Scatter plots will be used to identify areas with very few members. The board wants to recruit from the full range of local residents and therefore agreed to use a wide variety of campaigning methods including direct mail, local newspapers, local schools, door knocking, social media and a stall at Kirkstall Festival.

The Board wants to engage better with the wider membership, and to pick some “easy winners” which are enjoyable to do. We hope that teams of like-minded members will focus on specific topics, so that several can move several forward at the same time. For instance, time is running out to register the existing “off road” footpaths within the old Leeds County Borough boundaries, and also to create some new ones. Is there a potential footpath team waiting to tackle this job, walking the routes, identifying the paths and seeking registration?

Some other topics that might be suitable for specialist working parties include:

- Climate change and “zero carbon” development
- Flood defences
- Headingley Stadium expansion
- Kirkstall District Centre
- Kirkstall Forge (although much of this has already been settled)
- Kirkstall Valley Park
 - Pocket Park (already in progress)
 - Footbridge (design work has started)
 - St Ann’s Mills (estimating costs)
- One-way system for St Ann’s Lane
- Parking on older estates
- Pedestrian crossings
- Play / youth facilities
- Public Transport
- School places
- Traffic congestion

An electronic questionnaire is being circulated to all members, gathering information about any teams that people might like to join. Please fill it in, because otherwise we will be guessing what our members want

The Kirkstall District Centre is a massive job, where we may wish to employ specialist consultants. It includes highway engineering, structural design, development economics and aesthetic style. Our biggest problem may be convincing Tesco that their site is only worth a fraction of what they hope to get for it. There seems to be support for a design competition, but this must be properly managed and evaluated.

The Board accepts that the Neighbourhood Plan itself will require specialist advice. It is likely to start from the "Vision for Kirkstall" but might go considerably further. Is there a consensus on basic points, such as keeping clear of the flood plain and concentrating new development on brownfield land? The Board needs your views.

John Illingworth
4 April 2016