

Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum Meeting 15th May 2014

Present: Cllr Neil Walshaw, Janet Bailey, Sue Buckle, Mavis Whitbread, Steve Rowley, Wendy Cook, Barbara Mitchell, Ian Mackay, Jenna Riley, Amit Roy, Shafique Sheikh, Howard Eaglestone, Mick Jolley, Amanda Jackson, Lydia Blundell, Gwyn Harrup, Jill Settingington, PC Stuart Saville, Dawn Carey Jones, Ali McNeill, Alan Dunsford, Theo Capiere, Freda Matthews, Sudesh Parmar, Frankie O'Byrne.

Apologies: Nathan Clarke, Ghaffur Karim, Marian Charlton, Victoria Jaquiss, Bill McKinnon, Sairab Shah, Pav Akhtar, Rev Joanna Seaborne, Pravin Dayalji, Anil Shah, Karen Dennis.

Explanation of Neighbourhood Plans by Ian Mackay followed by questions and comments:

About half those present knew what a NP was. Ian Mackay (responsible for managing Leeds NPs) gave further explanation: A NP is a development planning document and is about allocating land for different uses. It can include design policies and issues of concern to community. It's not just about policy. The council provides statutory support and a limited service of other support where it can. NPs are prepared by the community and put out for consultation by the community. Process first includes defining the area for the plan, then designating a forum to prepare the plan, which must include a minimum of 21 people who represent the stakeholders in the defined area – it can't just be made up of residents. Then there will be a referendum organised by the council where the community will be asked if it wants to adopt the plan.

Working with the council is important – it shouldn't be an "us" and "them" scenario. Forming a Neighbourhood Plan requires a leader and a champion. Hyde Park probably has its champion in Cllr Walshaw. SB: Having a Hyde Park NP evolved because the area has a particular character, including a lot of problems and strengths. If you've ever been to the Unity Day Pantomime you'll understand the character. We've suffered two big blows recently with Royal Park School and the Victoria Road playing field and sports hall. IM: You need aims and objectives. The quality of output depends on the quality of input. NW: The community would have been in a lot better position to face some of recent issues if it'd had a plan. It's an important document.

DCJ: From discussions so far we think the plan should be about promoting the culture of the area and regeneration through dealing with noise and litter issues and the maintenance of the outside of properties so that we attract longer term residents to the area. HE: About six of us have had about six weeks head start on thinking about the NP. We should be proud and promoting this area as a cultural hub.

HE asked what relationship the NP would have with Core Strategy. IM responded that the NP would need to be in conformity with NPPF, Core Strategy and sustainable development. HE asked if it had to complement the Core Strategy. IM responded that it doesn't have to be in total conformity.

HE asked about the HMO issue. IM responded that an examiner has said previously that HMOs are difficult to deal with in NPs but not impossible.

IM: A Neighbourhood Area can apply for up to £7,000 funding from locality – also for other kinds of support. Planning Aid England provides an independent view. Hyde Park would need to formally apply and put forward a case but we would be at top of list due to being inner-city and non-parished. The money comes from central govt.

HE: When IM spoke about the NP it was very much about planning but as a local resident two significant items are rubbish and noise. These are not planning issues but could they be a priority? In response IM said that it's not just about policy but part of the attraction is the journey and bringing people together. HE: So litter and noise would be peripheral? IM: Yes but the plan should be split into planning policies / issues of interest and concern and show that as a package it will promote the sustainability of Hyde Park. IM: You need to have a vision which is agreed and endorsed by the community, you need people and you need a constitution.

SS: I don't want to be cynical but have spent years lobbying for stuff. As soon as pressure is off things get dropped. We understand the concept but are things going to be chipped off or will the council change its round hole to a square hole to fit our square peg? IM: No-one knows what the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum wants to achieve. If it's realistic then fine. Most NPs have a life-span of 10-15 years. You should meet other communities and learn from each other. The main reason for the NP is planning. Everything else comes next though clearly a number of people here don't feel planning policy is currently working for Hyde Park.

At the referendum people will be asked if they want the council to use the NP to determine planning applications. AR: We don't have enough schools. We need a plan for continuity not change. IM: Do we want to shape change or react to change? SP: What if the community says leave everything alone? JB: I don't want you to think we just oppose things. We've usually got plans.

AM: In Holbeck residents didn't have a choice. CPOs to enable regeneration actually split up the community. In Hyde Park our community comes up with ideas for how we want to shape things – Royal Park Community Consortium for example. The council ignores the community and businesses and residents do not have faith in the council. IM: Demolitions in Holbeck were in 2005, part of PFI initiative, separate to NPs. Regeneration causes casualties.

DCJ: At a previous meeting we were told that NPs were pro-development and about generating CIL money but we said that Hyde Park is so developed anyway that our plan ought to be about protecting ourselves from development. We offered to include Woodhouse Moor in our plan, to protect it and because it can't be shared between plans, as long as it isn't used against us to say that we've got that as green space so that our few little bits of remaining greenspace can be built on. It was suggested looking at our Plan from the point of view of it not being there to generate CIL money but to create a statutory document that is adhered to. Instead of it saying these are the sites we've got for development it should say these are the only sites we've got so they shouldn't be developed. It could be that existing properties could be renovated, rather than new places having to be built, to bring properties from HMO suitability back to suitability for family occupation. IM: Would put a different spin on it – to enhance the assets we've already got. Green spaces could be enhanced. If you don't want change don't create a NP. There will be planning applications over the next 20 years. Planning doesn't just happen to empty spaces.

SP: I'm worried we'll put a lot of hours in and be disappointed and also that a group is making decisions on behalf of the community. SS: We don't have faith in the council. We've had two serious losses recently. We can scream as loud as we want and not be heard. No-one wants the trolleybus but the council isn't hearing this. How formidable will the forum be in taking the council on? IM: The council must use the NP document. AR: The ship has sailed in this area. A big Sainsbury's is being built next to Royal Park. HPOL had a brilliant business plan. SS: We could have a group looking at planning applications. IM: It

might not be right for Hyde Park to have a NP. With the best ones it's about drawing a line in the sand and looking forward. This is genuinely different. Nick Bowles is coming to Leeds on 10th July. Leeds is a pioneer.

MJ: I came to a meeting maybe 3 months ago out of self interest. My children have been brought up here. We've got lots of fantastic parts of community that don't always see eye to eye. I hope we can leave today with 21 dedicated people. If we don't have a plan we can be at mercy of other plans. We hope all plans look at each other. What does the transient community think? A lot of people who are active in the community came here as students. I'm prepared to put the time in but it needs to be about more than planning.

IM: We're lucky enough to have a Planning Group in the area. I'm also part of a NP review group. It is important for NPs to be about more than planning. HE: Planning should come from vision. We have lots of students and the Hyde Park Picture House and Brudenell Social Club, both of which have international reputations. We want the area to be a cultural creative space. At the moment not much is working because of the issues of property maintenance, noise and litter. We need a creative dialogue with students so that it changes from party town / studentville to a cultural and creative neighbourhood. We need to put something in planning that helps this because the population is not going to change very fast.

FO: How would the referendum work? How can we ensure forum is accountable for people not involved? IM: That's an interesting logistical problem for the council.

You need a representative forum of more than 21 people. Can't force people to be members. Would like to see younger people involved. Web sites and social media important. The critical thing is to consult with all groups. BM: I'm from Little Woodhouse. We've got to do it otherwise we'll be a victim of other NPs. Our whole area has suffered from having things inflicted, whether from the university or Headingley. AR: Or abandonment by the police. BM: It may be a chance to get on the front foot. There is a queue of developers waiting.

HE: In terms of the boundary, who actually decides it? BM: We have proposed a boundary line. Moorland Road and Hyde Park Road would be our boundary with the Hyde Park plan. It's out to consultation at the moment. Please respond if you have different ideas. The deadline for responses to the Little Woodhouse Plan is 25th June. JB: Could we stop firm decisions about boundaries until every area has talked about it? IM: The boundary needs to make sense on the ground. Clearly everyone has a view about where Hyde Park starts and finishes. The boundaries can be changed within a reasonable amount of time.

MJ: We have no medical facility within our draft proposed boundary. IM: The real issue for boundaries is not being too inward looking – working in a joined up area. BM: We did look at a joint plan. We need to work together. IM: No-one has yet objected to Hyde Park Corner being in the Headingley Plan. MJ: If I had a business at HPC I'd want to know my business was going to be in a plan. It's important to talk to businesses and residents. MJ: Has the Headingley Neighbourhood Forum consulted with people at HPC already? IM: I assume so.

Decisions to become an interim forum and to propose to include all of Hyde Park Corner and Woodhouse Moor within our boundary:

IM: Need to vote about whether you think a NP is right for the area. The purpose of next meeting would be to look at boundary and membership and then to focus on organisational issues. MJ: Is there a deadline for support? JB: What state does

the plan need to be in to apply? IM: It can just be an area designation at first.

DCJ: I seem to have become secretary of this group by default, which I don't mind, but I'm also happy for someone else to do it. But as a result I keep getting asked by the Chair of the Headingley Forum about Hyde Park Corner. I know what my view is and the view of a few of us who've already discussed it, but I've told the Chair of the Headingley Plan that I couldn't say on behalf of anyone else and that I'd have to let him know what this meeting felt about Hyde Park Corner. My view is that all of Hyde Park Corner should be in the plan as it's our geographical and historical origin and it makes no sense to have a Hyde Park Plan without Hyde Park Corner and it makes no sense to split Hyde Park Corner up either. SS agrees that all of HPC should be in a Hyde Park Plan.

NW: Who wants to be part of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum? [Nearly everyone did so we became an interim forum.]

NW: Who thinks that Hyde Park Corner should be in the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Plan in the way that DCJ and SS suggest? [16 people voted for and 1 against.]

DCJ: I think we need to make it clear that we'd like to include all of Woodhouse Moor in our plan as well, to protect it. IM: There is no additional protection that can be given to Woodhouse Moor that it doesn't already have. It's already very well protected. DCJ: But the council wants to build a road across Monument Moor for the trolleybus.

NW: The Hyde Park Forum needs to make a representation to the council about it including Hyde Park Corner in its plan.

MJ: We should include all of Woodhouse Moor, including the Cliff Road part with the playground, and all of Hyde Park Corner. NW: Who thinks the plan should include all of the Moor as DCJ and MJ suggest? [14 voted in favour with none against.]

MW: We have a moving population in this area. Some people contribute, some don't. It will be a lot of work for people to put this together. However good its contribution is to the city, we do have a very mobile group in this area. LB: FO and I represent the university and would look to have some sort of continuity. MJ: This group seems to be more representative of the north of Hyde Park, rather than the south. SB: All Hallows and Wrangthorn and both Mosques want to be represented. DCJ: It'd be great if more and more people came along. Anyone who wants to join should be able to.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 29th May, Cardigan Centre