

# Notes from Hyde Park Interim Forum Meeting, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 7pm, Cardigan Centre

## 1. Attendance

**Present:** Rev Heston Groenewald, Leigh Greenwood, Cllr Walshaw, Dawn Carey Jones, Simon Hall, Jonny Foster, Dmitrijs Oginskis, PC Chris, Cllr Akhtar, Cllr Pryor, Marian Charlton, Bill McKinnon, Jill Settington. **Apologies:** Wendy Cook, Adil Asif, Mary Osborne, Pravin Dayalji, Nathan Clarke, Peter Rider, Amit Roy, Janet Bailey, Jen Carlberg, Adele Beeson, Howard Eaglestone, Tanis Belsham-Wray, Rob Baker, Steve Rowley, Pav Akhtar, Anup Sharma (LCC), Ian Mackay (LCC), Ying Ho, Sue Buckle, Andy Sloss, Shafique Sheikh, Amanda Jackson, Cllr Towler, Cllr Harper.

## 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

**Minutes from 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 Meeting** were approved.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

## 3. Policy Group Reports

**a) Open / Green Space Group:** Project-wise group is collating the rich history of Woodhouse Moor (WM) to be used on signage (which would include QR codes), web pages and in booklets; mapping out a green corridor; and carrying out an audit of small greenspaces. Items lost from WM throughout its history, such as the stone lion were mentioned, as well as a history of battles to protect WM. A representative of Leeds Central Library is hoping to shortly start giving guided tours of the Moor along with Bill. Policy-wise the group is concentrating on responding to the Site Allocation Plan (SAP) consultation (deadline 16<sup>th</sup> Nov) in relation to greenspace.

**b) Arts and Culture Group:** The group has been looking at getting Hyde Park included in the Leeds bid for Capital of Culture 2023, the idea of decentralising arts and culture in the city; carrying out an audit of creatives past and present who have lived and/or worked in our Area; promoting the triangle of Hyde Park Picture House, Brudenell Social Club and Left Bank, including getting brown signs directing people to these venues. The group is also investigating facilitating places for people to work i.e. small studios, so that makers and performers continue to live in the Area.

**c) Clean-Up Hyde Park:** Mainly an organizational report about the Clean-Up Days with corporate volunteers on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. Cllr Walshaw reported that Simon Flesher (LCC Parks and Countryside) didn't want the Forum to paint Royal Park railings. Instead, on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct there will be a repaint and clear up of Alexandra Park with LCC providing all materials and equipment needed. Cllr Walshaw will ask Parks & Countryside to involve the Forum in formulation of plans for the Royal Park site. Re 6<sup>th</sup> Nov: Cllr Walshaw and Cllr Pryor will be present so the event can go ahead, being covered by LCC insurance. Cllr Akhtar will make sure a council skip is provided. Heston is going to do rough design for a "We Love Hyde Park" banner and bin stickers and Dawn will make it print ready and arrange printing (not necessarily in time for 16<sup>th</sup>). There will be only one set of stickers for bins for 6<sup>th</sup> Nov - to say "We love Hyde Park" (so no second sticker with bin emptying dates and times on for now).

**d) Housing Group:** The key issues identified by the Housing Group at its first meeting were how to attract and retain residents to become long-term residents and how to protect physical attributes of houses and gardens. The meeting agreed that these were their key issues. Cllr Pryor informed the meeting about LCC approaching owners of properties empty for over 6 months to see if they want to sell, then buying, refurbishing, keeping as social housing or selling on -Leeds Empties is a useful organization involved with this.

**4. Clean-Up Day** Item dealt with under 3c.

**5. Site Allocation Plans** SAPs were explained as the

geographical allocations of sites for retail, employment, greenspace and housing, by LCC and linked to the Core Strategy. We discussed errors in the previous draft which had given Hyde Park & Woodhouse ward a surplus of greenspace when actually we have a deficit, that these errors had been corrected for the current draft, correctly bringing the ward into deficit, but that to counter this new areas have been classified as greenspace, bringing the ward back into surplus. This has implications for development in our Area. We agreed to challenge the greenspace allocations We also agreed that an area of greenspace (part of WM) next to the former sorting office at Hyde Park Corner should still be classified greenspace and that the sorting office itself should be part of the Hyde Park Local Centre. We pointed out that the school bit of the Royal Park Site was not classified as greenspace when it ought to be.

**6. Chestnut Ave Potential Development** The history of the site was explained briefly. Hyde Park Olympic Legacy have got agreement from Maple Grove Developments (who want to build a 262-bed gated student accommodation complex on the site) to give a presentation on Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7pm. Dawn was struggling to find a venue for the meeting. Heston suggested trying Makkah Masjid and Dawn agreed to contact Adil. Cllr Walshaw informed the meeting that the application had now been submitted, said planning officers would recommend refusal because of over-intensive nature of the proposals, and that plans panel would refuse it, but the meeting expressed concern that the applicants would re-apply for less bedrooms and approval would be given because LCC would say they couldn't afford the cost of a lost appeal. The deadline for comments on the application is 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

## 7. Forum Designation Update and AGM

Our Forum has now been officially designated. The meeting agreed to hold its first AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov at 10.30am til 1pm at All Hallows Church with workshops, a speaker, and to formalize committee. Heston is going to ask a local historian if she'd give a brief talk.

## 8. Website / Social Media Update

Deferred until next meeting.

## 9. Pedestrian Crossings

Jonny Foster, Community Officer at Leeds University Union spoke about the problems pedestrians have crossing at the Moorland Road / Hyde Park Road / Royal Park Road junction which is partly in our Neighbourhood Area and partly in the Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Area. Cllr Harper is inviting a representative of LCC's Highways Department to the next Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Forum meeting. The meeting agreed that it was difficult for pedestrians at this junction and throughout our Area. We discussed the improvement that lower speed limits and more zebra crossings throughout our Area would be likely to bring.

## 10. Any Other Business

Emma Critchley, from Locality (who have provided funding for us) thanks the Forum and All Hallows Church for hosting her and her colleague on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept and for showing them the Hyde Park Area. On 7<sup>th</sup> Nov there is a neighbourhood planning workshop. Dawn will send an email to the whole group about this.

**11. Dates of Next Meetings** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Nov, Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Apr, Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Jul.

## Things To Do

<b>Cllr Walshaw</b>	Speak to P&C re Royal Park Site
<b>Heston</b>	Design "We love Hyde Park" sticker
<b>Dawn</b>	Arrange printing of stickers
<b>Dawn</b>	Email Adil about venue for 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct
<b>Heston</b>	Contact local historian re AGM talk
<b>Dawn</b>	Send email about 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov workshop