

Eighth Meeting of the Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum at New Burley Club on Wednesday 27 Sept 2017 at 7:30pm

Agenda and Reports

Informal discussion: We want our meetings to be welcoming and inclusive, so we usually start with informal discussion so that people can meet, move around and talk in small groups. Light refreshments are 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) **Minutes of the Seventh Public Meeting** held on 26 July 2017 (attached) and any matters arising that are not already on the agenda.
- (5) **Treasurer's report** (James Corah) and any matters arising. We are applying for major government grants from Locality.
- (6) **Kirkstall Valley Park** (Amy McAbendroth) We agreed to support this in principle at our previous meeting, but Amy's presentation will put more flesh on the bones. It is high on our agenda because the valley is very beautiful and the heat pump proposals could generate a *regular cash income* to subsidise our other plans. Heat pumps are a low-carbon technology which could cut the cost of heating and reduce our CO₂ emissions by 50%. If successful and grown to the maximum possible size, we could be looking at 40MW low-cost heat pumped from the river and supplied to communities in Armley, Bramley and Kirkstall. This is worth about £3 million per year (inflation proof) which could be ploughed back into the local economy. To put this into perspective, Kirkstall heat pumps could have 20 times the maximum output from the Knostrop wind turbine operated by Yorkshire Water. They could be comparable with the Council's energy from waste scheme run by Veolia in East Leeds.
- (7) **Flood Alleviation Scheme:** Phase one of the flood alleviation scheme (FAS) in Leeds city centre is almost complete. The Council released the FAS2 proposals for public consultation on 20 September 2017. There is more information in the Executive Board papers and on the Leeds City Council website, but this is not yet fully up to date. These proposals will have a huge effect on Kirkstall, and the Forum will make a full response. We will stress the need for high environmental standards, improved public access to the river and new foot bridges at St Ann's Mills and Redcote Lane. FAS2 could make or break our ambitions for a Kirkstall Valley Park.
- (8) **Public Health:** In Leeds, rich citizens suffer less disability and live (on average) about 12 years longer than poor people. The Evening Post reported new figures on 20 Sept. This *social gradient in health* has been recognised in all countries over the last fifty years. Many people find the current outcome unfair and unacceptable. A popular policy response is **proportionate universalism**, which seeks to improve everyone's health, but directs the greatest effort towards those in greatest need. Do members want to incorporate this idea into our planning documents? It is relevant for housing policies, air pollution, traffic congestion and recreational open space.

- (9) **Footpaths:** (Paul Holdsworth) We must prepare witness statements to claim a Public Right of Way (PROW) along existing unregistered footpaths. This should be easy for paths across Leeds City Council land, but potentially difficult where private owners are involved. The law requires at least 20 years unrestricted access, but not necessarily by the same person. We need about a dozen witnesses per path, spread over the 20 years, but it is still useful to say that you walked a route last week. We can also use old maps and legal documents to demonstrate access. We are in the middle of extending an existing public footpath around the hillside behind the Cricketers development from Argie Avenue to Queenswood Drive. A search through the Council's deed packets has been very rewarding, but it would be helpful to have witness statements from residents who may have played or walked on this hillside as children when it was still open land. It is proposed that the Forum affiliates to the Ramblers Association (£60 per year) if the meeting agrees to this.
- (10) **Traffic congestion:** Kirkstall is gradually becoming more congested as the number of vehicles on the road continues to increase. Previously the response was often to build more roads, however this does little to improve the quality of life for inner-city residents. There is a view that more roads mean more traffic, more noise and more pollution. No matter how many roads are built, the network will fill up with other people's cars until it is close to capacity. Do members want to limit new road building, and press for measures such as residents' parking schemes and congestion charging which aim to reduce the amount of commuter traffic flowing through the ward?
- (11) **Anti-social behaviour:** Many places have worse crime records than Kirkstall, but it is still a worry if you are vulnerable yourself, or look after somebody who is vulnerable. The fear of violent crime or anti-social behaviour can limit our enjoyment of recreational open space. A good way to boost public confidence is to have more police officers on the streets, but such decisions are not taken at ward level. One decision that we can take locally is to deploy more CCTV, and particularly mobile cameras which can move to temporary locations when needed. Mobile cameras have more deterrent effect than fixed cameras, because criminals are never sure of their location. Should we write mobile CCTV deployment into our neighbourhood plan?
- (12) **Draft Intentions Document:** (attached) This summarizes the Forum's current plans. It is a working draft which is updated after each meeting to reflect our decisions.
- (13) **General Policy discussion:** This is an opportunity to raise new matters, and possibly seek reports to a future meeting.
- (14) **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
21 Sept 2017

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

Draft Minutes

Present: (27) Helen Ashman, Tom Benson, Bobbie Bowker, Tom Brannigan, Melody Brewer, Fiona Butler, Susan Chesters, Lena Driehaus, Steve Gradys, Steve Harrison, Chris Hill, Evan Holm, Deborah Howarth, John Illingworth, Sian Jordan, Judith Judd, John Liversedge, Stuart Long, James McElroy, Adele Rae, Melanie Robbins, Tony Robbins, Andy Rontree, Peter Stevens, Victoria Tolmie-Loverseed, Dierdre West, Wallace Wheatley

Apologies: (7) James Corah, Martin Groom, Ursula Klingel, Sylvia Landells, Daniel Lipzith, Sam Meadley, Lucinda Yeadon

- (15) **Election of a Chair:** John Liversedge was proposed, seconded and elected.
- (16) **Endorsing the list of members:** The meeting approved new members: Tom Benson, Annika Bremicker, Susan Chesters, Lena Driehaus, Andy Graham, Grace Hills, Tim Hills, Evan Holm, Sian Jordan, Dawn Kane, Rukeya Lothian, James McElroy, Christine Needham, Peter Stevens, Victoria Tolmie-Loverseed.
- (17) **General Election:** The Secretary explained that Neighbourhood Forums embrace a wide range of political views, and must avoid party political disputes. 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 to members. Next time we must manage better.
- (18) **Minutes of the Sixth Public Meeting** held on 7 February 2017 were agreed as a correct record.
- (19) **Treasurer's report:** James Corah was unwell and gave his apologies. He provided a written report which will be circulated with the minutes. John Illingworth reported that we are applying for government grants via 'Locality', which administers the scheme.
- (20) **Footpaths group:** Paul Holdsworth reported that 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. For unknown reasons, inner Leeds was excluded from the national footpath registration and has been neglected for many years. We now must make rapid progress with registration, signage and surface improvements.
- (21) **Kirkstall Valley Park:** John Illingworth reported that 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 are aware 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. **He pointed out that 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.

- (22) **Draft Intentions Document** The meeting agreed the addition of two new policies:
- a. **Draft Policy KNF13** seeks confirmation of all existing Kirkstall footpaths as public rights of way, and 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.
- (23) **General Policy discussion:** This was an opportunity to raise new matters, and possibly seek reports to a future meeting. The following issues were raised:
- a. Air pollution
 - b. Car repairs at Woodside View
 - c. Match day parking and Elida Gibbs
 - d. Landowners and leaseholders on the Tesco site.
 - e. Merry Monk redevelopment
 - f. Residents' parking scheme
- (24) **Dates, times and venues for future open meetings.** Members agreed to meet again in September, preferred Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday evenings, and sought better publicity and as much notice as possible.

John Illingworth
9 September 2017

Current Intentions Document

This is version 4 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 sometimes 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.

Draft Policy KNF13 seeks confirmation of all existing Kirkstall footpaths as public rights of way, and their extension, inter-linking and the creation of new accessible footpaths to serve all parts of Kirkstall Ward.

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.

John Illingworth
9 Sept. 2017