

# Meeting of the Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group at Paxton Hall on Tuesday 19 May at 7:30pm

## Minutes

**Present:** Graham Belamy, Sue Brear, Sam Clarke, Natalia Gerodetti, John Illingworth, Stuart Long, Michael Park, Stephen Rennie, Ken Waterworth, Shiela Waterworth

**Apologies:** Naomi Batten, Mandy Long, Liz Minkin, Fiona Venner, David Walton, Lucinda Yeadon

**In attendance:** Ian MacKay

Cllr Illingworth explained that this meeting had been delayed on advice from the Council's Legal and Democratic Services officers. This was because the "Purdah" rules precluded the use of any Council facilities, including the email system, to contact electors during election campaigns.

### Minutes of 18 March 2015

The previous meeting resolved "To proceed with a Kirkstall Neighbourhood Plan, based principally on the existing Kirkstall Ward Boundary, but Cllr Illingworth was asked to explore the possibility of minor adjustments to achieve a better fit with adjacent Neighbourhood Plan areas."

This record was accepted by those present.

Cllr Illingworth and Ian MacKay reported three areas where officers suggested departing from the Kirkstall ward boundary:

(1) **Kirkstall Forge:** The development site includes a small area in Bramley Ward to the west of the River Aire. This is a relatively minor issue because there are no residents at present, but the Bramley councillors still have some reservations about the proposal to include this area in the Kirkstall Neighbourhood Plan.

(2) **Willow Road:** There is a strip of land between the Railway Viaduct and Willow Road which is in Hyde Park & Woodhouse Ward. It includes the derelict former Liberal Club, car park and playing pitches. The Hyde Park & Woodhouse councillors have reservations about a proposed transfer of this site to the Kirkstall Forum, although none of the existing Forums wish to manage it. Public consultation about this area should reasonably include the Willow Estate and the Burley Lodges, which have a highly transient population. This would be a significant amount of work, and involves recruiting members a long way over the ward boundary. It is easy to foresee problems here. Boundary changes in 2018 might bring the area back into Kirkstall Ward, but this cannot be guaranteed.

(3) **Foxcrofts and Queenswoods:** A substantial area of Kirkstall Ward has been claimed by the Headingley Forum. This area includes Foxcroft Mount, Foxcroft Green, Foxcroft Walk, Queenswood Rise, Queenswood Gardens, the east side of Queenswood Road and the east side of Queenswood Drive. It includes all the maisonettes and both high rise blocks.

Cllr Illingworth explained that this is a most unsatisfactory boundary, which splits the QTARA area in half. It transfers high rise and maisonette accommodation to a Forum with negligible experience of such provision. Serious problems could be anticipated with this arrangement, because Headingley and Kirkstall fall under different Community Committees, which control the flow of funds to local projects. A traffic management scheme along Queenswood Drive (for example) would probably have to seek funding from two separate pots.

The Kirkstall councillors have not been invited to meetings of the Headingley Forum, despite a requirement to include them. The Kirkstall councillors consider the present outcome to be unworkable. There was no effective consultation about the proposals in 2014 because drafts titled "Headingley" were initially disregarded by people elsewhere. Kirkstall residents were not effectively engaged. Cllr Illingworth submitted an objection but this was disregarded. Nevertheless the Headingley Neighbourhood Area had now been officially designated and this may not be easy to change.

Ian MacKay explained the procedure for designating a Neighbourhood Area and Forum. A recently adopted Constitution for the Seacroft Neighbourhood Area had been previously circulated. Copies of this Constitution and Kirkstall boundary plans were available at the meeting. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Constitution would be satisfactory if Kirkstall were substituted for Seacroft, with consequential amendments to the maps and supporting text. It was agreed to seek designation as the Kirkstall Neighbourhood Area and Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum, based on the Kirkstall Ward boundary and the amended Constitution now circulated.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.