

Neighbourhood Forum Meeting 7th May 2022

Attended:

Maz (resident)
Damian (Resident)
Luke Farley (Councillor)
Fiona (resident)
Emma (ESA)
Jude (ESA)
Luci (ESA)
Ian Mackay (Council)
Grace (Leeds City College)
Dawn (resident)
Sharleen (Co-op Academy)
Farhiya (resident)
Marie-Avril (researcher)
Benj (Bridge St Church)

Apologies:

Fr Darren
Charlie (MAP)
Lily (Transform)

1. Welcome Back and Introductions

2. Forum Designation update and the Pilot Project:

Ian Mackay (who is a Neighbourhood Planning Manager at Leeds City Council) explained more about the Forum and how to create the Neighbourhood Plan. The Forum has been designated, this means it was officially made a Forum last year. Involving the community in setting priorities for the area will be the work of the Forum.

The next steps will be to find people who can take on some important roles, like the chair, secretary and treasurer. These roles can be shared as a way to support people to gain confidence. East Street Arts has been helping with some of the tasks that people in these roles do, like chairing the meetings, but this will need to be taken on by local residents in the future.

The Forum will work on creating the Neighbourhood Plan, this will be a legal document which Leeds City Council will have to follow when making decisions about the area. Leading up to creating the final Plan the Forum will need to find out what the priorities are from the people in the area.

The process of creating the plan can be difficult and often takes a long time. Ian gave more details and examples of some of the things which will need to be considered:

- The Plan can include issues to do with types of housing which meets local needs, design and environmental sustainability, sites for retail and issues of employment, how the area can be inclusive and a healthier place to live - what does a healthier more sustainable place look like to local residents?
- The plan will be independently examined, it does need to fit within government policies and will need evidence to show that it is what people want and that it will help in the ways hoped by the group. There will be help, like advice from Ian and others, to create a good plan which can be taken forward.
- After it is finished it will go to a local vote, to make sure that local people agree, and then it will be used to guide local decision making.

Leeds City Council have gained some funding for a pilot project to help local communities to set their local priorities, this is the step before making the final Plan. The pilot project will support communities in Mabgate, Lincoln Green, Burmantofts linking them with Harehills and Chapelton to support the three Neighbourhood Plans. There will be a community worker and other help, like additional funding, from the pilot project.

3. Upcoming events and activities: Emma updated everyone about some of the things planned at East Street Arts and in the area:

- Zine: copies shared and available [online](#), contributions from members present were complimented, it has information about the Forum and things discussed today like the Forum Roles.
- ESA Summer School: After a successful school last year ESA will be offering another Summer School this summer, this is a way to involve young people in neighbourhood planning (as people have to be 18+ to join the Forum). Dates: August 8th - 13th
- ESA Open Day: to promote the Summer School, it will be on 11th June 12 - 3 at ESA. (following the next Forum meeting at 11AM)
- [Creative You!](#) is a course for local people to learn skills to help them gain employment.

- Refugee Week starts on the 18th June with the football tournament, there will be a local event on 25th June, more details to come.
- [Lincoln Greening](#) is a MAFWA Theatre project.
- This summer an Artist in Residence will be working on an environmental project exploring sustainable housing and will link to the Forum.

4. Forum Roles

These were covered in the update at the start of the meeting, it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Any Other Business

People shared information about other local activities and issues:

- The representative for Leeds City College gave a very brief overview of the development work which is taking place at the college where more buildings are planned.
- Co-op Academy having a Summer Fayre on 16th June 12 - 3 and June 24th: Traveller event. Emma will circulate details when they are sent through
- Bridge Street Church has an event for Jubilee on June 4th with lots of activities for the local community, they also have a regular community event check in called the anchor meeting every week on a Friday. See flyer attached with notes.

Next Meeting: Saturday 1st June 11AM - 12 Noon at ESA

The meeting will be followed by an Open Day, with a chance to try some of the fun activities on offer with Summer School. All welcome.