

# Minutes

Harehills Forum meeting

Nowell Mount Community Centre, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Present

Ann marie Hayes  
Caroline Bunting  
Jess Findlay (Beam)  
Joanne Harrison (LCC)  
Katie Greaves  
Karen Harris  
Steve Ellis (WY Police)  
Terry Jones  
Tiulia Musa  
Tom Partington  
Tomas Johnson (LCC)

## Apologies

Georgie Kay (Places for People)  
Pat McKay  
Tasneem Suleman  
Terry Wragg (Leeds Animation Workshop)

| Comment  | Action     |
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| <i>Committee Business</i>  |            |
| JH presented the status of the forum funds at present and outlined the projected expenditure. She advised that the funds need to be used by the end of the pilot (when the Neighbourhood Priorities Statements are complete, around May 2024) and that any funds remaining will need to be paid back.  |            |
| JH explained that a number of tasks will need to be taken on by forum members when her contract finishes mid-October. She said that instead of asking members to take on all activities that might be associated with a particular committee role (e.g. all the tasks a secretary would usually do), it might be more manageable for members to take on smaller tasks and co-ordinate with each other. This would reduce the time that individuals would need to commit to the forum and also mean that more people can have the chance to develop skills for their CVs etc. | All        |
| <i>Breeze event</i>  |            |
| KH, KG, TJ, ET and CB reported that there was a lot of interest in the forum and questionnaire at the breeze event – they handed out 85 flyers for people to complete the questionnaire online at home. Nobody wanted to fill in a questionnaire in the park because the event was mainly focused around children which made it difficult for adults to give enough time.  |            |
| ET suggested that it might work better in future to have a token system, asking people to vote for their preferred options etc, like Asda have for charity fundraising. KH agreed and said a straw poll / vote based on initial findings would have been easier to manage.   |            |
| JH said that no responses were received online in the week following the event, but some more had come in the week after that, bringing the total of the ‘fully completed’ responses to 53.  |            |
| <i>Other engagement data</i>   | JH, RT, KH |
| KH reminded the group that the Big Dream events had produced data which can feed into the analysis and JH and TJ added that there is also a lot of demographic research available, mostly carried out by the universities in Leeds, and also JH’s PhD  | JH/TJ      |

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| research which includes a lot of information about architecture, heritage, demography and community opinion.   |          |
| East Street Arts ran a four-day summer school followed by a community event. The summer school was attended by 25 children, which included 6 from Harehills (and lots of others close to the Harehills Neighbourhood Area boundary). They produced physical outputs as part of their thinking about the neighbourhoods / where they live and aspirations for the future etc, including plates and sketch books. East Street Arts have started to analyse this data, but initial suggestions are that it reflects JH's PhD findings.  | JH/TJ    |
| ET said that part of her role in schools is to organise coffee mornings for families and this might be a good way of reaching people who've not yet had the chance to engage with the pilot.   | ET       |
| There was concern from the group that engagement with Eastern European residents has been limited. It was suggested that engagement needs to take account of literacy skills.  | All      |
| JF noted that in her experience of working with Beam it can help if people are offered something e.g. free advice on housing or employment, in exchange for their time participating. This could be extended to promoting the benefits of taking part in the forum such as skills for CVs.   | All      |
| JH said that she shares posts on Harehills Community Watch (HCW) Facebook page and that more needs to be made of this resource.  | All      |
| TM noted that younger people use Instagram and she is familiar with using this.  | TM?      |
| The group said it is difficult to know what's going on in the area – JH added that this came up in the questionnaire responses too. She suggested the group think about creating an online community noticeboard that could collate all events in the area that are posted to the HCW page. That page could have a pinned post to the community notice board hosted on the forum's Facebook page in the events area. KG and KH expressed concern that some organisations do not like this approach as it appears events are not run by them but JH said permission should be sought and it should be made clear who the organisers are. No alternative was put forward.  | All      |
| TP suggested running a trial event with activities and food as a precursor to the events that will be targeted at groups who have not yet been engaged in the pilot. It was agreed that this was a good idea and should happen as soon as possible.  | TP / All |
| <i>Other opportunities</i>   |          |
| JH explained that Active Travel had contacted her about the possibility of setting up a trail in Harehills. This is a good opportunity to see a tangible improvement to the neighbourhood in a relatively short timescale. It is in the very early stages and JH will be meeting the team on 25 <sup>th</sup> September to walk around the area. Data from the questionnaires will feed into the initial work the Active Travel Team are doing, as will the work already done with Same Skies. They will be looking at possible routes, research etc until the end of the year and then the forum can get involved to determine what the route will be, what it includes / excludes etc. Initial thoughts are that it will focus on heritage and this seemed agreeable to the group. Routes are usually around 3 miles / 5 km, in places where people need to go / like going, and they have several loops so short sections can be used as well as the whole thing. | JH / TP  |
| JH told the group about a funding opportunity provided by Leeds Loves Parks. Since the forum doesn't yet have its own bank account or insurance there would be some hurdles to overcome, and it was felt that now is not the right time to pursue this.  |          |
| SE from West Yorkshire Police told the group about the Harehills Community Initiative. This focuses on serious and organised crime, and he noted that Harehills has the highest number of violent crimes in Leeds. The project aims to design out  | SE / All |

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| <p>crime and will involve working with partner organisations / groups. The group highlighted some of their own experiences of crime witnessed in their streets. SE said that LCC can issue a receipt to landlords to clean up houses (from drugs) and take the landlords to court if they don't comply. It was agreed that the group would work with WY Police and that SE will lead that relationship.</p> |  |
| <p><i>Next meeting</i></p>  |  |
| <p>The next meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6.30-8pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>If anyone has any items they would like to add to the agenda, these should be provided no later than a week in advance.</p>  |  |