

# Minutes

Harehills Forum meeting

Catch, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

## Present

Ann marie Hayes  
 Caroline Bunting  
 Ian Mackay (LCC)  
 Joanne Harrison (LCC)  
 Katie Greaves  
 Karen Harris  
 Pat McKay  
 Rudolphe Solentini (Learning Partnerships)  
 Sophie Hardcastle  
 Steve Ellis (WY Police)  
 Tom Partington  
 Tomas Johnson (LCC)

## Apologies

Emma Tariket  
 Georgie Kay (Places for People)  
 Tasneem Suleman  
 Terry Jones  
 Terry Wragg (Leeds Animation Workshop)

Comment	Action
<i>Committee Business</i>	
JH reminded the group of the current status of forum funds (no change since the last meeting) and that funds do need to be spent by the end of the pilot.	
IM noted that in his trip to the Compton Centre, posters about the forum were noticeable by their absence. He suggested that posters / banners advertising the forum and especially the final stages of the engagement process, would be a good use of forum funds. Members discussed the form this might take, from external banners, to pull-up banners and interactive posters with sticky dots where people could vote to express their agreement with the themes that have emerged from the questionnaire so far. The group are to consider the options after discussing the proposal with the library team and KH will create a draft design.	All
JH raised the issue of distributing tasks among explained that a number of tasks forum members when her contract finishes mid-October. An email explaining the transition to self-sufficiency and 'How to...' documents had been emailed to c.100 people on the mailing list last week but for clarity, JH gave an overview of what each of the five main activity areas involved (Accounts, Google Account, Social Media, Meetings and Website).  TP had already volunteered to take on the website maintenance and account management, and agreed to take on the Google Account too (email, contact lists, file storage). Additional members need to be added to this account so that it can be managed if anyone is absent. A gmail address is required for additional members.  KH agreed to take on the minutes and agenda, PM agreed to organise venue bookings and KH, KG and TP agreed to share the social media management between them (focusing on Facebook). AH agreed to find some younger people to look after the Twitter and Instagram accounts.	All

<p>Nobody has volunteered to document the forum income and expenditure (Accounts) so this remains available.</p> <p>If anyone else would like to help with a task (even if it is being done by someone else), there is scope to add you to the team so don't let that be a barrier to getting involved.</p>	
<i>Engagement</i>	
AH said that Junior sports Hub make Vox Pops / Sound Bites and that this might work as an engagement activity with young people in the library.	AH
AH has made contact with Catch and will be running an engagement session with young people and staff. It will be on a Thursday and hopefully soon. Date to be confirmed.	AH
<p>AH noted that she has been in touch with some of the ethnic minority groups in the area and that she was made to feel very welcome so she will be maintaining those contacts with a view to developing an engagement event. Allswell, an organisation for African residents is worth contacting.</p> <p>AH also said that the Gypsy Roma Traveller community prefer not to have engagement events on Saturdays, but weekday evenings usually work well so that is to be factored into event planning as well. She noted that most of the Roma in Harehills are Romanian (rather than Slovak or Czech which is more commonly thought). JH said this correlated with her own research that suggested the Roma are mostly Romanian, and that the Slovak and Czech population were present in large numbers perhaps a decade ago but not so much now.</p> <p>Finally, AH said that she had spoken to local estate agents and while none of them was willing to participate in the forum (preferring to stay 'apolitical') they might be willing to offer sponsorship.</p>	AH
JH said that the total of the 'fully completed' community questionnaire responses had risen by 1 to 54. Participation had slowed considerably. The business questionnaire remained at 3. SH and TP agreed that the business questionnaire needs to be shortened so they will work on that together. SH will go to local businesses and help them to fill it in. TP and KH will do the same.	TP
SH is interested in putting a social media plan together to develop a more co-ordinated approach to the social media strategy. JH to send the overall pilot project plan to get this started.	JH / SH
JH asked how the trial event planning was going as it appeared to have stalled. The group interested in taking part will agree a date / venue amongst themselves and feed back to the wider group. TP said he sometimes struggled as he didn't have everyone's contact details. JH said that now he is managing the Google account, he has the details of everyone on the mailing list.	All
TP said he would like to start to split the forum into teams so that each could analyse a thematic area of the community questionnaire. He's keen to test if the group is being ambitious enough. IM agreed this would be good to start thinking about and said it needs a multi-layered Neighbourhood Priorities Statement. He highlighted that while some items on the list might be within the remit of the council, the community will need to take the lead on other items. IM and TJ can offer support to get this started.	IM / TJ / TP
KH reminded the group that the Big Dream events had produced data which can feed into the analysis.	KH / IM / TJ

<p>TP asked if the group can get involved in commenting on planning applications. IM and JH said yes and gave examples of how this might work. IM recommended that initially, all applications are sent for consideration and that will allow the group to decide if they want to continue like that or focus on particular types of applications. AH volunteered to lead on this.</p>	<p>IM / TJ / AH</p>
<p>AH mentioned the Clear Hold Build initiative which has relevance for Harehills (see <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-crackdown-against-organised-criminal-gangs">Government announces crackdown against organised criminal gangs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>)</p>	
<p><i>Other opportunities</i></p>	
<p>JH said that she had been on a provisional walk with TJ, the Active Travel team and others from various council departments to consider options for a trail in Harehills. This took in Harehills Park, Banstead Park, Ashton play area and Beckett Street Cemetery. It was recognised by all that Ashton Park needs attention because of the glass and the unsuitable surface on the courts.</p> <p>The project is a good opportunity to see a tangible improvement to the neighbourhood in a relatively short timescale. The team will be looking at possible routes, research etc until the end of the year. Harehills in Bloom and Back-to-Front have already been invited to take part in this. 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. The budget or remit of the trail is unknown – it’s unlikely to be transformational but should obviously bring benefits to the area. Ideas for features along the trail include activities in pavements but the team are looking quite broadly at the options, and at best practice across Europe.</p> <p>In early 2024, the forum can get involved to determine what the route will be, what it includes / excludes etc. The Active Travel team seemed to be more keen on a theme that was closely tied to health and wellbeing so JH made clear that heritage (to include buildings, culture / immigration, food etc) is important to local people and should be considered.</p>	<p>JH / TP</p>
<p><i>Next meeting</i></p>	
<p>The next meeting date and venue are 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 to <a href="mailto:harehillsneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com">harehillsneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com</a></p>	