

WYKE BECK WAY COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of AGM and Forum meeting held Tuesday 28 April 09 , 6.30, at Halton Moor One Stop Centre, Neville Road, Halton Moor, Leeds 15.

1 Present

Brian Waters	Trustee and Chair (for the meeting)
Pauline Wright	Trustee, Member
David Conboy	Trustee, Treasurer and Project Manager
Anne German	Trustee, Member-Rothwell Footpath Group
David Davenport	Trustee, Member- Dunhills Food Action Group
Eric Cowin	Member, Centre Manager
Ken Burrows	Member, Wykebeck Valley Rd resident
Norma Burrows	Member, Wykebeck Valley Rd resident
Rodney German	Member - Rothwell Footpath Group
Joanna Timbs	Member, Kentmere Ave resident
Howard Wood	Member - Friends of Temple Newsam
John Weaver	Member - Groundwork Leeds
John Preston	Member- BTCV
Partners:	
Rachel Clunas	Aire Action Leeds Coordinator
Lisa Thornton	LCC Regen. Services (EASEL)
Lora Hughes	LCC Planning Policy (EASEL Area Action Plan)
Philip Thompson	LCC Parks and Countryside
Vivienne Gibbons	LCC Edn/ Parents' Support Officer-Seacroft/Parklands PSs

2. Apologies

Roger Harington (Forum Chair and Trustee), John Cummins (Trustee), Mary Moon (Wykebeck Valley Rd resident), Alan Bolton (Member- David Young Community Academy), Julie Clarke (Member- Primrose Valley Action Group), Helen Taylor, (Volunteer, Member).

In the absence of The Chair Roger Harington, it was agreed that Brian Waters should chair the meeting.

3. AGM 09 Business

3.1 AGM Minutes for 08

These were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

3.2 ANNUAL REPORT 09

Following a summary of the contents of The Annual Report 08/09 which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and approved by Trustees, Forum members approved the Report.

3.3 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 09

These accounts which had been circulated to and were the responsibility of the Trustees had been approved by them at their meeting held immediately prior to this AGM. The Treasurer summarised the main points of the Forum's finances at the year end which showed our reserve funds stood at £4,390.88 which, given the progress with current grant applications, indicated that we had sufficient reserves to plan at least 3 years ahead.. There were no matters arising.

3.4 Board of Trustees Election for 09/10

The Forum was advised that all the current trustees were prepared to stand for re election. The Forum unanimously elected Roger Harington, Pauline Wright, Brian Waters, David Conboy, Anne German, David Davenport and John Cummins.

3.5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair to Forum

The Forum unanimously elected Roger Harington as Chair and Brian Waters as Vice Chair.

3.6 Election of Treasurer

David Conboy indicated that he was willing to undertake this role again for year 09/10. The Forum unanimously elected David Conboy to be Treasurer.

3.7 Election of Minutes Secretary to Forum

The Chair advised that Joanna Timbs had agreed to be Minute Secretary to The Board of Trustees and was prepared to undertake this role for Forum meetings. Joanna was unimously elected as Minute Secretary to The Forum.

This concluded FORUM AGM 09 BUSINESS and the Meeting continued to consider Forum matters

4. Forum Administration

4.1 It was reported that the WBW Forum Office had been given notice to quit ELFLC by end of July 09. Whilst we were looking at a possible move to Henry Barran Centre in Gipton, information about other possible locations were welcomed.

5. Grant aided Projects - progress report

5.1 'Awards for All' Grant project

John Weaver brought members up to date with the latest position on this project which had been approved. Some £ 9,870 would be allocated to carry out a range of school based activities centred on planting, clean-ups and walks to be rolled out this Spring, May 18th- 29th and later in Autumn..Oct.19th-30th it was anticipated that some 10 schools could be involved in the projects which would benefit from involvement with local community groups. There was a discussion about how Forum members could participate in this project. Howard Woods, Philip Thompson and Vivienne offered specific help. Publicity on the projects was to be made available from the 18th May and this could be obtained from The Centre and John's office at Groundwork.

5.2 Leeds Community Foundation.-'Grassroots' project

A Grant of £900 had been awarded to the Forum to towards specific Valley environmental educational projects which David Conboy and Vivienne Gibbons were developing with Groundwork and others..

5.3 Leeds Community Foundation - 'Grassroots' grant

An application had been made for grant support towards the costs of the Forums Valley Conference planned for June 2009 (costs referred to later). The Centre Manager indicated that this was likely to be approved within the next week or so.

5.4 Nat Lottery application 'Access to Nature'

Lisa Thornton explained how this major grant application aimed to invest some £350,000 in a wide range of environmental initiatives within the Valley. The project application was led by the Council with The Forum, Groundwork and BTCV as principal partners. The bid had to proceed through two initial stages before progressing towards a decision. Whilst it was not possible to set out details at this stage, ,so far as the Forum was concerned it was the aim of the bid to seek 3 year revenue funding to give us some part time (2.5 days per week) community engagement support. It was also the aim of the bid to create a 3 year Valley Ranger post to co-ordinate activities along the Valley.

6. 'How Green is our Valley Conference' June 5th 09

6.1 Conference Aims

The Centre Manager amplified the coverage given this project in his written report to the Forum. The concept and arrangements had been previously endorsed in principle by Trustees at their Jan.09 meeting and at their meeting immediately preceding this Forum meeting.

The Conference to be organised on UN World Environment Day at Corpus Christi Social Club in the heart of The Valley,would give The Forum the chance to raise its aspirations whilst at the same time exploring the complexity of the issues facing The Valley. It was a good opportunity to strengthen our partnership role and specifically demonstrate that we have a premier (but not exclusive) role in representing community aspirations in the Valley. We would publicise the event through the launch of our 'Valley Pride' logo which we will then gradually role out on other appropriate occasions, notably around our community project work. Publicity for the Conference would start this week with the production of a leaflet.

6.2 Conference programme and Speakers

Roger Harington would chair the proceedings and had been consulted on the format of the conference and advised on changes to ensure effective participation from those attending. These suggestions were being incorporated into the final programme.

A good range of speakers at national, regional and local level had confirmed their willingness to contribute to the day's programme. Peter Nottage of Natural England, Rob Stoneman of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Cllr Andrew

Carter Deputy Leader LCC and John Thorp Leeds Civic Architect had agreed to contribute to the morning session. Sue France Director of Green Estates Ltd, Sheffield, and Judith Atkinson Regeneration Director of Bellway Homes would join a team of senior LCC and Environment Agency officers for the afternoon session covering community involvement in 'owning' The Valley, flood alleviation perspectives and open space policy aspects of The Valley.

It was the wish of the Centre Manager that Forum members themselves open the Conference with a presentation of how they saw the Valley. He outlined how a team of some 6 members from groups associated with different aspects of the Valley could set a good community tone for the success of the Conference. He had spoken to some members about this and he was confident they would welcome this approach.

6.3 Follow through 'community' conference

The plans to organise a community led conference on the following day, Saturday, of the above Conference had been deferred to later in the year.

This part of the Forum's work is aimed at persuading local people and community groups to say how they would like to see improvements for the use of Valley open space near their homes. The Centre Manager explained that we should aim to use the CABE Space training which Helen Taylor has undertaken with our support to help develop these community aspirations. Helen, who was unable to attend this Forum meeting, will explain later.

6.4 Forum observations on the Conference arrangements.

There was concern that the Conference being held on a Friday would prevent some people attending. The Centre Manager accepted that this was a valid concern and it did run against the aspirations of the Forum to be 'community' based. However, it was important to initially get the 'outside' organisations to recognise the Forum's role and those organisations would be difficult to attract to a weekend event. A subsequent follow-through community workshop event was our best way of pursuing this important part of our aims.

7. Aire Action Leeds

7.1 The Chair introduced Rachel Clunas, coordinator to the above Leeds waterways partnership board. Rachel explained that she had taken over the role previously held by Ruth Bull who had moved to Natural England. She looked forward to continuing to support The Forum in its aim to develop a Master Plan for The Valley.

8. Master Plan Task Group reports

8.1 Flood Alleviation Task Group

Whilst there was a planned meeting of the task group in hand Dave Davenport gave an update on current action on this front. LCC and EA had cleaned out the culvert under Selby Road removing over 100 tons of debris and ensuring a much smoother running of the beck in this location. A strategic drainage plan

for the Valley was being developed, led by LCC and undertaken by consultants. So far as the Dunhills Estate flood alleviation measures were concerned there were plans being developed by the EA to erect retaining walls down both sides of the Beck but consultation was planned with residents about the scale of this work.

8.2 Young People /Education Task Group

The Forum welcomed Viv Gibbons to the meeting who went on to explain her work with the Childrens University project and links with The David Young Community Academy which David Conboy and herself would be discussing in a planned meeting shortly. Viv outlined other work she was undertaking with school children notably a kids photo competition of the area near the school and homes. Howard Wood thought there was potential for involving schools in the photographic competition which they were currently organising at Temple Newsam. She drew attention to her contact work with the BBC and their interest in doing a 'Springwatch' on radio

David Conboy reported on another successful briefing day with Leeds Met Uni. landscape students who were undertaking a study of the southern part of the Valley. The students had enjoyed a tour of the area and thanks were due to members who also organised walks later for some of the students in the Skelton area.

8.3 Access Task Group

David Conboy explained that the Access Task Group had had its first meeting, chaired by Roger Harington and briefing notes relating to planned footpath/cycle route proposals would be circulated shortly to relevant members. There were plans to meet again in a month's time.

Brian Waters confirmed that the new foot/cycle bridge to replace the pipe bridge was now installed in Wykebeck Woods aided by National Lottery funding and Yorkshire Water support.

Philip Thompson explained that investigations leading to better road crossings on main footpath/cycleways was in hand. Howard Wood drew attention to the need to seek reduction of speeds on Temple Newsam Road which Phillip agreed to investigate.

9. Date of next Meetings

Board of Trustees Thursday 27th Aug. 2009, 5.15pm and Forum 6.30pm