

WYKE BECK WAY COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of the Forum Meeting held at the William Sutton Trust Community Centre,
Carden Avenue, Halton, Leeds 14, Tuesday 14 August 2007, 6.30 pm

Present:

Roger Harington - Chair of Forum & Board of Trustees
Pauline Wright - Member, Trustee
Peter Huxford - Member, Trustee & Secretary
David Conboy - Member, Trustee, Treasurer & Project Manager
Dr Brain Waters - Member/Friends of WB Woods, Trustee
Eric Cowin - Member & Centre Manager (CM)
Neil Herendi - Member
Norma Burrows - Member
Ken Burrows - Member
Anne German - Member/Rothwell Footpaths Group
Rodney German - Member/Rothwell Footpaths Group
Mary Fleet - Member/Rothwell Footpaths Group
David Davenport - Dunhills Flood Action Group
John Cummins - Member/Groundwork Leeds
Karen Abis - Member/Groundwork Leeds

In Attendance:

Philip Thompson - LCC Parks & Countryside
Kathryn Skinner - LCC Development Dept

Apologies:

Michelle Anderson - LCC Area Management Team
Carl Richman - Leeds Ramblers Assoc.
Peter and Hilary Dyson - Oakwood History Group

1. **Minutes of the Forum Meeting 27 March 2007** (previously circulated)
Approved as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

2. **EASEL AREA ACTION PLAN (EASEL AAP)**

The Centre Manager having circulated written comments on the above Plan, which the Trustees had agreed should form the basis for a Forum discussion, it was agreed that the Cit Council be advised:

- 2.1. that the proposals do not acknowledge the role of the Wyke Beck Valley can play in the EASEL Area as a whole

- 2.2 that the proposals do not acknowledge the bio diversity value of the Valley which is seen only in terms of leisure and public access
- 2.3 that the failure of the AAP to give a timetable and indicate how resources will be obtained to achieve improvements to the open spaces within the Valley is a major weakness
- 2.4 that the AAP fails to show how future footpath and cycle links in the EASEL area would link in a positive manner to areas to the south
- 2.5 that the proposal to provide a rapid public transit route crossing the Valley at the Fearnvilles needs supporting statements defining how the landscape of the Valley would be protected, and how footpath and cycle routes would be positively related to this proposal
- 2.6 that the proposals make no reference to the sites of archaeological or historical interest in the Valley.
- 2.7 that the proposals appear to have no regard to the need to address serious flood alleviation measures
- 2.8 that there is a need for the City Council to clarify the future plans for Killingbeck Cemetery

3. Flood Alleviation Measures for Wyke Beck Valley

- 3.1 the meeting welcomed David Davenport (DD) Chair of The Dunhills Flood Acton Group
- 3.2 DD raised concerns that the above EASEL AAP appeared to be proposing major new residential development without any regard to flood risk within the Valley. Kathryn Skinner, LCC Development Department said that detailed drainage proposals following the adoption of the AAP would be drawn up to deal with these concerns
- 3.3 DD explained that, on behalf of his Group he had had discussions with the Environment Agency, and LCC Drainage officers. He was convinced that raising the level of Roundhay Lake by a relatively small amount could solve future flash flooding problems for the Valley and rejected the view that climate change had created new circumstances.

4. Skelton Lake and related links to Wyke Beck Way

- 4.1 Anne German of Rothwell Footpaths Group explained in detail the proposals and timescales involved in providing the new footbridge over the River Aire and Canal. She explained how they were tracking future developments in the Skelton area through dialogue with Evans and the Aire Valley Action Team. Reference was made to the well attended walk from Temple Newsam to Skelton Lake organised by Rothwell Footpath Group and the Wyke Beck Way Centre
- 4.2 The walk had helped identify :
 - a) how existing public footpaths could be best diverted to cater for

future new development at Skelton

- b) the location of the proposed new cycle and footbridge and
- c) the River flood control measures near the confluence of the Wyke Beck and River Aire.

- We had also appreciated the help and guidance of Philip Thompson of LCC Parks & Countryside who joined us for the walk.

5. Visit to the Manor & Castle Estate Development Trust, Sheffield

5.1 Those present at the meeting who went on this visit (arranged for us by Bellways) agreed that it has been inspirational and relevant to how EASEL issues around open space may be addressed. John Cummins of Groundwrk said he would come back to the Forum with some ideas on how we could take on board the approaches adopted in Sheffield.

6. New Members

It was noted that the Trustees had approved membership applications from Friends of Roundhay Park and Roundhay Conservation Society.

7. Any Other Business

Karen Abis advised the meeting of the possibility of a Lottery funding application being developed in support of the Forum's work. It was agreed that Karen would contact the Centre with some dates for a meeting to discuss this further.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that this would be 6 November 2007 - location to be decided.