

WYKE BECK WAY COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of the AGM 8 July 2008 at William Sutton Community Centre, Carden Avenue, Halton Leeds L13

Present	Roger Harington	Chair /Trustee
	David Conboy	(Volunteer) Project Manager/Trustee/Treasurer
	Pauline Wright	Trustee/ Member
	Brian Waters	Trustee / Member -Friends of Wyke Beck Woods
	Eric Cowin	(Volunteer) Centre Manager
	Ken Burrows	Member- Wyke Beck Environmental Group
	Norma Burrows	Member
	Neil Herendi	Member
	Peter Dyson	Member- Friends of Roundhay Park
	Hilary Dyson	Member- Roundhay Historical Society
	Ann German	Member- Rothwell Footpath Group
	David Davenport	Member- Dunhills Flood Action Group
	Peter Carter	Member- Primrose valley Action Group
	Glen Duckett	Member- Groundwork Leeds

In attendance:

Ruth Bull	Coordinator- Aire Action Leeds [AAL]
Philip Thompson	Parks and Countryside LCC
Lisa Smith	Regeneration LCC

Apologies Carl Richman, Member Leeds Ramblers Assoc., Mary Fleet, Member

1. Minutes of the AGM 2007

These were approved as a correct record.

2. To receive and approve the Annual Report

2.1 The Chair confirmed that the Board of Trustees had approved the written report drafted by the Centre Manager and circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Report, attached to these minutes, drew attention to the submissions during the year by the Forum on the EASEL and Aire Valley Action Plans and the more recent progress on the Forum's aim to draw up a Landscape Master Plan for the Valley.

2.2 The Report was approved.

3. To receive The Treasurer's Report

3.1 The Chair confirmed that The Board of Trustees had approved the Treasurer's Report and the Treasurer gave a summary of its contents to the AGM. There were no issues arising and the Report was noted.

4. Election of Trustees

4.1 The Chair reported that Peter Huxford wished to retire and not stand for re election. The meeting agreed to thank Peter for his important contribution to the Forum's work especially with regard to his work with Primrose Valley and its Action Group.

4.2 Each of the remaining Trustees was willing to stand for re election and the Board also recommended to the Forum that they support the election of two new trustees, namely David Davenport, Member for the Dunhills Flood Action Group and John Cummins, Member, Groundwork Leeds. Both members had been approached and indicated their willingness to stand for election as Trustees.

4.3 The Forum duly elected Roger Harington, David Conboy, Pauline Wright, Brian Waters, David Davenport and John Cummins as Trustees for 2008-2009.

5. Election of Officers for 2008-2009

5.1 Roger Harington was re-elected Chair and David Conboy re-elected Treasurer. It was agreed that following the resignation of Peter Huxford, Eric Cowin would take the position of Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

6. There being no further business the Chair declared the AGM Business meeting closed.

Following the AGM members proceeded to consider normal Forum business below.

WYKE BECK WAY COMMUNITY FORUM

**Minutes of the Forum Meeting, 8th July 2008 7.00 pm at the William Sutton Community Centre,
Carden Avenue, Halton Leeds L13**

Attendance and Apologies as per AGM which immediately preceded this meeting. The meeting welcomed Peter Carter to his first meeting representing Primrose Valley Action Group.

1. WB Valley Landscape Master Plan

1.1 CM brought members up to date with the latest developments involving Aire Action Leeds [AAL], the Leeds watercourse partnership body who have agreed to help the Forum to realize the development of a Valley Landscape Master Plan. AAL have agreed to Ruth Bull, coordinator of AAL, working with WBW Centre to prepare the brief for the latter Plan.

1.2 With the assistance of Ruth, CM had chaired an initial meeting in April with key organisations who have a stake in the proposed Landscape Plan. This well attended meeting acknowledged the possibility of WB Valley Master Plan becoming a *Supplementary Planning Document [SPD]* which will ensure that it has to be taken into account in any material future planning decisions. It has now led to the establishment of several Task groups charged with defining what it required from their sector's interest. These Task groups are based on the Forum's decision last year to establish similar groups to draw up the Forum's 'Valley Vision' proposals

1.3 CM proposed that the Valley Landscape Task Groups should now replace the Forums 'Valley Vision' groups. The Task Groups set up at this stage will cover [1] Ecology, [2] Flood Alleviation, [3] Access (FP's/Cycle Ways), [4] Landscape (to include open space usage &, possibly, heritage) and [5] Coordination of the Master Plan Brief. The aim would be to ensure that Forum members with good knowledge of the respective sector would be invited to participate in these Task Group meetings.

1.4 To date the Ecology group has had its first meeting and Forum members Ann German and Brian Waters represented the Forum. Further meetings are planned together with an extensive site visit. Plans are in hand for the Flood Alleviation group to meet and David Davenport and David Conboy will represent the Forum on this work. Arrangements are in hand to set up the Access group and CM will be also establishing the Landscape and Coordination Control Groups.

1.5 The Forum approved this approach.

2. The Role of Aire Action Leeds [AAL]

2.1 Ruth Bull gave an outline of the work of AAL and explained that the Environment Agency, The City Council, British Waterways and Yorkshire Water were its principal partners. Ruth coordinates this work as a full time coordinator based at BW's HQ at Fearn's Wharf in Leeds. The remit of AAL work embraced a wide range of other agencies, including the private sector and voluntary bodies, with their overall role making an important contribution towards The Leeds Initiative and The Leeds Vision on waterway related issues. Flood alleviation issues were now centre stage and AAL had an important role in coordinating this aspect of policy for the City. Ruth expressed her enthusiasm for the work in helping the Forum achieve its goal of developing a Valley Master Plan.

2.2 The Forum thanked Ruth for her presentation.

3.0 Leeds Met. University Students' valley landscape project.

3.1 David Conboy gave a full report on this highly successful project which had also involved the David Young Academy pupils. In line with the Forum's March meeting decision, a £50 book token prize had been presented for the best student project plus two runners up of £25. A group of Members had attended the end of year students' Open Day work displays and selected preferred schemes on behalf of the Forum. LMU are interested in continuing with this kind of community project work and suggested perhaps the Halton Moor/Skelton Lake part of the Valley for 2008/9.

3.2 As a result of their visit the David Young Academy (Theme: 'The Built Environment') are looking to establish firm links between their students and the University.

4. Report back on meetings with organisations:

4.1 RSPB David Conboy and CM had met up with Joanne Gilkes to explain the Forum's work and to seek the support of RSPB in the Valley Landscape Master Plan and seek information on their approach to management of Skelton Lake. The Forum were advised that RSPB were clearly committed to supporting the Forum's work and had full commitment to involving us in their plans for Skelton Lake which had yet to be developed.

4.2 The David Young Community Academy Prior to the LMU visit David had met with the Academy's Acting Vice Principal to discuss their involvement on the day, including a winners 'Valley Pride' plaque that they had offered to make. Interest was expressed by the Academy in developing curriculum relative to aspects of the Forum's Valley Landscape Master Plan including Membership of the Forum and possible student representation at Forum meetings. David said he would forward them a Membership application and further information.

4.3 Wykebeck Valley Road Tenants Association

The Chair, CM and David Conboy had attended an evening meeting organised by some members of this Tenants group. The meeting discussed issues relating to the upkeep of open space around the Beck and the flooding problem. The Forums approach towards how these matters might be best addressed through the Valley Master Plan was explained.

5. Members Reports

5.1 Groundwork Leeds

Glen Duckett of Groundwork ran through recent investigations as set out in their report 'Wyke Beck Valley Employment Initiative Feasibility Study' proposing a 'model' to give training opportunities to those young people in East Leeds not in employment or education, 'NEETS'. The scheme drew upon the success of the 'Green Estate' model, Sheffield, (visited by Forum members last year) and would be dependent upon support from EASEL and Wyke Beck Way Community Forum.

5.2 Friends of Wyke Beck Woods

Brian Waters gave an update on progress in securing a new footbridge to cross the Wyke Beck in their section of the valley.

5.3 Rothwell Footpaths Group

Anne German provided a detailed report covering issues of concern to her Group at the Rothwell end, in particular the Evans development land and uncertainty over their proposals. However, the slow down in the housing market has given more time to establish their, and the Forums, position through the recently launched Valley Landscape Plan work.

5.4 Primrose Valley Action Group

Peter Carter said that he was interested to hear about possible flood relief measures but said that they would be concerned if the pond at the top of the valley was involved. His group were also concerned at proposals for housing development on the present greenspace area at the back of Seacroft Hospital site.

6. LCC Officer Reports

6.1 Parks and Country Side

Philip Thompson reported on various improvement measures carried out by his Department since the last meeting. They were developing the footpath route through Wyke Beck Woods and obtaining necessary permissions for the proposed new bridge and the footpath link to Wetherby Road. Another idea they were looking at was the development of a wetland area in the woods.

6.2 Housing and Regeneration

Lisa Smith introduced herself as the officer who has taken over the role previously held by Michelle Anderson, a regular attendee at the Forum meetings. Lisa spoke about funding applications they will be submitting and that they will be identifying local partners.

7. Gipton Gala 12th July

It was reported that the Forum would be participating and sharing a pitch again with Groundwork Leeds. Forum members were invited to attend and help out on the day. The Forum's display would feature ideas for the Valley landscape improvements illustrated with the help of Forums 'award winning' student's project drawings.

8. Date of next meeting

It was agreed this would take place on Tuesday 21st Oct. at 6.30 pm. The Board Meeting at 5.30 the same day. Venue to be determined.