

Meeting of WYKE BECK WAY COMMUNITY FORUM, March 11, 2008,  
6.30 pm, at East Leeds Family Learning Centre, Seacroft, Leeds 14

**Present:**

Dr Brian Waters - Trustee  
David Conboy - Trustee, Treasurer and Project Manager  
Pauline Wright - Trustee  
Eric Cowin - Centre Manager  
Ken Burrows - Member  
Norma Burrows - Member  
Neil Herendi - Member  
Anne German - Rothwell Footpath Group/Member  
Rodney German - ----- ditto -----  
Mary Fleet - Rothwell Member  
Michelle Andeson - LCC Neighbourhoods & Housing  
Philip Thompson - LCC Parks  
Jane Halladay - Groundwork Leeds  
Rachael Barnett - Groundwork Leeds

**Apologies:**

Roger Harington, Peter Huxford, John Preston, Stuart Beaumont, Kathryn Skinner

**1. Meeting Chair**

In the absence of Roger Harington, EC's recommendation that Brian Waters should chair the meeting was carried, and Brian accepted..

**2. Minutes of November 2007 Meeting**

3.1 Having been previously circulated, these were approved as a correct record.  
Matters arising were dealt with under the items set out below

**3. Report from Board of Trustees Meeting, 11 March 2008.**

It was noted that efforts would be made to raise additional funding. This decision followed consideration of the Treasurer's Report which showed we had about £ in reserve to meet our commitments. It was estimated this was sufficient to meet our revenue costs over the next 2 years.

**4. EASEL & Aire Valley Area Action Plans**

4.1 As set out in the CM's written report circulated to Forum members, it was confirmed that detailed comments following City Council consultation on the Aire Valley AAP had been submitted. These comments were set out in CM's report and emerged from discussion at the November 2007 Forum Meeting.  
4.2 CM also reported that in submitting the above comments, we had reiterated our view that the publication of these two AAPs which virtually dominated the entire length of the Valley, gave further justification to our long held view that a comprehensive landscape appraisal and Plan for the Valley was urgently needed.

**5. 'Wyke Beck Valley - Supporting the Regeneration of E&SE Leeds' (EASEL)**

5.1 Michelle Anderson, LCC Programme Manager for Environment & Neigh-

bourhoods, gave a presentation on the above report; published in January 2008. The document had been drawn up to support EASEL's 5 year business plan.

- 5.2 Forum Members were pleased to note that the report identified the Wyke Beck Valley as a integral part of the EASEL regeneration and set out policies and strategy perspectives which aim to transform the Valley's current underused and uninspired current characteristics. Michelle was thanked for her presentation and report and, in particular, for sharing our aim to transform the Valley into a major green space asset for the City.

#### **6. Wyke Beck Valley Flood Alleviation**

It was noted that key survey and evaluation work on both City & Wyke Beck flood assessments conducted by the Environment Agency were due to be completed this Spring. CM reported that the Centre maintained regular contact with the EA and LCC Drainage on this crucial area of concern.

#### **7. Wyke Beck Valley Community Employment Scheme**

Jane Halladay & Rachael Barnet of Groundwork Leeds brought Forum members up to date with progress on the feasibility study being undertaken by Rachael. The report investigates the possibility of an employing training scheme for young people not in employment, education or training 'NEETS' linking with environmental projects around the Valleys and the EASEL development programme.. This initiative followed from the Forum's successful visit 'Green Estate' project on the Manor & Castle Estate in Sheffield last year.

#### **8. LMU School of Architecture and Landscape - Valley Project**

The Forum noted the good progress made in attracting the LMU Landscape Department to conduct a student landscape design project on the Valley. In February a number of members had acted for the Forum as 'client' in a briefing session with the students in the main hall at ELFLC. Brian and David then accompanied them on a familiarisation walk in the upper section of the Valley. Trustees had earlier agreed to recommend to the Forum that the sum of £100 be set aside for book token prizes for the 'best' projects submitted by the students. It is intended that the awards will be voted for by a team drawn from the Forum as part of the students final presentation in June 2008. This proposal was agreed.

#### **10. Friends of Roundhay Park**

It was reported that the Friends who are Forum members, have, following a site visit attended by Peter Dyson, Brian, David and Eric, requested the Forum's support in their campaign for a safe footpath crossing over - or under - Leeds Ring Road at the head of Roundhay Park. The current means of crossing the road by walkers traversing the fp between Shadwell and the Park ( and vice versa) is highly dangerous at a blind spot on a bend in the Ring Road. .

The Forum agreed to give its full support to the proposal (which ideally should be grade separated).

#### **11. Skelton Lake - RSPB**

It was noted that arrangements were now in place to meet up with Joanne Gilkes RSPB Regional Reserves Manager to discuss the RSPB approach to developing a reserve at Skelton Lake and the Forum's perspective on Valley ecology and

public access issues.

Anne German reported on Rothwell Footpath Groups recent dialogue with the RSPB & Evans of Leeds.

**12.AOB**

There was none

**Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to meet in June 2008, venue to be determined.