

Public Meeting to Discuss Kirkstall Neighbourhood Forum Proposals at Paxton Hall on Tuesday 18 March at 7:30pm

Minutes

Present: Naomi Batten, Graham Bellamy, Richard Bolam, Neil Campbell, Wendi Carson, Keith Collridge, Mike Duncanson, Dave Gilbert, Eric Greenwood, Steve Harris, S Hawkins, Barbara Houghton, John Illingworth, Daniel Lipzith, Chris Long, Laura Long, Mandy Long, Stuart Long, Andrew McHale, Michelle McHale, Sam Meadway, Dean Mitchell, Roger Moran, Peter Owen, Michael Park, Andrea Purdy, Andrew Rathbone, Mary Rennie, Stephen Rennie, Gloria Simons, Katherine Smith, Matt Sykes-Hooban, Tricia Thorpe, Fiona Venner, Lucinda Yeadon

Apologies: Sue Brear, Simon Dawson, Natalia Gerodetti, Carlos Grattoni, Tim Leleux, Linda Mennell, Sue Mills, Elizabeth Nash, Lance Penketh, James Shaw

In attendance: Ian MacKay, John Hall

Cllr John Illingworth welcomed people to the meeting and explained that it was now possible for local communities to establish Neighbourhood Forums under the Localism Act. Each Forum could subsequently prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for their designated area. Such plans acquire legal force if approved by a majority of voters at a local referendum. Neighbourhood Plans supplement National and Municipal Planning Policies, but must remain consistent with these external policies. In addition, communities with adopted Neighbourhood Plans receive an increased proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from new developments, which could be spent on local priorities. Cllr Illingworth introduced the Leeds City Council Neighbourhood Planning Manager, Ian MacKay, who explained the process in greater detail and answered questions from the audience.

A copy of the Kirkstall Ward boundary was circulated for information and there was an extended discussion of possible boundaries. Although it was administratively convenient to stay within the existing ward boundaries, there was no legal requirement to do so. Strong natural communities might cut across several wards. The planning process had already started in neighbouring wards. This constrained the available options, both by taking out potential communities, and also by leaving behind "orphan" areas with no local forum in place. One such area was near Willow Road. If Kirkstall adopted these orphans this would require additional work. In Kirkstall the greatest CIL contributions were likely to come from the Kirkstall District Centre and (possibly) Kirkstall Forge, although in this case a s.106 agreement is already in place, and much of the money has already been allocated. All areas of Kirkstall were entitled to form a view on these major developments, and it was desirable that the adverse costs and benefits from these schemes should be spread evenly across the entire ward.

In conclusion, it was finally resolved to *"To proceed with a Kirkstall Neighbourhood Plan, based principally on the existing Kirkstall Ward Boundary, but Cllr Illingworth was asked to explore the possibility of minor adjustments to achieve a better fit with adjacent Neighbourhood Plan areas."*

The meeting closed at 9:15pm