

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Planning Forum was re-designated by Leeds City Council in September 2021 for a further five years: this report covers activities for the year from December 2022 to November 2023.

### Aims

**The overall aim of the draft Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan is to enhance the healthy and sustainable character of the Little Woodhouse area for all its residents into the future.**

The past year has focussed on reviewing and updating the draft Vision and Plan policies and assembling the evidence to support them. These documents have been presented in our website [www.littlewoodhouseplan.org](http://www.littlewoodhouseplan.org)

**Forum meetings** Four Forum meetings were held on March 14, May 23, July 11 and November 21 2023 (AGM). In addition, there were four Joint Meetings with the Little Woodhouse Community Forum with a focus on immediate community issues. The **steering committee** met in January, April, June and October 2023.

### Draft Plan Policies

Following the review of policy areas in 2022, we considered informal feedback from the Leeds City Council neighbourhood planning team: this contributed to the development both of new policies and refinement of others.

In **March**, the Forum reviewed the **Vision and Objectives** first set in 2015: these were found to be still relevant. Adjustments were made to emphasise the vision of a “balanced and mixed” population and to strengthen mention of climate change. Objectives were re-ordered to follow the policies since developed.

In **May** after discussion around the definition of “family” accommodation, the Forum accepted the revised **Neighbourhood Plan version 3** and agreed

to forward this for further feedback and consultation.

The **July** Forum considered the original list of **Projects** together with the improvements identified in the HC4 Placemaking and G1 Green Infrastructure surveys resulting in a revised **Project List**, following the order of plan policies, to be appended to the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Evidence to support policies

This year much of the work of the Steering Committee and officers has been concentrated on the identification and presentation of evidence to support each of the plan policies. Evidence has to be *factual* (eg external information) and showing the community *engagement* in the policy (eg surveys and meetings).

A major piece of evidence for **population and housing statistics** has undergone extensive updating to incorporate the 2021 census results. We are very grateful to Kwame Steadman of the Leeds City Council Planning Department for undertaking this valuable task.

**Other evidence** includes noting the impacts (positive and negative) of the large student population; summary of the patterns of planning applications for new developments; a number of very useful projects from Leeds Beckett University Urban Planning Masters students; completion of a survey of green corridors and door to door leafletting of new areas in the proposed Heritage Area.

Further **gaps that are due to be filled** include a business survey to be updated and a survey of the Community Assets we identified as crucial to the community (though sadly one of these has already closed and another is in question).

### Engagement

The Little Woodhouse **Community Forum** considered major topics with lead councillors and officers from Police & Crime, Leeds Anti Social

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Behaviour team, the LGI Development team, and the Cleaner Neighbourhoods team.

We held information stalls at local community events, **Unity Day**, **Rosebank Apple Day** and attended the **Grand Mosque Visit your Mosque** event and the **Inner North West Community Committee** gathering of voluntary organisations. All these have led us to make new and valuable contacts.

We also attended **Unipol's Rate your Landlord** event and the official opening of Oak House student accommodation. We appreciate the support of Unipol especially in supplying us with information and perspective on student housing needs. We particularly thank *Martin Blakey* who is retiring this year for his invaluable insights and encouragement.

As a live case study on local neighbourhood planning, our work **with Leeds Beckett urban planning** students included an introduction and conducted walk and opportunity for us to gain an insight into student perspectives and new ideas for policies through their projects.

We have attended **Hyde Park Neighbourhood Plan** meetings reviewing their plan and have contributed a comparison of our draft policies to aim at consistency across the two Areas.

Some of our members have been key to establishing the future of the **Rosebank Millennium Green Trust** and continuing to work with Hyde Park Source to provide outdoor activities there.

In September our sister organisation **Little Woodhouse Community Association** gave two *Heritage Open Day* walks led by *Freda Matthews* exploring the ancient routes of the area and their development into housing. The free booklet **Little Woodhouse Ways** forms part of our heritage policy evidence. We also congratulate the LWCA on its 30th year celebration looking back at the founding and achievements of the Association.

### Local Planning engagement

We had discussions on the redevelopment of the LGI, the proposed Innovation Arc and changes to the A660, which will all have impacts within the Area. This year we have given feedback to several applications for new PBSA developments: the Victoria Hotel on Gt George St, Burley St junction with Park Lane and Kirkstall Rd and conversions in Kelso Rd and Hanover Way.

### Thanks this year especially to ...

Councillors Akhtar, Brooks and Marshall Katung, Ian MacKay, Kwame Steadman (LCC), Quintin Bradley, Lindsay Smales and students (LBU), Mark Pullan (Joseph's Well), Freda Matthews (LWCA), Martin Blakey, Nicola Brown (Unipol), Joanne Gabrilatsou (JLL), Alice Smith (Rosebank School) and for hospitality to Oak House and Sycamore House for the use of meeting rooms.

### Membership

Members of the forum currently number 50, of these 3 are councillors, 31 are resident, 19 work and 8 represent businesses and organisations in the Area. We are seeking to widen membership especially from different community groups, more businesses and more younger people.

### Finance

No funds were held directly but thanks to the **Little Woodhouse Community Association** for room hire costs met with support from local councillors MICE grants.

### Steering Committee members

A committee of 9 members was appointed at the last AGM: Deryck Piper (chair), Barbara Mitchell (secretary), John Coates (Treasurer), Celia Hession, Freda Matthews, Garance Rawinsky, Peter Baker, Sue Thomas, Fe Uhuru.

**Deryck Piper (Chair),**

**Barbara Mitchell (Sec)**

**November 2023**