

Little Woodhouse

NEIGHBOURHOODPLAN

**Public Forum Meeting –
Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 6pm held at
Swarthmore Education Centre, Room 3
Woodhouse Square LS3 1AD**

How was the public engaged?

Forum meeting with discussion to review and update the Vision and Objectives, part of the Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan (LWNP).

Who engaged the public?

Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Planning Forum (LWNPF)

How were they engaged?

Over 70 Emails to members of LWNP Forum and to LWCA members and local organisations.

Where and when did the engagement take place? Conference room at Swarthmore Centre.

Who was engaged? How many people were involved? 11 people attended the meeting with a further 11 apologies.

Present: Deryck Piper (DP) in the chair, Peter Baker (PB), Mark Pullan (MP) (Josephs Well), John Coates (JC), Freda Matthews (FM), Philip Graham (PG), Garance Rawinsky (GR), Celia Hession (CH), Ursula Klingel (UK), Richard Scott (RS), Barbara Mitchell (BM)

In attendance: none

Apologies: Cllr Abigail Marshall, Cllr Kayleigh Brooks, Cllr Javaid Akhtar, Ian MacKay (IM), Kwame Steadman (KS), Sue Thomas (ST), Fe Uhura (FE), Helen Graham (HG), Richard Barker, Sue Smith, Heston Groenewald (Hyde Park NP)

Notes: Barbara Mitchell

How did the public engage?

Live meeting: Introductions, completion of questionnaire and presentation of documents on screen and discussion of Vision and Objectives – relevance to current issues and to draft policies developed and any changes.

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Circulated documents – Agenda; Minutes of last Forum held 22 November 2022; questionnaire on good and bad and desired improvements; full copy of draft Neighbourhood Plan v2; extract copy of policy intentions and draft NP policies.

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

1 Introductions and welcome

Deryck Piper opened the second face to face public meeting since March 2020 and thanked Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung for MICE funding to cover the meeting costs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review the Vision and Objectives to check up to date relevance, whether anything should be added and whether there should be any rearrangement. The original draft was adopted in 2016 based on community meetings and questionnaires, so this discussion would start “back to basics” with the original simple questionnaire.

2 Minutes of Forum held 22 Nov 2022 previously circulated were agreed as a correct record (proposed DP, sec JC). It was noted that the AGM decisions still required endorsement from a quorate forum meeting, so keep on the agenda.

3 Update and current issues

BM reported that Kwame Steadman had sent an email that she would shortly forward the comments on the second draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP v2).

BM reported that Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum were restarting meetings to update their draft Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that cooperation of our two Areas would benefit both. BM to keep in touch.

4 Review of Vision and Objectives

- **Questionnaires – good and bad**
From early returns of the questionnaires (11) and discussion:
- **what do you like about the area?**

Location, convenient	13 (29%)
Housing and heritage	13 (29%)
Green spaces	6 (13%)
Place – atmosphere	5 (11%)
Local facilities	5 (11%)
Movement	3 (7%)
- **what do you not like about the area?**

Streets – bins, litter, tagging	16 (31%)
Movement – parking, speeding,	
Lack of bus services	12 (23%)
Housing – overdevelopment,	
lack of family housing	9 (17%)
Community – lack of balance	9 (17%)
Safety, crime and anti-social	
behaviour	5 (10%)
Green spaces – lack in new	
developments	1 (2%)
- **what would you like to change to make your area better?**

Housing – better mix of	
student/family housing	11 (28%)
Green spaces – more in new	
developments, more planting and	
garden maintenance	8 (20%)
Streets – waste bins	7 (18%)
Safety, crime, asb – graffiti,	
speeding, more police	7 (18%)
Movement – bus services,	
Control parking & speeding	6 (15%)
A Library	1 (2%)
- **Please see attached** for more details of responses.

Observations on housing issues

- JC – as fast as policies are developed, building developments are taking over.
- FM – so near the city centre it is difficult to build for families especially gardens so inevitable they move out, and the population becomes transient. It is too costly to move back into the centre.
- DP - the minimum size for a 1bed home is 39 square metres (CS Policy H9) but student accommodation not covered; a common size is 20sq m. so cannot provide for non-student households.
- PG – rents for HMOs are unaffordable for families compared to several students paying rent.
- UK – would like to see more alternative housing e.g. Headingley Homes is a Development Trust to buy and guarantee to rent out houses only to family households – starting with a few houses. *Little Woodhouse could consider a similar scheme for sympathetic sellers: suggested inviting a speaker.*
- 11 Moorland Ave is an example of apartments changed to self-contained single units.
- PG – also Kelso Road and house at top Clarendon Rd has converted to 2 flats for 7 occupants.
- FM – problem is also getting families to stay if only neighbours are students.
- PB – Planning policies cannot dictate who lives in a property, only what type or 'use' and size of property can be developed, use C3 can only ensure they *could* be for family use.
- PG – could planning policy increase room size to reduce density? – PB this could be a mechanism.

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Vision and objectives

DP – This was formulated from the responses to questionnaires and meetings adopted in 2016:

Is it still relevant? Should anything be added/removed? Should it be reordered?

Vision

- BM – should “sustainable” be more prominent given changes such as pandemic and climate change?
- PB – at present (para 3 “sustainable” is used to describe community aspects
- Should it appear in relation to buildings and materials in para 2?
- JC – proposed inserting “and balanced” after mixed (para 1)
- PB – para 2, 1st sentence, add after ...visitors “resilient to climate change”.

Objectives

- DP – planning policies have been drafted to reflect built environment rather than trying to restrict certain groups
- Green environment has been shown to be important to health and wellbeing.
- Climate change and carbon reduction have also been recognised as a more significant issue since objectives were written
- GR – has cooling of buildings been recognised as important as heating?

Number and order of objectives

- PB – the order of the objectives could be tweaked to more closely match the draft policies, hence
- Housing
- Heritage and character
- Green *spaces* (change to *infrastructure*)
- Local (*Community?*) facilities, economy and environment
- *Movement – transport*

And re-jig remaining objectives to form -

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- *3 overarching issues – health and wellbeing, sustainability of community, and climate change*
- *Street environment – to make places attractive (so people likely to stay longer)*
- *GR – could we add “anti social behaviour” to crime?*

It was unanimously agreed for PB to produce a redraft on the basis of these points, to be agreed by the next Steering Group on 18 April and circulated to members.

FM – many of these objectives will depend on actions by the council and ourselves.

BM – we will need to draft project plans and none of the policies can take effect until the Neighbourhood Plan is “made”.

5. Any Other Business

5a PG raised the issue of proposed changes to A660 corridor and the knock on effects on roads in this Area. It seemed the focus was on journeys in and out of the city without attention to the effect on residents whose area was being changed. The consultation has now closed and a report is due later: many present had given responses to the consultation. BM suggested raising the question at the next LW Community Forum (5 April) to discuss with our councillors and highways planners.

5b DP reported that undergraduate and postgraduate urban planning students from Leeds Beckett University will again use Little Woodhouse NP as a case study for community planning – end of March. GR suggested they be invited to the next Forum in May if timing is OK.

**6. Next meeting of the Little Woodhouse
Neighbourhood Planning Forum:**

Tuesday 23 May 6pm venue Online Zoom

The dilemma of online or face to face meetings was discussed: preferences vary according to people's circumstances.

Over the summer it will be necessary to hold a series of consultation meetings around the area, and some could be out of doors, so a online was felt appropriate for the May meeting.

Tuesday 18 April 6pm Steering Group - Online

also

Little Woodhouse Community Forum (LWCF) on
Wednesday 5 April 6pm at the Civic Hall

Sammy Jagelman will be main speaker on the work of the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

**DP thanked PB for developing the draft Plan
and all those attending for their support.**

End Meeting closed at 19.35pm

NB: Attached – Summary of questionnaires.

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What do you like about the Area?

Location Close to centre, shops and hospital, bus services, local park and canal walk, Swarthmore, arts, convenience of situation, within walking distance, topography and good views, easy access to shops, libraries Train station and even university events	13	29%
Housing and heritage Survival of properties from demolition, variety of building styles and materials, the character walls, generally attractive buildings, to look at and adaptable size, architecture – redbrick terraces, impressive Victorian buildings, terraces, villas and semi-detached houses, mixed grand architecture	13	29%
Green spaces Close to park and canal, trees and green spaces survived through the ages, green open spaces, trees, peace and quiet, surprising amount of public green space, wide streets and trees, views of greenery from window	6	13%
Place – atmosphere Peace and quiet, quietness June – September, good views, good social atmosphere – non-threatening feel, people-friendly safe atmosphere, mixed yet safe lively environment	5	11%

Local community facilities Park and canal, LGI, Swarthmore, local facilities and Co-op store, shops, libraries, train station, university events	5	11%
Movement Close to bus services, buses 5, 49,50 and 19, within walking distance of city centre	3	7%
Total responses	45	100%

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What do you not like about the Area?

Streets – waste Too many bins on pavements and streets, litter, rubbish, graffiti and tagging, very poor waste management and frequency of bin collection, bins don't work, lack of street cleaning, overflowing bins, rats	16	31%
Movement Bad parking, fast driving, cars and electric bikes, pavements not repaired when road improvements done, no bus links to South Leeds, too many cars parking, speeding cars, bus links not circular to Headingley, too many commuter cars parking, noisy cars and parking in streets, "ratrunning" encouraged by council, lack of control over dangerous road use and parking	12	23%
Housing Overdevelopment, [should be] fewer student blocks, more family housing, everything taken for rental (mainly student) new building for transient population, too many students, not enough families, lack of suitable family housing, preponderance of PBSA in area	9	17%
Community Students (Park Lane College and University) – day and night nuisance, Anti human overdevelopment eg lack green spaces, community facilities, family housing, too many students and not enough families, preponderance of transient population, lack of [community] meeting places,	9	17%

Safety, crime and nuisance Students - day and night nuisance, drug dealers driving like maniacs from one drop to next, drug dealers, graffiti, amount of daytime drug dealing going unchallenged by police	5	10%
Green spaces Lack of green spaces in developments	1	2%
Totals	52	100%

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What would you like to change to make your area better?

Housing A better mix of families/student ratio, more mixed demographic, housing for different ages, better demographic balance and more settled population, stop Little Woodhouse being seen as a "student area" allowing developers full rein, More family appropriate housing including for older people downsizing at affordable price, active development by council to limit short-sighted development ie lack of family housing, more suitable family accommodation, get rid of too many students, anti-human developments, free houses from students and make them suitable for families	10	29%
Green spaces More active promotion of green policies and spaces, green spaces in developments, improve pavement outside Swarthmore to make a beautiful green corridor, Gardens looked after, More green spaces, planting, trees, shrubs, hedges, gardening planters	6	18%
Streets Repair and secure re-point York stone pavements, address the waste bins issue, council to enforce residents to put bins into stores they insist are provided, street cleaning, a new approach to waste disposal – local pride	6	18%

Safety, crime and nuisance Less graffiti, get rid of tagging, change law so graffiti tagging is a reportable crime and enforced, less speeding cars, control parking and maintain yellow lines, more police on the ground to counter anti-social behaviour	6	18%
Movement Bus services, public transport ie buses to run <u>through</u> the area, be able to use my car to get out of the area (A660 changes), less speeding cars in afternoon and evening, control parking and maintain yellow lines	5	15%
Community facilities A Library	1	3%
Totals	34	100%

Postscript:

"I know there is no money to pay for any of the above, so I am investing in a new home where the above is not a problem"