

Heart of Meanwood Focus Group - 15 February 2021

Present

Ron Baker (MVP & LM), Julie Barrow (MVP), Jenny Bell, Stef Coplans (MVP), Rebecca Dudley, Rachel Fletcher (Friends of Meanwood Park), Tom Gold (MVP), Andy Graham, Cllr Hamilton (Meanwood & Moortown), Roger Handley, Rachel Hartshorn, Nicky Hill, Cllr Howley (Weetwood), Chris Hughes, Chris Leahy, Nigel Lees (Woodhouse Ridge Action Group & Monk Bridge Green), Philippa Lewis, Janet Matthews (MVP & LM), Simon Prinsep, Chris Sheard (MVP), Sharon Slinger, Emma Tonge, Jonathan Ward.

1. Introductions

The aim of the Love Meanwood Focus Groups is to begin putting into action the findings of the Love Meanwood community consultation that are contained in its Vision for Meanwood 2030. <https://lovemeanwood.org.uk/>.

This is the first of three and is focussing on The Heart of Meanwood, i.e. the road junction and shopping precinct that make up our district centre. The other Focus Groups will hold similar meetings:

- Green Spaces - Monday 22nd February 7pm
- Connections - Monday 1st March 7pm

2. Junction

Chris Sheard outlined his discussions with Leeds City Council (LCC) over several years including live modelling of the proposal for the junction from LCC Highways last year.

Cllr Howley confirmed that funding for the scheme has been agreed by LCC ahead of a community consultation.

Rachel Ramsden of MVP is also discussing an additional pedestrian crossing on Green Road with LCC- Nick Hunt

MVPs Love Meanwood project has shared two documents with LCC setting out the requirements for a junction design generated by the LM consultation. LCC has not yet responded.

Andy Graham & Phillipa Lewis outlined their independent work on a design for the junction and shared sketches for an alternative to LCC proposal, but pointed out that there is a need for some input about possible costs of alternative proposals.

John Nelthorp has produced a paper with his thoughts on the LCC proposal and the approach to a re-design of the junction. He said we should consider whether the scope of any solution should include the shopping precinct as they are linked.

The meeting agreed we need to:

- develop a single view on design requirements and engage with LCC officers on this to help shape the design;
- consult with the community on any proposal - via MVP communications channels including social media, website and open meeting;
- involve local businesses.

Action

1. Andy Graham, Phillippa Lewis, Chris Sheard and John Nelthorpe to meet w/c 22 Feb to prepare a coordinated approach to LCC;
2. Chris Sheard / Chris Howley to engage with LCC to set up a meeting with Highways planners

3. Precinct

The square off of Green Road (commonly known as 'Asda Square'), is owned by an landlord based in London. The Love Meanwood consultation identified a clear wish by people who use it to improve it as a public space.

Leeds University design students carried out a detailed analysis of the area and developed some interesting ideas for making the square much more attractive and usable as a public space including improved seating and planting.

Ideas discussed included adding some public art/sculpture, changing the name of the square, plans for the disused toilet block, disabled parking and cycle storage..

We need more ideas from the community and to engage local businesses. We will also need funds as the landlord is unlikely to fund any work.

Action

1. Precinct group to meet in next two weeks involving Jenny, Julie, Rachel, Nicky, Emma and Ron/Janet;
2. MVP to engage with the landlord;
3. Jenny to discuss with Wildcraft Bakery and Ron with Arkwrights.

4. Transition Meanwood

Janet outlined the idea behind Transition Meanwood as a community-led group whose aim is to strengthen the local economy, reduce the costs of living and prepare for a future with less oil and a changing climate.

Point made that Meanwood is somewhat sustainable in terms of 15 minute Neighbourhood.

Ideas discussed:

- the 'library of things';
- car sharing club

- community repair shop

Previously, Transition Meanwood looked after the community orchard near the Woodleas - does anyone do that now?

Agreed:

- Sustainability should be considered in anything we do;
- Transition Meanwood is an overarching theme so it should be covered at all three Focus Groups.

5. Next meeting - in six weeks.

Day & Time - is a Monday the best day? Is 7pm the best time? Would 6pm, lunchtime or another time be better to ensure accessibility?

Let us know lovemeanwood@gmail.com