

## **Connections Focus Group - 1 March 2021**

### **Present:**

Ron Baker (MVP & LM), James Craven (MVP), Becci Erbillur-Gray (Meanwood Street Art), Rachel Fletcher, Andy Gell, Tom Gold, Andy Graham, Jane Harnett, Rachel Hartshorn, Liam Hill, Karen Holder Benjamin (Team Beckhills), Janet Matthews (MVP & LM), Jola Mellor, Simon Moore, John Nelthorp, Jonathan Ward

### **1. Introduction**

Ron explained that this was the third of the three Focus Groups set up to involve the community in making the findings of the Vision for Meanwood happen.

The Connections theme contains three aims:

- Highlight and improve footpaths, ginnels and routes through the neighborhoods for pedestrians of all levels of mobility, and cycles.
- Create a cohesive identity throughout the whole community with murals, painted junction boxes, planting and more.
- Connect people with their community and what's going on. Improving information sharing online, on social media and in printed forms for those without internet access.

Alongside the other themes: The Heart of Meanwood; and Our Green Spaces; they capture the findings of the community consultation carried out in 2020.

Each of these themes is linked and a key aim of the focus groups is to ensure all links are recognised and, overall, we have a joined-up, coordinated approach.

The Vision (in full and a summary) and the progress of the working groups can be viewed at [lovemeanwood.org.uk](http://lovemeanwood.org.uk).

### **2. Meanwood Map**

Tom Gold introduced the online map in conjunction with Ron. Its aim is to encourage:

- active travel through Meanwood on foot and cycle by highlighting the footpaths, ginnels, cycle routes that link our community together;
- active exploration of our community and it's many 'layers', e.g, history, nature, leisure etc.

The map contains 'layers' that users can switch on and off to highlight each aspect as necessary (as in Google Earth). The aim is to add layers as and when time allows and we obtain the information. These will include:

- photos and locations of street art (see next item);
- running routes;
- defined walking trails or tours of particular sections of the community, e.g., Stain Beck, Sugar Well Hill;
- points of interest, historic sites etc.

The discussion of this highlighted:

- the opportunity to record:
  - details of community groups (FB groups etc) and action;
  - all the green spaces in the community (large and small);
  - people friendly places and where people feel unsafe (to inform action to improve);
  - user input, e.g. photos;
- the need to improve the Stain Beck route which has a lot of litter and fly-tipping – Rachel Hartshorn said she has been in contact with local councillors about this.

Janet Matthews said Stainbeck had been also been raised in the Green Spaces Focus Group and it was also linked to the work on the 'junction' as part of the Heart of Meanwood Focus Group.

### **Action**

- Ron to contact Team Beckhills re action on Stain Beck to ensure we present a coordinated approach to Councillors. Also, other groups representing adjacent neighborhoods.
- Ron to set up a Zoom meeting of the above people.
- Ron to set up a Stain Beck group to explore opportunities for improving this whole trail (Meanwood Rd to Potternewton Lane) and enhancing its use for leisure and health.

### **3. Meanwood Street Art**

Becci Erbillur-Gray outline the progress of MSA to date:

- she and fellow Meanwood resident Leah started the initiative in June 2020;

- so far, they have commissioned the decoration 32 'comms' boxes by local artists;
- future plans include more boxes and a mural on the gable end wall Pizza Dans on Meanwood Rd – they have received funding from Leeds Inspired and MVPs Love Meanwood and plan to set up a crowd funder to raise the remaining funds.
- MSA are to prepare a map of boxes and a trail - details to be shared with Tom Gold for Meanwood Map and will be available for printing;
- currently repairing four boxes that were vandalised by in late 2020

MSA welcome ideas for future art - please email these to [meanwoodstreetart@outlook.com](mailto:meanwoodstreetart@outlook.com).

#### **4. Website/ Social media**

Ron will keep the Love Meanwood website up to date with information on progress of focus groups as well as uploading the Meanwood Map. MVP are currently developing their new website and ultimately this will be home to all things MVP and Love Meanwood.

Ron said he will update social media as well but he is conscious that not everyone uses social media so he asked people on the call to share the website with friends and neighbours.

#### **5. Summary**

Ron thanked the group and asked that any queries, ideas or offers of help be sent to [lovemeanwood@gmail.com](mailto:lovemeanwood@gmail.com)

#### **6. Next meeting**

To be held in 6 weeks' time.

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

**Want to join in?** All welcome.

Let us know [lovemeanwood@gmail.com](mailto:lovemeanwood@gmail.com)