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To: Chris Lomas <clomas7312@aol.com>
Subject: questions on greenspace
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Hi Chris

Below is a set of questions asked by the Writing Group about our greenspace. would you mind having a look through them to see what we can currently answer and if there is anything we haven't covered, could you have a dig around and see if you can find the answers

D) Community,leisure and well-being

D1 To support, maintain and improve existing community facilities and services

Leeds city council lists 25 items as local greenspace in Garforth. A quick look would indicate that items 1 and 2 below is yes and no 3 possibly not. We need a way to ascertain the views of the users and possibly disappointed users who were unable to gain access.

- 1 Are existing sports, leisure facilities and green spaces in the town well maintained and in a good state of repair?
- 2 Are existing sports, leisure facilities and green spaces in the town well used?
- 3 Are existing sports, leisure facilities and green spaces in the town sufficient for the existing population?

D2 To support the development of community services and facilities to reflect the growth of the community

Assuming the new development adds significantly to the population of Garforth, what calculation has/can be done to work out what level of increased provision will be required?

Chris C has already done the calculation to cover an expansion of Garforth by 2,800 residences (figure might need checking again) and we don't need to redo the calculation. The developers and LCC will be able to confirm our figures.

Can Leeds City Council ensure the amount available will meet current guidelines?

Writing Group need to include the CC calculation in their plan and if it is approved and agreed then start asking LCC for funding.

What should this provision look like?

More of the same maybe PLUS the some of the (innovative) ideas put forward by the Emma Grunwell Leisure and greenspace sub-group

Where will the new facilities be situated? Entirely within the new development or elsewhere in Garforth as well?

The development plan for 1232b includes early plans for sports fields etc. Possibly also earmark the land to the west of Wakefield Road then see if LCC will fund it and hope we don't need it for food production when food security may become more of an issue in post Brexit Britain.

D3 To increase the amount of parks, sports facilities and green space within the town and promote healthy and active lifestyles

This seems to just repeat the previous question or am I confusing green space with outdoor recreational facilities? Green space for walking and admiring nature etc. probably is sufficient for current needs.

Is the amount of green space within Garforth at present enough to meet the guidelines?

If there is a short fall where could the extra provision be located within the existing town?

If there is insufficient available space, can space be earmarked in the new development by Leeds City Council to ensure the shortfall is made up?

What efforts are currently being made to increase activity amongst existing residents, especially the young? **This is a question for the schools, existing youth groups, young peoples' parents plus the media**

D4 To seek to protect the green corridor around the town and to maintain and improve public access to this area

Can the existing green corridor around the town be clearly defined?
Can the footpaths/bridle paths giving access to it be defined?
Are these means of access in good condition?
Are they well used?

The green corridor does not extend all the way round Garforth. Ordnance Survey Map number 289 gives a good indication of the bridle paths and rights of way in and around Garforth. They are mostly well defined, in very good condition and relatively well used.

If the existing green corridor can be defined, is its existence threatened by potential new developments?

Very definitely.

What steps would need to be taken to maintain access in the light of the new developments?

This is part of what the Garforth Neighbourhood plan is all about.

D5 To seek to protect and enhance biodiversity within green spaces and the surrounding countryside

What evidence of biodiversity is there in the existing green spaces in and around the town?

How has this been established and is there evidence of a change

- a) Over time
- b) As a result of recent developments within and around the town e.g. A1/M1 link, larger housing developments

Is the level of biodiversity threatened by the new developments and, if so, what evidence is there to demonstrate this?

LCC (and Environment Agency) professionals plus some Working Group members are very good at defining the flora and fauna which live in the green space areas.

What measures are required to protect and, if possible, enhance the level of biodiversity?

Identify the biodiversity components in the GNP and make recommendations for their protection

D6 To ensure all children and young people have easy and safe access to play areas

Are children currently able to access play areas safely?

Yes

If not, what changes are needed to ensure they can?

In recent developments in the town what priority has been given to ensuring children have safe access to play/park areas?

Don't know

Have car parking and traffic movements been prioritised?

Don't know

What provision needs to be made in the proposed new developments to ensure the availability of adequate play areas for children/young people?

Put in adequate play areas!

How would safe and easy access to these areas be prioritised in the new development?

Include it high on the list

Have children/ young people's views been taken into account in the past?

No

Will they be taken into account with regard to facilities and access in the new development?

This is up to the writers of the GNP and the planners