

Headway

Issue #31

News on the way we're heading in & around Headingley

January 2010

Headway aims to let local residents know which way we're heading in & around Headingley. Local community associations have got together to share & circulate information – Cardigan Triangle, Far Headingley, Headingley Network, Kirkstall Valley, Moor Parks, North Hyde Park, South Headingley & Turnways. We'd be pleased if other associations joined us. Everyone is invited to send us any news that matters to Headingley. **Headway** is an initiative of Leeds HMO Lobby, the collective campaigning for local housing balance.

Here's how it works: Latest news is published on an ongoing basis on the Headingley Community website. The printed version of **Headway** comes out every quarter. Anyone is welcome to send us items for either or both of these. Anyone is welcome to be on the mailing list. Let us know if you are online, and we can deliver **Headway** by email. See back page for contact details.

The Council's Core Strategy

At the moment, all of Leeds City Council's planning decisions are governed by planning policies collected in the city's Unitary Development Plan, or UDP, a fat 450-page document. These in turn are subject to government policy. But the UDP is in the process of being replaced by a Local Development Framework, or LDF, made up of a number of separate documents. The key one is the Core Strategy, which sums up all the main policies. The latest version of this Strategy (only 100 pages!) was published for consultation in the autumn. Thanks to the efforts of local residents, the Core Strategy recognised the special issues in & around Headingley.



First of all, the Core Strategy recognised the local problems arising from concentrations of shared houses, or houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), resulting especially from demand by students. These included -

- loss of amenity for residents, such as increase in anti-social noise, rubbish and waste, parking problems, and so on;
- population imbalance, and so an unsustainable community; and
- loss of housing for other groups, and especially for families.

Secondly, the Core Strategy put forward solutions, including -

- carrying on with the Area of Housing Mix, which resists conversion of houses into HMOs;
- encouraging purpose-built student accommodation outside the Headingley area;
- and if it gets the powers from national government, setting targets for housing mix in & around Headingley.

A revised Core Strategy is due to be published in the summer.

Leeds HMO Lobby

Slow Progress



Local action on HMOs needs local planning policies. But local councils, like Leeds, also need planning powers - and for this, they need national

legislation. After years of campaigning, the National HMO Lobby persuaded the government that this was an issue. So, last summer, the government consulted on new laws on HMOs. Those who benefit from

HMOs - landlords, students, universities - almost entirely opposed this (there were honourable exceptions - but Leeds University went back on its word). Those who suffer the impacts of HMOs - communities, councils, professionals - all supported new legislation. The report on the consultation was due in November. But the response was so great that publication is still delayed. And we are still waiting to hear from the Planning Minister what action he intends to take.

Leeds HMO Lobby

Headingley Hunted

'House hunting' starts (again) on 16 January for 25,000 students in Leeds, when they begin roaming our streets, looking for the 5,000 houses which landlords have appropriated as second-homes for students. As usual, they



are mostly from Leeds Uni and Leeds Met. And Unipol will be reminding them in their literature and website that houses are cheaper (and safer) outside LS6. But this year, these students are joined by the 'University of Horsforth' (or Leeds Trinity). This new university college has said to residents, "Please be assured that Leeds Trinity University College does not advocate the development of further student accommodation in the LS6 area." But this is what they said to their students: "Most Leeds Trinity students sign up to live in LS6/surrounding area (e.g. Headingley, Hyde Park, Burley, Kirkstall). This is a very popular, student-dominated area and has excellent local amenities, nightlife, etc. There are good transport links between this area and Leeds Trinity so don't let the distance put you off." We are well aware already of course that LS6 is dominated by students - and we don't welcome Leeds Trinity adding to the burden.

Leeds HMO Lobby

Neighbourhood Helpline



The Neighbourhood Helpline is a 24-hour dedicated voicemail and email service operated by the University of Leeds in partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University.

It is available to all local residents to raise any issues of concern directly with the universities. Staff work with complainants, in a mediation role, to resolve any disputes which involve our students. All calls are dealt with in a professional manner and both institutions work closely to resolve any issues which have been raised. The Universities Neighbourhood Helpline report for 2008-2009 is now available - it highlights the complaints made to the Helpline and the action which the Universities have taken in response. The Helpline can be contacted by calling 0113 343 1064 or alternatively by emailing neighbourhood.helpline@leeds.ac.uk

Amanda Jackson, Community Policy Officer, University of Leeds
Tel: 0113 3434073, Email: a.m.jackson@adm.leeds.ac.uk

Royal Park Community Consortium

The Royal Park Community Consortium is bidding for the Royal Park School Building. We have a great vision and a sustainable business plan, but it is obvious that the present view of Leeds City Council is prejudicial to us. Judging from the official tender documents, the council is fixated on a commercial bid. The early commitment to ensuring "some community space" has been revoked. The terms of a commercial bid include complete renovation within two years, market price, proof of funds etc. The RPCC business plan involves securing the whole building and renovating it in phases as funds and users become available. This might happen within two years, but why the hurry? The good news is that the council has patched up the roof, so further damage will be avoided. We are hoping this is a positive shift in attitude. In the coming months we have to persuade councillors to transform their spoken and written support for us into practical measures to influence the Executive Board and council officers so they engage with us long-term for the benefit of the community. The RPCC would like to thank our friends in Headingley for advice and support.

John Lawrence, RPCC

Headingley LitFest

The second Headingley LitFest last March, organised as successful as the first. We might not be a big flouncy affair with marquees but we are significant in a small but perfectly-formed sort of way: Beryl Bainbridge's session was just exquisite, and we provided plenty of slots for local talent, which we will do again during the third LitFest this coming March, in the weeks before the Easter break. As before, venues will include the New Headingley Club, the Bowery and Lento cafés, Yorkshire College, Headingley Library and Lawnswood School. Three primary schools will be taking part as well - Shire Oak, Spring Bank and Burley St Matthias - because playwright Peter Spafford will be working at them as part of a radio project based on this year's theme, *A Sense of Place*, courtesy of East Leeds FM. The results will go out as a podcast at midday on the final Saturday, 27 March - just before the appearance of our star guest, David Peace at 3pm at the New Headingley Club. The full programme will be printed by mid-January and will appear online on our new website (Google it) and at www.headingleylitfest.blogspot.com Ticket information is available from 275 6652 (Rachel) and 225 7397 (me).

Richard Wilcocks, Headingley LitFest

New Stadium Liaison Group

The stadiums are establishing a new dialogue with local residents. A planning meeting was held at the stadium on 9 December, with reps from cricket, rugby, Leeds Met, local residents' groups and local councillors. The aims of the group are to improve communication between the stadiums and the local Headingley community so that adverse impacts of the stadium are minimised and positive ones maximised. At the moment they want one rep from each local residents' association. There will be four meetings of the Stadium Liaison Group per year. It is a great concern that 850 students will be attending the site's teaching accommodation, impacting on local parking and expanding the university into central Headingley. Also, the south stand of the Rugby Stadium is to be rebuilt. Reps from YCCC, Leeds Met and Leeds Rugby will attend Residents Association meetings. Contact the following to raise issues directly with the stadiums -

- Cricket: Helen Longley, tel 0113-203 3603, email hlongley@yorkshireccc.com,
- Rugby: Sian Jones, tel 0113-203 3288, email sian.jones@leedsrugby.com,
- Leeds Met: Louise Hartley, tel 0113-812 9383, email l.hartley@leedsmet.ac.uk.

Residents who find themselves regularly impacted by the stadiums can join a residents' eMailing list called [stadiumlog], which will provide support to residents as well as passing concerns on to the Stadium Liaison Group. Join online, via membership of www.headingley.org.

Headingley.org

HEART



We are in the very exciting final stages of the design for the refurbishment of Headingley Primary School as the new

Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre (HEART). By the end of January, you should see signs of the building work starting, and if all goes according to plan, we should have a completed building in time for next year's Celebrate Headingley festival in early September. Whilst the building work goes on, we will be fine-tuning plans for how the building will operate, and we will no doubt be asking for volunteers for the tasks that we will not be able to pay staff to carry out. This will be an important aspect of the centre's connection to the community, so it's not just about saving money! There are some groups already talking

about how the arts will be integrated into the centre, and we hope to involve more local artists, musicians, etc as time goes on. We will be holding HDT members' meetings and public meetings too, nearer the time of opening, to inform and consult with potential users of the building. Meanwhile, we do still need further money to buy furniture and other fittings for the centre. The building work is covered, but there is much more we could do! If you would like to buy (more?) shares in HEART, please look on our website for how to go about it at www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk

Donations of any size are also welcome of course. The good news is that we were recently awarded £16k from The Green Energy Trust towards solar panels and other 'green' aspects of the building!

Lesley Jeffries, Chair, HEART Board.

HDT AGM



Headingley Development Trust is preparing its Annual General Meeting and hopes to see as many members there this year as they did last. HDT's 2008 AGM saw Richard Lindley win the Dragon's Den event which secured him development worker hours to assist with his project of a Headingley Jazz Festival. HDT wishes him luck with the project. For the 2009 AGM the Trust hopes to see as many members there as possible. The Trust values its members so do come along, where you can put your name down to volunteer or get more involved with projects run by the trust or simply just to voice your opinions. See back page for details.

Dale Ellis, HDT

Shop locally, cook seasonally



Are you a vegetarian or vegan – or do you just love high quality produce and want to cook as much as possible with the seasons? If so, then the Natural Food Store Cookbook is for you. *Shop locally, cook seasonally* was launched for Christmas and is still selling fast. Written by members of the Natural Food Store co-op who love cooking and the ingredients found in the shop, in the gardens and allotments of Headingley, and in Harris's greengrocer, the book offers a wide array of delicious recipes, both for those who can cook and for those who think they cannot. *Shop locally, cook seasonally* is available from the Natural Food Store, price £5.99, or at the HDT stall at the Headingley Farmers' Market.

Natural Food Store, North Lane, LS6 3HW, tel 0113 278 4944

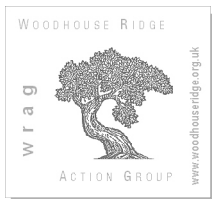
Neighbourhood News



Farmers' Market is at 9.00-12.30 on the second Saturday of each month, 9 January, 13 February and 13 March, in the Rose Garden, North Lane (opposite the Community Centre). Organic vegetables, smoothies, cheese, bread, free-range eggs, baked goods, jams, honey, fish, meat (farm reared and organic). All these are local and sold by the producer. Also, guest stalls every month.

Little Woodhouse Community Forum 7pm Tuesday 12 January 2010, The Civic Hall, Chair: Councillor Penny Ewens, Agenda includes Streetscene (aftermath of strike), Planning (Neighbourhood Design Statement, The Bridge Project, Core Strategy), Housing in Little Woodhouse (affordable and student housing).

Inner NW Area Committee Meetings open to the public, ● at 4pm, on Thursday, 14 January, in the Civic Hall, and ● at 7pm on Thursday 25 February, venue tba.



Woodhouse Ridge Action Group (WRAG)

● Action days: Sundays, 31 January and 28 February, meet at 10am at Ridge Terrace entrance. Expect an

action-packed few hours sawing, pruning, sweeping, litter picking etc., all with the best of intentions, of course.

● Committee meetings: Thursdays, 20 January and 18 February, 7.15pm, at The Chemic Tavern, off Woodhouse Street – all welcome!

The University of Leeds Conservation Society, has cleverly landed a smallish grant (£3000) towards enhancement of a small pond near the middle Meanwood Beck bridge.

Go to www.woodhousridge.org.uk

Headingley Network Membership News

Next meeting, 7.30pm, Tuesday 2 February 2010, in Headingley Community Centre.

Café Scientifique ● 7.45-9.30pm, Tuesday 2 February, Matthew Hill (Consulting Engineer, Leeds Environmental Design Associates), *How to Build a Zero-Carbon House* and ● at 9.30pm, Steve Skinner, local artist, musician and songwriter, presents his uniquely humorous take on matters scientific. New Headingley Club, 56 St. Michael's Road, LS6 3BG, admission £2. Hosted by HDT. For details mailing list, contact ann.clarke17@yahoo.co.uk

Headingley Development Trust AGM will be held at 7.30pm on 9 March 2010 at the New Headingley Club on St. Michaels Lane, LS6.

LitFest David Peace, 3pm, Saturday, 27 March, at the New Headingley Club.

Planning Applications New planning applications in the area are circulated by the Community Planning Officer on the Activists eMail List.

Planning Problems? Just ask Jade! For advice, contact Jade Corcoran, Community Planning Officer, 247 8027 or jade.corcoran@leeds.gov.uk

Buying or Selling in Headingley? To find a family buyer, go to *HeadingleyHomes*. Ring Manning Stainton in Headingley on 274 8646.

Contact **Headway** by email at hmolobby@hotmail.com. To join your local association, for Headingley Network (central Headingley) contact Lesley Jeffries (tel: 274 1011), for South Headingley contact Sue Buckle (tel: 278 2296), for North Hyde Park contact Martin Staniforth (tel: 274 7837), for Far Headingley contact Donald Hood (tel: 275 5575), for Kirkstall contact John Liversedge (tel: 278 5987), for Moor Parks contact Kate Henshall (tel: 274 1550), for Cardigan Triangle contact Peter Spafford (tel: 275 4199), for Turnways contact Lee Davidson (turnways@headingley.org).

Keep up-to-date by checking the Headingley Community website at www.headingley.org. Anyone can post content on the website once they have registered and got a password. Internet access is provided free at Headingley Library, where help is available if needed.

Headway is also available online at www.headingley.org/headway

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