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## Five arrested following Foster Avenue fight *by the Editor*

A PARTY that "got out of hand" resulted in one 19-year-old Beeston teenager and a 17-year-old boy from Nottingham being treated in the Queens Medical Centre after receiving stab wounds in a fight outside the Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church hall on Foster Avenue, Beeston, on Saturday October 3.

Police were called to the incident at around 10pm after receiving reports of a fight outside the hall. When officers arrived at the scene, they were met by a group of around 30 confrontational teenagers and used CS spray in order to gain control of the situation.

The two youths, named as Jordan West and his friend Ashley Goddard, were taken to Queens Medical Centre.

They are expected to make a full recovery.

A Foster Avenue resident who watched from an upstairs window as the fight escalated out of control said: "The group was running around and shouting, completely out of order, and the door bouncers from The Last Post came to help the police. The lad who'd been stabbed was still running around Foster Avenue shouting with the knife sticking out of his neck."

"It just got out of hand."

Five of the boys – one 17-year-old, three 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old – were arrested following the incident. One of those arrested had suffered minor injuries in the fight and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

Four have been questioned by detectives and released on police bail pending further enquiries. The 17-year-old boy from Nottingham was taken into police custody where he was subsequently charged with grievous bodily harm with intent. He was expected to appear at Nottingham Magistrates Court on Tuesday, October 6.

Detectives have spoken to a number of people who were at the party, but they are still appealing for anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information about the fight to contact them.

Call Beeston CID on 0300 300 9999 ext 5636. Alternatively, they can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### Comment *by the Editor*

*"Born and brought up in Beeston, I consider myself fairly familiar with the place and the people who live here.*

*And as a teenager growing up in the town, I was always aware that any trouble I might consider getting involved in with my peers – even as minor as being caught somewhere I shouldn't have been after nightfall – there would be someone out there who would inform my parents. The mere thought of my mother's wrath was enough to keep me on the straight and narrow.*

*I was far from the perfect teenager – but I knew when I'd gone far enough and that any more would get me hung. I've instilled the same*

*principles, which boil down to knowing the difference between right and wrong, into my own two young adults. They weren't perfect teenagers either, but who is?*

*So to learn about what happened here, on Foster Avenue of all places – Beeston's municipal heart and surrounded by CCTV cameras, is shocking, to say the least.*

*A dry autumn evening, people standing outside The Last Post enjoying a ciggie, others wandering to and from other town centre pubs and local events, a group of children enjoying a party for 16-year-olds at the Catholic Church Hall – what place does knife crime have in all of this?*

*This is Beeston. 'None' is the only answer. There's no*

*denying that there's often trouble; Beeston citizens are not a breed apart and it's usually alcohol-induced. Go home and sleep it off after you've been flung out of the pub, where we assume the drinking was at least legal.*

*But to use a knife when tempers flare, you have to have gone out armed with a knife.*

*Tell me, you sweet young 16-year-olds barely old enough to shave, unless it's the top of your head, just where did you think you were going on Saturday night that you might want a knife with you? Wasn't it the Catholic Church hall?*

*Knife crime? At 16?*

*Grow up.*

*Before one of your mates dies because of your lunacy."*

## Chilwell Road traders urged to form group

CHILWELL Road traders are incensed at the County Council's recent decision to withdraw their support from NET Phase Two of the tram, as this has meant that the compensation package proposed to support their businesses during construction of NET's Line 2 no longer exists.

Realisation dawned following ratification of the decision at the County Council's cabinet meeting on September 24. After a change of political leadership in June this year, the County Council decided to withdraw from the Joint Agreement that the previous administration had drawn up with the City Council. With it, the potential for transitional compensation for the Chilwell Road traders

of more than £2 million bit the dust.

Now the individual traders, a number of them owners of small businesses already struggling to keep their heads above water during the recession, are forming a traders' group to fight a collective fight for financial assistance. In addition, representatives from the group are planning to hold regular discussions with NET about practical matters as construction work along Chilwell Road, Beeston, gets under way.

The traders have been invited to a non-public meeting with MP Nick Palmer and Cllr Richard Jackson (the Notts County Council Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways) and

other local councillors with an interest.

### Meeting timings

This non-public meeting will take place prior to the public meeting being held with NET (7pm) at Round Hill School, Foster Avenue, on Friday, October 9. It will provide the Chilwell Road traders with an opportunity to prepare specific questions ready for the NET team, with assistance from the MP and guidance from county and borough councillors.

At the 6pm meeting for Chilwell Road traders only, Cllr Richard Jackson has kindly agreed to answer questions about the Council Council's decision to withdraw from the Joint Agreement.

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