

Minutes of A660 Joint Council Monday 9th December 2013 7.30pm at HEART

Attendance Present: CF, TS, CR, SS, NS, MS, JG, IS, CP, PL, IL, SB, EP, HP, MT, BM, DCJ, DE, LN, MW, JR, GL, PB, LB, SJ. **Apologies:** TB, BS, CH, DK.

Everyone introduced themselves and said why they were against the scheme. **Agreement of minutes** Minutes accepted as an accurate record of 4th November meeting. **Matters arising** Agreement by Chair to try to get to late items submitted for agenda. **Treasurer's report** £466.53 in the bank.

Political & lobbying campaign CF sent out a first draft of open letter (from A660JC to community associations and the YEP) and will incorporate changes people suggested. Hope was always to get scheme stopped before Public Inquiry which gives 4 months to try to change mind of LCC. Need to try to influence policy of parties. Greg Mulholland against it and a number of Labour cllrs but not openly because of 3-line whip. Other two main parties split. In previous A660JC campaigns Labour have changed their position. PB and TB are putting together weekly newsletters to send to cllrs and follow up with an email. Middleton Park Labour Party passed a motion entirely against the trolleybus. This went to CLP who voted unanimously for the motion.

Everyone	Keep writing directly to cllrs, copying in chairs of local Labour Party groups
Committee	Invite Greg Mulholland and Hilary Benn to an A660JC meeting

Chamber of Commerce LCC Economic Development unit are taking winning support for the trolleybus from Leeds/Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce very seriously. Meeting discussed sending a delegation from A660JC to meet with Chamber but only as long as the delegation did not negotiate and only put forward the A660JC's official position. Federation of Small Businesses report has prompted NGT to appoint Argent to work with small businesses in Headingley. Work needs doing with small businesses to make sure they get their statements of case submitted by 30th January. Discussion about whether appointment of Argent was ultra vires and not proper use of NGT/tax-payers funds because NGT not meant to consult post consultation period.

HP/TS/CF	Talk to businesses along the route about getting their statements of case submitted
	Research whether NGT being ultra vires with appointment of Ardent

North West Leeds Transport Forum CF: NWLTF seems to be an umbrella group for West Park Residents Association, Weetwood Residents Association and Drummonds and Becketts Residents Association. They are opposed but have put forward an alternative scheme. TS: It's not the A660JC's position and not sure why NWLTF have put forward their alternative proposal, but thank you to the person who managed to get it watered down. It's clear that public inquiry will give a yes or no to the scheme. Hope that people will stick together. For one group to look at their own needs only raises questions. WP and W have the best environment along A660. A660 never been fit for purpose which is unfortunate but we can't do anything about it. MW: Alternatives are worthless because they will not be considered. TS: Throwing in their alternatives at this point is very destructive. MS: Agrees with TS. SJ: In interests of democracy want to hear opinions of NWLTF but is there any point in inviting them here? CF: Need to keep channels of communication open. They will be players at public inquiry. MW: But there was consensus with what TS was saying before and at beginning of meeting. If A660JC had a case and a position that would help. DCJ: A660JC does – it was agreed by A660JC on 1st July 2013 and is on the web site: **PREAMBLE: This committee notes the threat posed by NGT to the environments of Holt Park, Tinshill, Adel, Cookridge, Lawnswood, Weetwood, West Park, Headingley, Hyde Park and Woodhouse. We also note with alarm, the threat of compulsory purchases of domestic land and gardens. MOTION: This committee believes that it is not incumbent on the A660 Joint Council to propose or support any specific alternative to the NGT scheme. We will continue to oppose the existing proposals. We will continue to defend the unique character of the A660.** CF: this could be extended to include all of Leeds. TS: NWLTF's document contains things the A660JC could be in favour of. MW: but it's tactically wrong at the moment. CR: Why waste their energy instead of following the A660JC statement. We're not going to change position anytime soon. BM: WPRA and WRA left the A660JC of their own accord. Individuals from these groups were meeting cllrs behind the

back of the A660JC but in the name of the A660JC. Strength is in unity which NWLTF does not seem to understand. A member of the Cardigan Triangle was horrified when coming to their first A660JC meeting they realized some people wanted the Headingley Bypass, Bodington P&R etc. Agree with DCJ - we should not waste more time or energy with this. We could have been three months further ahead with the campaign if we hadn't wasted time earlier in year with what is now NWLTF. SB: Can we decide here and now that there's no need to talk about this anymore. NWLTF can do their thing but the A660 opposes the whole scheme. CF: Need to leave option for reconciliation open.

Public Inquiry HP: A660JC and individuals and other groups need to submit statements of case by 30th January. NGT are going to submit a re-written business case the same day. To enable ourselves to respond to this we can reserve the right to amend our statements of case in the light of their statements as long as we've referred to the particular point in the first place in our objections. Discussion about whether to lay all cards on table with statements of case or hold some things back. CF: We get moral high-ground by being frank and open. GL: Worry that NGT will respond to criticisms of business plan in a superficial way to make it look as though they have responded. Money applied for from DfT is going down, money provided by council increasing. NGT have signed docs to say they will be responsible for funding the gap. Clear that DfT want to reduce the amount of money being spent. Only one game in town, trolleybus or nothing, as made clear by Baroness Kramer. IS: Should stress that £250m is at 2008 prices. MT: A small group works towards the next step. DCJ: NS, GL and JG have said they'd be happy to work on the A660JC's statement of case.

HP & CF	To meet and look in detail at procedure
DCJ	To circulate information about procedure/submitting statements of case

Traffic census Big thank you to JG who presented results of traffic census carried out by himself and NS. Done as a result of misinformation from NGT about 70% of traffic coming from Headingley. Data collected on different days. Data collected shows NGT can make no significant impact on problem. Need volunteers next year so data can be collected from different points on same day.

Social and fundraising A660 Xmas party/drink discussed. MW and TB to liaise. MW's band going to put on a benefit gig at New Headingley Club probably in February. BM is having some Stop The Trolleybus Christmas cards made (images circulated). To place order see BM.

Action committee Item deferred until January's meeting.

AOB 1. CP encountered Joe Maiden and spoke to him about trolleybus. BM made follow-up call on behalf of A660JC. Joe v interested. BM & CP going to provide him with printed information including Sam Turner's Tree Report. 2. Tree Report made national news. 3. HP has team working on iTree in collaboration with Sam which should be complete by end of Jan or Feb. iTree allows calculations of value, pollution, water run off etc. Not been done in Britain before. 4. EP wrote to the Civic Trust about Belle Isle Circus but had no reply. CR: keep on at them because Kevin Grady invited her for meeting eventually. 5. Need to maximize publicity of destruction of heritage to increase peoples' awareness. 6. Sustrans in favour of the scheme but have they looked at the proposals in detail? Unless a cycle lane is continuous and segregated it does not work. 7. HP working on arranging an art exhibition showing paintings of heritage that will be lost. Needs volunteers to take this on.

CF	To contact someone from Leeds Cycling Forum to see where the forum stands
Committee	Send letter to Robert Goodwill MP (pro NGT) who was interviewed about danger to cyclists from articulated vehicles

Collection: £150.50 **Date of Next Meeting:** TBA [subsequently set for 6th January 7pm at HEART]