

Minutes of A660 Joint Council Monday 2nd June 2014 7.30pm at HEART

Attendance

Present: EP, MB, JS, DCJ, GR, RR, DF, LN, NS, SS, IS, PM, JG, CR, BM, MS, GG, CF, JF, RW

Apologies: SB, TB, TS, HP, MT, GL

Agreement of minutes

Minutes accepted as an accurate record of 6th May meeting. References to "LCT" mean "Leeds Civic Trust."

Matters arising

- Massive thanks & congratulations to CR for audio and blog.
- EP reported on meeting with Hilary Benn who said trolleybus scheme will all be sorted out by the inquiry, even though he was told that 3 south Leeds councillors were against the scheme.
- Discussion re Councillor Illingworth – in trouble also for opposing the trolleybus?
- Decision to ask Councillor Pryor to attend A660JC meeting to speak and answer questions – then leave.
- Discussion re. Edinburgh Tram Project and its problems, especially technical ones.
- GG to question experts re. such technical problems though it seems there is no-one appropriate to answer them. RW suggested listing questions and asking Inspector to ensure they're answered.

ACTION POINTS: Find out where the electric cable goes.
Suggest trial of electric bus.
Ask Councillor Pryor to attend.

Inquiry Report

- Council / NGT spending a lot on legal team.
- Conjecturing re progress and possible outcome of Inquiry.
- Jones for FirstBus and several objectors landing punches.
- Jones v Henkel – word from Jones' camp that Jones was ecstatic. Inspector allowed Jones to say Metro acting dishonestly & improperly.
- Henkel had to cross out at least two paragraphs of his proof as untrue.
- Haskins – DCJ hurt him over consultation. Think inspector will say it was a poor consultation.
- No risk assessment for standing on trolleybuses.
- Speed limits in pedestrian dominated areas – trolleybus, 15mph but 20mph outside University as more traffic. LCC safety people said 10mph in pedestrian areas, so NGT had to backpedal.
- Discussion of prospects for Inquiry and Report...Jones says it's possible to win the Inquiry but lose the Report.
- What practical things can we do?
- Important to get what's happening at the Inquiry in the Yorkshire Evening Post which had been supportive of opposition but has gone quiet now. No reporter has been sent to Inquiry (short-staffed at YEP).

- Need to do press releases and complain about coverage to BBC.

ACTION POINTS: CF/CR to help with press release.

Putting Case to the Inquiry

- The more people in the room the better as the Inquiry goes on.
- Need to make all points strongly and economically.
- GG to put case on technical problems – only he can do it.
- BM & DCJ – Hyde Park and Woodhouse.

Any Other Business

- CF reported "Space for Cycling" Protest – Fabian Hamilton there. CF asked him to write to Inspector / come to Inquiry. He said he might.
- Discussion re. Cycling in NGT plans – scheme takes no space from motorists.
- Also, 600mm should be allowed between buses and cyclists.
- Suggestion to ask Lizzie Armistead to be called as witness to comment on cycling down A660. If LA busy, someone else like her?
- Could ask Inspector to cycle on route.
- Would NGT/bus/taxi lane be 24 hours a day?
- Trolleybuses would be kept at Stourton.
- Info re. FirstBus alternative on their website.
- WY Campaign For Better Transport having a presentation.
- Drummond & Churchwood's Heritage Expert Report is very critical of NGT's Heritage Audit which is very sketchy.
- Sarah Shorrock has tree photos from Headingley Hill & Woodhouse Moor.
- Need a complete catalogue – collate all photos of trees.
- One aspect of trees is Heritage, not just Ecology.
- Meeting unanimously agreed budget with £750 ceiling for expert to give evidence about BRT if possible.
- £300 budgeted towards Expert Heritage Reports commissioned by Drummonds and Churchwoods.
- No-one thought we should suspend collections.

Collection

£80 taken.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th July