

Minutes of A660 Joint Council Monday 6th May 2014 7.00pm at HEART

Attendance

Present: HP, MT, CR, EP, GG, JK, DK, CF, IL, PL, GR, RR, DCJ, MA, MA, GL, SS, BM, NS, SJ, DW, VS
Apologies: SB, TS, TB, CP, MS

Agreement of minutes

Minutes accepted as an accurate record of 7th April meeting. Agreed not to put report from meeting with Hilary Benn on web site.

Matters arising

Sheltered accommodation around Belle Isle Circus: IL: There are 73 sheltered properties around BIC including some on Winrose Grove. Also 12 properties for residents aged 55+. EP: Regarding Hilary Benn saying that BIC is not a park, in the Metro proofs Mr Flesher says that it *is* a park. He also says trolleybus will enhance it partly because of extra signage. Maybe the signage could say "Beware of the trolleybus." **Protest outside Metro HQ:** Protest covered by YEP and Radio Aire. **Greg Mulholland & Hilary Benn:** GM has revised his position on the trolleybus and is openly against. 88% of people who responded to his questionnaire were against the trolleybus. It's not too late to work on HB. From the report of DCJ's meeting with him it's clear he was speaking from a script. It's important for people from his constituency to email him. Leeds NW is a three-way marginal but HB has a safe seat. Middleton Park put motion through CLP that they're against trolleybus in its entirety. HB angry about this but did admit there hadn't been enough consultation.

Inquiry

Inquiry Organisation: Neither the Inspector nor NGT are telling people what's going on so the A660JC will try to do it. CF will keep going with his daily inquiry reports and was thanked by everyone for writing them. Discussion about making a formal record of the way the process is failing. An old programme is still on the Persona web site and the public are not being kept informed of changes which puts us at a disadvantage as they won't recall witnesses. A lot of documents are missing from the web site and hard copy libraries even though we're being told all documents are online. There is a concern that the Inspector hasn't got all the papers. CF asked to raise this as a point of order, and the non-up-to-date programme though it's important for us to cooperate with inquiry. Important for people to try and keep a log of the process because if it's seriously defective it could lead to a Judicial Review. The A660JC has been promised the Phase 4 to 6 consultation results. These are needed before Dave Haskins finishes giving evidence. DW thanked CR for her audio recordings and blog and this was echoed by everyone at the meeting. **First Bus:** At the moment the A660JC is not formally backing First. We're just in the same boat. Discussion about battery buses and hybrid buses. Nottingham and Manchester ordered lots of hybrids last week. We need to convince the inspector that trolleybus will be obsolete before it's built. **Social Media:** DW reported that the inquiry has been all over twitter; Leeds Civic Trust have set up a fb page and lots of people not connected to A660JC have been debating with them; Jonathan Pryor has stood up to James Lewis on twitter. **South Leeds:** The problem with south Leeds is that there are three Labour Councillors who aren't saying anything. The impact hasn't hit people yet. The promoters keep talking about development of the south bank of the river but there aren't enough bus stops in the south. There's no guarantee people will use

P&R. Lots of people park in Penny Hill Morrisons car park or streets around Middleton. Spiel about regeneration and connectivity is a pretext, it's about helping commuters. **Alex Sobel:** Has been telling people on doorsteps he's against the scheme. **Decision to choose trolleybus:** GL thinks that Metro were told money was only available for a bus based solution and also a trolleybus scheme triggers a TWAO which can push through lots of CPOs and planning permissions. **Weak Points:** At the moment seem to be: demonstrating a need; demonstrating it will bring modal shift; consultation; capacity to manage project; safety. We need clear and compelling evidence that scheme won't ease congestion but will make it worse from a witness who carries a lot of weight.

CF	To ask Peter Bonsall to provide academic research showing transport and economic growth aren't always linked.
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Work To Do

Trees: Trees that will be axed need to be photographed and catalogued so that we can show the Inspector. The promoters seem to be wanting to plant 3m box trees closer together than the current mature trees. In twenty years time, if they survive, they will be cramping each other. **Priorities:** Inspector and Hilary Benn.

CR	To get in touch with Sarah Shorrocks who had been making a compilation of trees.
ALL	Any questions about trees - email them to Helen Pickering

Collection

One member had suggested there was no need to continue with a collection but following discussion about future needs and about individual members spending quite a lot of their own money it was decided to continue. A collection of £75 was taken.

AOB

Cycling: Updated plans still show that there will be a reduction in segregated cycle lanes. **Bus Users:** It was asked whether anyone at the inquiry is raising the point that bus users as stakeholders have not been consulted. The proposals result in a net decrease of approximately 350 seats per hour along the route. One of the reasons the Liverpool trolleybus proposal was rejected was because the scheme hadn't looked at disbenefits to current bus users. **People's Voice:** CR has submitted a demo to PV which currently has about 70,000 viewers.

MA	Send workings for bus seat decrease to Chris Foren
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Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2nd June