

Minutes of A660 Joint Council meeting Monday 30th March 2015 7.30pm at HEART

Attendance

Present: BM, DCJ, CF, CR, GR, RR, LN, CP, MM, DF, JF, JB, IL, PL, EP, IS, CT, NF, SB, MSz, GL, JBl, LB, PM, DW
Apologies: TB, TS, MS, IH, MO, NS, SS, RH, HP

Agreement of minutes

Minutes accepted as an accurate record of 9th March 2015 meeting.

Matters arising

Regarding the deputation about how green space would be affected, CF said his contact at the BBC has left and SB said she has been unable to contact Aisha Iqbal.

North West Leeds Transport Forum Alternative Proposal

DCJ gave a description of the NWLTF alternative proposal for anyone who hadn't been present at our last meeting. She had earlier handed out copies of the latest version of the proposal. BM reminded everyone that two years ago we had voted not to support an alternative. CF pointed out that we had voted not to put forward an alternative, and that this was not the same thing. SB said we need to stick together. DCJ said the reason we'd voted not to support an alternative was so as not cause disunity and that we'd throw this away by endorsing an alternative. JB said that when she lived in London, she used to be part of a campaign to stop an extension of the A1 that was being proposed. She said they just kept saying "no" and to this day, there's no extension. CR said the point CF was making was a fine one ('fine' in the sense of being slim). GL said the timing of the alternative proposal is inappropriate and it should have been made after the inspector has made a decision on the trolleybus proposal. GL said that the council could carry out many of the minor parts of the alternative proposal without the A660 Joint Council's or anyone else's approval. PM said the proposal sacrifices the inner parts of Leeds for the sake of people who live in the outer parts. DCJ pointed out that if we endorse the alternative and allow them to take some of the park, they could end up taking much more. DCJ pointed out that NWLTF had discussed their alternative proposal with senior councilors at the end of January and had only approached the A660 Joint Council at the start of February. GL wondered if there might be communication between the council and the inspector and if this could explain the reason NWLTF is in such a hurry. CF thought this unlikely as such communication would be improper. DW said he supports solidarity. CT asked what the hurry is. He pointed out that if the inspector decides to recommend the trolleybus, we have grounds for judicial review. MM said we should say to NWLTF that we've not had time to evaluate their proposal which is a complex document. NF said it would be wrong to endorse this proposal in advance of the inspector's decision. CF said he thought it would be a mistake to rule out supporting any alternative in the future. BM asked why FOWM or any other group would have fought for the past three years or continue with the campaign if they thought that at some stage in the future, the rest of the group might decide to sell them out for a supposed greater good. JB said she'd like to see us giving a very definite 'no.' SB said we should reject the alternative. DCJ read out the motion we passed two years ago. She pointed out that NWLTF will never come up with an alternative that doesn't harm some areas. BM pointed out that the alternative wouldn't damage Weetwood or West Park, the home of NWLTF. MSz said she doesn't see any good in a proposal that destroys green space and that solidarity is the key. GL proposed a possible motion for us to pass. There was discussion about it. GL said any motion we pass must be firm and comprehensive or it could be taken as approval. He said we must adhere to the principle of the group sticking together as a unified force. DCJ read out an agreed version of the motion and proposed it: "The A660 Joint Council is united from north Leeds to south Leeds in opposition to the trolleybus and re-affirms the principle that we do not propose an alternative to the trolleybus and therefore reject the North West Leeds Transport Forum alternative." It was seconded by SB. Twenty one voted in favour and there were three abstentions.

Campaign Matters

It was decided to have a picnic on Belle Isle Circus from 12 noon until 2pm on Saturday the 25th April and another on Monument Moor at the same time on the following day. The purpose of the picnics is to make people aware that these open spaces would be lost if the trolleybus scheme were to go ahead.

News

IL said First Bus have produced a report of their RouteMaster consultation. It's available to read online at: <http://issuu.com/firstnorthregion/docs/report>.

PM said that there will be a hustings at HEART (Bennett Rd, LS6 3HN), 22nd April, 7.30pm. Leeds North West parliamentary candidates will make a presentation and take questions.

DCJ said that Headingley Neighbourhood Plan will be having a meeting to discuss its transport plan, evening of 28th April at HEART (time to be confirmed later). Everyone with an interest in transport (including walking and cycling) in Headingley welcome to attend.

IS said that Elizabeth Hunter, Transport Strategy Manager, Leeds City Council, will be talking about 'Transport Strategy for Leeds' on April 15th, 10am til 12noon, at the Grove Centre, New Street, Horsforth. Entry is open to anyone, there will be a charge of £1.50 but tea/coffee is included. The talk will be followed by discussion.

Treasurer's Report

This was deferred until our next meeting.

Collection

This came to £110.00.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th April if room available.