

Minutes of A660 Joint Council Tuesday 11th February 2014 7.30pm at HEART

Attendance Present: MR, DCJ, TB, EP, IL, PL, MB, CR, DW, CF, TS, JD, KC, SJ, JR, CP, GR, RR, MA, SS, GL, BM, JG, MW, PJ. **Apologies:** SB, MS, LB, MT, NS.

Agreement of minutes Minutes accepted as an accurate record of 6th January meeting.

Matters arising Leeds Civic Trust: LCT came to see Belle Isle Circus following two letters to them from EP but following the visit they wrote back to say they still supported the trolleybus and that it would be beneficial for the people of Belle Isle and Middleton. B.I. Circus functions as a park: benches, trees, paths [photos circulated]. **Labour Whip:** Evidence of this has been released.

Meetings with MPs: Alex Sobel and Greg Mulholland met with WPRA and WRA on separate occasions. Alex Sobel would be willing to meet with A660JC. **Responses from NGT to Objections:** The NGT Statement of Case is their reply to our objections.

DCJ	Keep trying to get a meeting with Greg Mulholland and Hilary Benn
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Statement of Case Thank you to those who prepared the A660JC Statement of Case. If anybody said in their SoC that they reserve the right to amend it, then they can. It is also incumbent on the A660JC, and individuals, to address the points in NGT's SoC. Everyone can also respond to any other SoCs once they're released into the public domain which should be this week or next week. Dialogue can be continued between now and the Public Inquiry. We can use our responses to add in things we may have forgotten to put in our SoCs. NGT team have put a lot of effort into suggesting their plan is consistent with UDP, Transport Plan Mk III etc but it's not. If sending in updated SoCs need to make these points. The 'park' NGT are offering is 30m x 100m, bordered by NGT and the A660. **NGT's SoC:** TB: p.58: Stakeholder Engagement – is very misleading. CF: NGT refused BM's FOI request for the results of the 2012-2013 consultations on the grounds of expense. We should appeal to Information Commissioner. We could also ask different people to write separate FOI requests for the results of each consultation event. **CPOs:** MB being visited by an NGT representative (Euan Mackay) tomorrow. NGT sent a letter by recorded delivery referring to two previous letters from themselves which MB had not received. Tom Hacker told CP that NGT are trying to get CPOs sorted out before the PI. CF: Suggest approaching all statutory objectors to check that they did receive letters from NGT.

CF	Find out about Information Officer and send info to BM
DCJ	Send out gmail asking people to make FOI requests about individual consultations
TB	Ask Weetwood Cllrs to submit FOI request
MB	Find out Euan Mackay's profession and which company he's from
ALL	Keep records of conversation with NGT, write to NGT confirming conversations
CF	Contact some of statutory objectors

Preparing for Public Inquiry CF suggested setting up a sub-group to co-ordinate preparation. Need to know who's saying what and need to respond to their SoC. MW suggested asking everyone who's going to speak to send in their three main points so we know about any duplication. CF: Sub-committee could suggest people to speak on behalf of A660JC and then see if the whole group agrees. General agreement that this process seemed to be a good idea. CF, SJ, DCJ volunteered to help coordinate. In terms of NWLTF working closely with A660JC, JD suggested we were stronger working separately. If a speaker at the PI is making new valid points the inspector will let the person carry on speaking – there isn't a time limit. **Pre-Inquiry meeting will be on 4th**

March in Metropole Hotel. Inspector will be MJ Whitehead, a civil engineer with a legal background. When we speak at the PI we should be encouraged to verbally expand evidence.

DCJ	Send gmail asking for bullets/summaries and Statements of Case
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Treasurer's report £697.03 in the bank.

Tree Protest Mk II Too many people who would have been involved were writing Statements of Case. The group agreed that resources should now be channelled towards the Public Inquiry.

First Bus: There was discussion about making something from First's announcement of their alternative and cheaper solution for the whole of Leeds, including 200 Routemaster buses and 'infrastructure improvements'. They are looking for funding for this from the £1bn West Yorkshire Transport Fund. DCJ suggested we should be wary of what the 'infrastructure improvements' would be and not support First's alternative without knowing their plans in detail. JD: NWLTF have been looking at minor infrastructure changes which could be made. MW was told verbally by a representative of First that the changes would be minor. GL: First want to make a profit – this is a way of bringing pressure to bear on NGT. CF: Key reason NGT want trolleybus technology is because they would have control. If we had quality bus contracts democratic control of public transport would be taken back. Several people are chasing up seeing detailed plans. TS: We should wait for more detail. DCJ was contacted by someone connected to First and asked about supporting First's plans but she said we could not do this without knowing the details. BM & CF were contacted by a reporter and both said they could not comment on the plans without more detail. BM told that SoCs will be online this week or next so First's will be available then. DW: James Lewis was noticeably rattled on Radio Leeds over this earlier this evening. CF: When most people are wanting to move back to quality bus contracts we cannot endorse First without these. DW: We could ask First to make a presentation to us. TS: In the same way that we've not endorsed alternatives let's not move too quickly with this.

Any Other Business **1.** JG is going to write personally to Nick Clegg. **2.** Has everyone voted in the YEP's online poll? If you're not seeing the poll it might be because you have adblock on your browser.

Collection: £138

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd March