



Leicester
City Council

MINUTES EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2002 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Bodell-Stagg - Chair

Councillor Blackmore (for Cllr. Hunt) Councillor Henry
Councillor Hunter Councillor Soulsby
Councillor Thomas

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45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

There were no declarations made.

49. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR ST GEORGES CHURCH, ST GEORGES CHURCHYARD & ST GEORGE STREET AND FORMER ODEON CINEMA

The Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services submitted a report outlining the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the St George's Church, St George's Churchyard & St. George Street and the Former Odeon Cinema.

The Senior Building Conservation Officer advised the meeting of representations that he had already received from consultations on the guidance. In respect of the Church, a generally favourable response for keeping it in the public domain and maintaining access but consideration should to residential conversion. He had received what he felt were the most controversial comments regarding the Churchyard and St George Street; suggestions made for removing all the gravestones, removal of the trees and the need to create a stronger link between St George Street and the Churchyard. On the former Odeon Cinema objections were received to a

nightclub use and there had been the suggestion of demolition.

The comments made by the Committee are outlined below:-

St George's Church

- The continued use by the Serbian Orthodox Church was supported.
- It was suggested that the Council give assistance to the Church to apply for renovation grants.

St George's Churchyard and St George's Street

- It was accepted that some trees should be removed, but this should be done selectively to enhance those trees left.
- The gravestones should be retained as they are an important part of local history.
- Development in general should be carried out sympathetically to retaining the historical aspects of the Churchyard.
- Members supported better integration of the frontage to St George Street, which was felt to be unattractive at present.
- Any lighting introduced should keep the historic atmosphere of the Churchyard.

Former Odeon Cinema

- Consideration should be given to removal of the covenant on the building which prevents film exhibition, to allow other development to be promoted.
- Use as an "arthouse" cinema could be considered, however its viability was questioned as the size of the venue as a single auditorium may now be prohibitive.

RESOLVED:

that the above comments be taken as the views of this Scrutiny Committee.