



Leicester
City Council

MINUTES EXTRACT

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

Held: WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2002 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

- Councillor Hunt - Chair
- Councillor Bodell-Stagg - Labour Spokesperson
- Councillor Mrs. Chambers - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Henry	Councillor Soulsby
Councillor Hunter	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Chohan	-	Ward Councillor
Councillor Kavia	-	Cabinet Lead Member
Councillor Mugglestone	-	Ward Councillor
Councillor Platts	-	Ward Councillor
Councillor Sood	-	Ward Councillor
Councillor Thompson	-	Ward Councillor

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53. 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.

Councillor Hunt declared a personal prejudicial interest in the item entitled "Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for Abbey Park Road", on the basis of his employment offices being based within the site on which the guidance is based. He left the meeting for consideration of this item.

Councillors Platts and Thompson, attending as Ward Councillors, both declared personal interests in the item entitled "Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Former Mundella Community College" as both are members of the Greater Humberstone Management Board.

Councillor Platts also declared a personal interest in the item entitled "The Towers – Site Development Guidance" as he lived near to the site.

61. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR ABBEY PARK ROAD

The Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services submitted a report seeking the views of the committee on the draft supplementary planning guidance for the Abbey Park Road site.

The Chair welcomed the Councillors, Chohan and Sood, Ward Councillors for Abbey Ward and gave them both the opportunity to comment on the draft guidance. Their comments were as follows:-

- English Partnerships had already undertaken a similar exercise five years ago.
- The consultation had not been done widely enough.
- The leaflet produced had not been sent far enough.
- The ward Councillors had not been consulted and had not been given any information about the results of consultation undertaken.
- A site visit should have been undertaken with the ward Councillors.
- The stakeholders of the site are not clearly identified, were they all consulted?
- Better parking facilities were required.
- Better housing was needed in the area.
- Capacity building was required for skills training
- Better leisure facilities were required.
- Further consultation should be done and the report be rewritten.

Members of the Committee also queried the way in which the guidance fitted in with the Leicester Regeneration Company masterplan.

The Committee also made a number of points regarding the consultation and it was felt that further consultation should be undertaken. Members also queried how many leaflets were sent and where they were sent to. It was felt that more valid comments from local businesses and residents should be received before the guidance was accepted.

Officers stated that consultations had been undertaken with businesses, there had been exhibitions in Leicester College, the National Space Centre and Sainsbury's on Belgrave Gate. It was also pointed out that well over 1000 letters had been sent out. The letting agents for the business units had also been contacted. Colleagues in the Arts & Leisure Department had also been consulted on how to make a better connection with Abbey Park. Officers also stated that if this guidance were not approved then the Council would not be able to object to less desirable planning applications that may be put forward.

The Committee then requested that further consultation be undertaken and the report be submitted to a future meeting. Members agreed that it would be possible to have a special meeting to consider this item. It was also requested that adjoining ward Councillors also be consulted.

On the guidance, Members of the Committee felt that ways should be

considered of opening up the waterside as parents saw this area as threatening on the Belgrave Road side. Also referred to were the pedestrian links which it was felt should be made stronger, to involve Abbey Park and the Space Centre more.

Members also commented that consultation with Ward Councillors should be a starting point when Supplementary Planning Guidance were being written as they had a high level of local knowledge.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that Officers be requested to consider taking further consultation on the guidance, starting with the Ward Councillors, and including residents in the wider areas; and
- (2) that a report be brought to a future special meeting to consider the matter.