



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Kamal - Chair
Councillor Metcalfe - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson
Councillor Thompson - Conservative Spokesperson

Councillor Garner (for Cllr Honiball) Councillor Newitt
Councillor Maw

Also in Attendance

Councillor Bhatti – Cabinet Lead for Highways and Transportation

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89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Act 1992 applied to them.

All members stated that they had received correspondence from objectors to the Aylestone park and ride site, one of the three sites under consideration.

90. LEICESTER WEST TRANSPORT SCHEME

The Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development submitted a report that presented the latest position on the Leicester West Transport Scheme (LWTS) proposal that would form the basis of a report to Cabinet seeking approval to submit a bid to the Department of Transport by 31 July 2003. Scrutiny Committee were being asked to note the report and forward their views to Cabinet.

Officers outlined the updated details of the LWTS, including the results of the public consultation exercise and of further work to be undertaken prior to a bid being submitted to the Department of Transport.

With the sanction of the Scrutiny Committee objections to the proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme from local residents were presented verbally at the meeting.

The objections are summarised below:-

'Location of the proposed 1156 space park and ride site, since reduced to 1000 space, in a residential area and partly constructed on land designated in the current Local Plan as a 'Biodiversity Enhancement Site'. The Replacement Local Plan however denotes the whole site as a Special Policy Area. The need to utilise the Aylestone Meadows site for a park and ride site was questioned, particularly as Fosse Park/Grove Park had been identified as an alternative by several sources, including Aylestone residents, as the more favourable location.

Concern was expressed at the likely increases in traffic, leading to further congestion in an already congested area and of the likely higher levels of air pollution. The need for a further dual carriageway was also questioned, linking a 50mph dual carriageway with a 40mph dual carriageway and passing through the middle of a residential area.

Aylestone Road was cited as already having the slowest average bus speeds into the City. The bus priority measures proposed would only cover some 38% of the Aylestone Road corridor, leading to serious congestion on the remaining 60%.

The need for Park and Ride was questioned when statistical information available showed a slight reduction in cars entering the City Centre in 2002 compared to previous years, particularly during the morning peak period, and therefore the construction of 3 park and ride sites at a current estimated cost of £22.5 million was deemed unnecessary.'

The Service Director for Highways and Transportation responded to each of the points raised by the objectors by reference to the planning and environmental issues that had been identified by officers in the preparation of the report.

Several members, whilst supporting park and ride in principle, objected to the Aylestone site, expressing a preference for the Fosse Park/Grove Park site as the alternative.

In conclusion the Scrutiny Committee voted on whether to note the report and forward their views to Cabinet. The vote to note the report and to forward their views on the proposal for consideration by Cabinet was lost 2 votes to 4, and the Scrutiny Committee agreed not to note the report of the officers.

RESOLVED:

that the report of the Corporate Director of Environment, Regeneration and Development be not noted.