



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ARTS, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Clair - Chair
Councillor Mrs Maw - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Sandringham - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Green
Councillor Hall

Councillor Keeling
Councillor Seare

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39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no such declarations made.

44. BURIAL AND CREMATION SERVICES

Under the provisions of Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7, the Chair advised that he had received a request from Councillor Getliffe to speak to the Committee during discussion on the 'Burial and Cremation Services' on the basis that he was a Ward Councillor for one of the areas where the development of a new crematorium was suggested. The Committee agreed to the request.

The Service Director, Cultural Services presented a report advising Member's of the requirement for new burial land in Leicester, and sought guidance on the way forward with regard to the development of a new crematorium. It was explained that a comprehensive review of the Burial and Cremation Service had been undertaken by an external consultant. The review had identified that Gilroes Cemetery had 4 years of burial land left and that Saffron Hill Cemetery had 3 years. In addition, it had been highlighted that the current cremation service did not adequately satisfy all Leicester's cultural needs.

Land to the south of Saffron Hill Cemetery had been identified for burial land, however, this was currently leased to Aylestone Park Football Club.

MINUTE EXTRACT

Discussions were on going with the football club about their possible relocation. Other potential sights, including one at Enderby and one at Beaumont Park were identified for members with the various implications of each being outlined. Members noted that Shanti Dham had proposed to build a crematorium that would meet the cultural needs of the community. The financial implications of all the options available were detailed for members.

Members received legal advice on the basis of the Aylestone Park Football Club lease and on the Disposal of Land Act.

Councillor Getliffe explained that Beaumont Park was situated within his ward. He expressed his concern that he had not been consulted about the proposals and that he had heard about the possibility of Beaumont Park being used for a new crematorium through the local media. He explained that local people were strongly opposed to the development of a crematorium on Beaumont Park which was currently an open green space that was used by the community for various activities, including sport and leisure pursuits. In addition to the loss of the open space, Councillor Getliffe was concerned at the additional traffic that a cemetery would bring to the area, in particular as Beaumont Park was close to housing. He explained that a petition would be organised rejecting the proposals. He hoped that Members and the Cabinet would look at the alternative areas and reject the proposals for Beaumont Park.

In response to requests from Members the Service Director, Cultural Services gave additional detail on the various options available. Members noted the difficulties in finding appropriate facilities and explained that they felt a long term solution was required which incorporated the needs of the whole community. They explained that they felt full consultation should be held with all interested parties. Councillor Getliffe's comments as Ward Councillor were noted and it was suggested that these be incorporated into the report to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.