

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 28 November 2005 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

Councillor Munir	Lord Mayor
Councillor Akhtar	Councillor G N Khan
Councillor Aslam	Councillor Klein
Councillor Bloomfield	Councillor Lee
Councillor Bull	Councillor Liversidge
Councillor Campbell	Councillor Long
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Malcolm
Councillor Charlesworth	Councillor Markin
Councillor A Clark	Councillor Marshall
Councillor C A Clarke	Councillor Mathews
Councillor B Clarke-Smith	Councillor Mir
Councillor Cobb	Councillor Morris
Councillor Collins	Councillor Packer
Councillor Cowan	Councillor Palmer
Councillor Cresswell	Councillor Parbutt
Councillor Culley	Councillor Price
Councillor Dewinton	Councillor Shaw
Councillor Edwards	Councillor J W E Smith
Councillor Foster	Councillor Spencer
Councillor Gibson	Councillor Stapleton
Councillor Griggs	Councillor Stephenson
Councillor Grocock	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Hartshorne	Councillor Taylor
Councillor Haymes	Councillor Trimble
Councillor Heppell	Councillor Unczur
Councillor Ibrahim	Councillor Urquhart
Councillor James	Councillor Wilson
Councillor A Khan	Councillor Wood

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In respect of agenda item 6 – Nottingham Local Plan Review – Adoption, the following members declared interests:-

Councillor Gibson declared a personal interest in relation to the proposals affecting NET Lines 2 and 3 and a prejudicial interest in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham City Transport Limited and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Grocock declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham City Transport Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Chapman declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham Regeneration Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Liversidge declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Enviroenergy Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Edwards declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed member of NET Development Board, in relation to the proposals affecting NET Lines 2 and 3 and a prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Enviroenergy Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Urquhart declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed member of NET Development Board, in relation to the proposals affecting NET Lines 2 and 3, which did not preclude her from speaking or voting.

Councillor Taylor declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed member of NET Development Board and director of Greater

Nottingham Rapid Transit Limited and Nottingham Regeneration Limited, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Parbutt declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham City Transport Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Cowan declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Enviroenergy Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

Councillor Clarke-Smith declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed director of Greater Nottingham Rapid Transit Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting NET Lines 2 and 3, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor James declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed member of NET Development Board, in relation to the proposals affecting NET Lines 2 and 3, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed director of Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership, in relation to the proposals affecting NET Lines 2 and 3, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham Regeneration Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Wilson declared a personal interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham Regeneration Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

Councillor Haymes declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a City Council appointed director of Nottingham City Transport Limited, in relation to the proposals affecting Eastside, and left the Chamber whilst the Plan was being discussed and voted upon.

51 PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(a) Petitions

Councillor Wood submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor on behalf of residents who live on and in the vicinity of Canver Close, Bilborough. The petition requested the Council to address parking issues on Canver Close, where the increased number of parents using their vehicles to bring children to school was causing access problems to local residents.

(b) Questions

Nottingham Youth Council Elections

The Lord Mayor asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture Services, on behalf of the Nottingham City Youth Council:-

Would the Executive Member for Culture, Community Services and Tourism like to comment on this year's Elections for the Youth Council?

Councillor Unczur replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I thank the Nottingham City Youth Council for their question.

In the blink of an eye I was a Youth Champion and then almost as swiftly I wasn't, although those that know me will recognise that I have always been a youth champion and I will continue to be so. I'd like to congratulate Brendan Clarke-Smith on becoming the new Youth Champion.

It is that time of the year when the Youth Council set out on the campaign trail. We have all been there and we have all experienced the cut and thrust of doorstep politics, well perhaps some more than others.

The 2 years of the current Youth Council have gone by so very fast.

You will recall that the last Youth Council Elections were the most successful to date, with over 5,000 young people from across the city participating and 27 Youth Councillors being elected.

The previous year 240 young people participated and at the time, this was seen as a real achievement and at that time it was.

As you would expect from a good councillor the current Youth Councillors have been committed, dedicated and very busy.

Some of their achievements include:-

- organising events like the last two Local Democracy Days and the “Time2 Include U2” event;
- with the support of the Chief Executive, they have established positive links with the Nottingham Evening Post. Their campaign for a more positive media portrayal of young people won them a national award;
- they have established the first Youth Service Executive Board to help improve and scrutinise the services provided and in the first year undertook a city wide satisfaction survey. This will become an annual undertaking;
- they also played a key role in our local Connexions Ofsted inspection, where they helped the former Careers Service achieve a good inspection, especially for their involvement of young people.

And quite tirelessly they have been championing the voice of young people across the city.

So back to the question and yes, I would like to comment on this year’s election.

Young people from across the City will put themselves forward to represent other young people through the Youth Council. They will be giving up their time freely. Seventy-two young people will stand for election and this process will strive to be inclusive.

As well as statutory and voluntary youth groups, there will be representation from citywide seats including young people looked after, teenage parents, special needs schools, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, disability groups and black minority ethnic communities.

I am also pleased to say that this year we have 13 Secondary Schools taking part.

So let's be clear. This is the most significant and ambitious democratic process for young people that this City has ever seen.

So let's wish them every success and hope that even more schools and agencies will take part and let's also thank:-

- the existing youth councillors;
- the staff at the Youth Engagement Unit;
- the Youth Service for continuing to be 'ambitious' for, not just a select few, but all of the young people of this City.

Nottingham City Youth Council – Reduction of Crime

The Lord Mayor asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Area Working, on behalf of the Nottingham City Youth Council:-

The perception and reality of crime is totally different. Regardless of the statistics that crime is decreasing a lot of people fear for their safety and feel crime is on the increase. What is being done to reduce crime and how can Nottingham City Youth Council help in the fight against crime?

In the absence of Councillor Palmer, Councillor Collins replied as follows:-

This question reflects the reality of crime and disorder in Nottingham. Recorded crime in all areas is going down, from too high a base and not as quickly as we would like, but the trend is still down. This trend is in part due to the partnership between the Council, Police, Fire Service, NHS and Police Authority. We are all working together to look at the causes of crime and tackling crime itself.

So, for example, we have:-

- now directly employed around 50 Community Safety Wardens;
- established task force teams to tackle anti-social behaviour and prostitution;
- helped fund the Sherwood project to quadruple the numbers of prolific offenders supervised by the scheme;
- run joint initiatives with the Police and other partners to tackle burglary and car crime;
- put extra Police and Wardens on the streets late at night to tackle alcohol related violence.

One of the key ways the Council tackles the causes of crime is by addressing the factors in our community that can lead people into a life of crime and leave them vulnerable.

These factors include improving housing, supporting parents, our increasing performances in education and initiatives like Sure Start are aimed at this.

It is a sad fact that young people are far more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. If you looked at some of the stereotypes of young people in the media you would find this hard to believe. Some of what is classed as anti-social behaviour often reflects poor levels of tolerance or lack of communication between groups within communities.

The Council has invested, and continues to invest, large sums in our wardens and community protection officers. A key part of their role is reassuring the community, enforcing civil and criminal law and working to increase community cohesion.

Nottingham City Youth Council can help directly by joining our Junior Warden Scheme, getting the message out about looking after your own belongings and building a dialogue with other communities in Nottingham so that some of the media driven tensions between our communities can be reduced.

52 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

53 COUNCIL QUESTIONS

Parked Vehicles on Pavements

Councillor Wood asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Street Services:-

The propensity to park vehicles on pavements seems to be on the increase and this selfish behaviour often impacts on others in the community. Moreover, it also damages pavements, which is costly and creates a potential danger to pedestrians. Would the Portfolio Holder comment on this growing problem and possibly offer a solution?

Councillor Grocock replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and I thank Councillor Wood for his question.

I would suggest that the majority of car drivers in this Chamber have, at some time, broken the rules of the road by parking on the pavement, thinking it is safe to do so. Lord Mayor, it is not!

I acknowledge that parking on pavements in most circumstances is unacceptable and may cause problems for pedestrians, wheelchair users and those with poor sight and parents pushing buggies and prams. This parking can cause damage to the highway which is particularly noticeable on grassed areas.

Where there are yellow line restrictions in force, our Parking Attendants are able to issue Penalty Charge Notices, as the yellow line restriction includes the pavement. However, where there are no restrictions in place, it is not possible to take enforcement action. In these cases the police have powers to take action if the vehicle is causing an obstruction.

Parking Services welcomes information regarding any locations where there are restrictions in force and regular occurrences of illegal parking on pavements. In order to efficiently deploy resources, it would be helpful if such information included details of exact location and days/times that regular illegal parking is occurring.

At present only Parking Attendants can legally issue Penalty Charge Notices. Neighbourhood Wardens are not permitted to do so. It is, however, intended to review the role of enforcement in the coming year as several local authorities are exploring the possibility of wider roles.

Neighbourhood Wardens in Wollaton and Lenton Abbey

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Chair of the Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Area Committee:-

Would the Chairman comment on the availability of Neighbourhood Wardens in Wollaton and Lenton Abbey?

Councillor Cobb replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and can I thank Councillor Culley for her question.

The initial appointment of Neighbourhood Wardens was received with some scepticism from both Members and residents. However, we were fortunate that three excellent Wardens were appointed and they soon started to make an impact on the Area. They effectively created their own role within the community and soon became familiar and very visible figures throughout Wollaton and Lenton Abbey. They have been particularly effective in liaising with disaffected young people in an area with little or no youth provision and in reassuring the sizeable elderly population in an area with a low police presence.

I welcome the opportunity to praise these 3 individuals in Full Council.

Sadly this excellent provision is now under considerable strain. One member of the team was promoted to another area and although he was in theory replaced, his replacement is on long term sick leave which

left us with 2 working Wardens. Then in the summer our Team Leader left, leaving us with just one.

The remaining Warden is valiantly trying to keep the service going but is obviously limited in how much he can do. The longer he is left on his own, the more the links built up with local residents will be lost. Community representatives were told at a recent meeting of our Crime and Community Safety Working Group that they must no longer ask for help from the Warden directly, as all requests had to be routed via his supervisor. While understanding the need to limit his workload, the residents feel that they have lost that important direct contact.

I understood that more pressing problems elsewhere in the City meant that we had the lowest allocation of Wardens in the City, although we had been given some hope that it might be increased to 4 to allow double patrols at busy times. What I can't understand is the length of time it is taking to find a replacement.

I am aware that there is a problem with recruitment across the City but no consideration appears to have been given to our acute situation. It is likely that a new Team Leader could be found from the wider City Team and surely could have been in place as soon as the previous Team Leader left. Failing that, a transfer from another area to ensure 2 working Wardens should have been a priority.

I will continue to press that our situation will be given urgent consideration before all the initial good work is undone.

54 NOTTINGHAM LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - ADOPTION

The report of Councillor Clark (as set out on page 179 of the agenda) was submitted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Wood that the Nottingham Local Plan Review (to be known as the Nottingham Local Plan) be adopted.

55 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR LIVERSIDGE – EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

MOVED by Councillor Liversidge, seconded by Councillor Foster:-

This Council undertakes to seek accreditation of the East Midlands Regional Local Government Association Councillor Development Charter.

After discussion the motion was put to the vote and was carried and the Council RESOLVED accordingly.

56 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the resignation of Councillor Stephenson from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the appointment of Councillor Sutton as his replacement be noted.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

Council Question requiring a written response

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Chairman of Nottinghamshire Police Authority:-

Can the Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority please tell me how many dedicated officers the Nottinghamshire Force has assigned to the threat to children from abuse on the Internet?

Are there any plans to increase the resources available for this?

The following response was circulated to all members on 12 December 2005:-

I am informed that we currently have 2 Sergeants, 6 Police Constables and 3 Analysts working full time on this issue.

Other officers regularly support them both locally and nationally as appropriate.

In the recent Force Strategic Assessment the importance of this crime is recognised and a business case for expansion is being considered as part of the budget process. It is therefore not possible at this stage to predict with any certainty what the outcome of that process will be.