

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 11 July 2011 at 2.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

✓ Councillor Wildgust	Lord Mayor
✓ Councillor Ali	✓ Councillor McDonald
✓ Councillor Arnold	✓ Councillor MacLennan
Councillor Aslam	✓ Councillor Malcolm
✓ Councillor Ball	✓ Councillor McCulloch
✓ Councillor Bryan	✓ Councillor Mellen
✓ Councillor Campbell	✓ Councillor Molife
✓ Councillor Chapman	✓ Councillor Morley
✓ Councillor Choudhry	✓ Councillor Morris
✓ Councillor Clark	✓ Councillor Neal
✓ Councillor Collins	✓ Councillor Norris
✓ Councillor Cresswell	✓ Councillor Ottewell
✓ Councillor Culley	✓ Councillor Packer
Councillor Dewinton	✓ Councillor Parbutt
✓ Councillor Fox	✓ Councillor Parton
✓ Councillor Gibson	✓ Councillor Piper
✓ Councillor Grocock	✓ Councillor Saghir
✓ Councillor Hartshorne	✓ Councillor Smith
✓ Councillor Healy	✓ Councillor Spencer
✓ Councillor Heaton	✓ Councillor Steel
✓ Councillor Ibrahim	✓ Councillor Trimble
Councillor Jeffery	✓ Councillor Unczur
✓ Councillor Jenkins	✓ Councillor Urquhart
✓ Councillor Johnson	✓ Councillor Watson
✓ Councillor Jones	✓ Councillor K Williams
✓ Councillor Khan	✓ Councillor S Williams
✓ Councillor Klein	✓ Councillor Wood
✓ Councillor Liversidge	
✓ Councillor Longford	

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

32 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS

Questions from citizens

The following questions from citizens were received:

Outdoor table tennis tables

The following question was asked by Mr Bartosz Kali to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers:

Can we please install table tennis tables in various locations within the City to promote sports and active living? The Guardian published an article regarding the popularity of these in London and Bristol. They are usually made of a concrete slab and so cold weather or rain doesn't affect it very much. There are many people that would play, young and old. The English Table Tennis Association can help with implementing a programme.

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor, and can I thank Mr Kali for his question.

I am pleased to report that the Parks and Open Spaces Team are already investigating a number of suitable park locations where outdoor table tennis tables could be incorporated, alongside existing or new outdoor gyms that have been installed recently, such as the one on the Forest Recreation Ground.

They are also reviewing sites that have a supervised presence, such as Woodthorpe Park with the pitch and putt and Highfields Park with the boating lake where we can also provide equipment hire service too.

As you might expect, these investigations include identifying what sites would suit the outdoor tables best to provide some shelter from the wind, etc, as our climate is not quite as consistent as it is in some other parts of Europe where I know these outdoor tables are common place.

Indeed I remember very well trying to play outdoor table tennis in Majorca in the height of summer, when it was even too windy there. So it is not always as straight forward as it seems.

The Parks Team are liaising with the English Table Tennis Association and Sport England to learn more from the recent outdoor trials carried out in London, and also to investigate what external funding opportunities may be available to support this within the City.

Today I am pleased to announce that the Forest Recreation Ground has been awarded over £3.1million from the Heritage and Big Lottery Fund; the total £5.1million programme with further contributions of £2 million from Castle Cavendish, Department of Schools Children and Families, as was, Local Development contributions, plus contributions from the City Council.

This funding will restore and transform the Forest, and while we currently do not have any plans for outdoor table tennis there, we will be happy to consult park users to see if a table or two can be incorporated as part of that project.

Play and youth services in Radford

The following question was asked by Ms Fiona Corbett to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:

I live in Radford and have done for 12 years. Why are there no play or youth services in this area for local people? All services are city wide and target specific minority groups (of particular ethnicity) or are for offenders. My children and others I know do not fit these groups and are consistently ignored. We also have no community centre or outreach work taking place. How do you propose to address this issue which in turn leads to anti-social behaviour and the poor repute of the area?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor and can I thank Ms Corbett for her question. The City Council acknowledges that play and youth provision in the Radford area has over the last couple of years become focussed on the delivery of project-based work. Our recent reorganisation, enforced by government cuts, has sought to include dealing with these issues as part of the reorganisations to ensure that neighbourhoods are resourced to their level of need.

There is a dedicated Play and Youth Team for Radford and it is their role to ensure that there is a good local offer on provision for all of the community. Our Family Community Teams are designed to effectively co-ordinate the local delivery of youth and play services, in partnership with local providers including schools, Children's Centres and voluntary sector organisations, all of which have a duty to provide activities out of their core hours. Our Family Community Teams support a range of activities open to all children and young people in Radford and the surrounding area.

Within Radford, children and young people are able to access programmes and services through the John Carroll Leisure Centre and the Radford Children's Centre. In these settings children and young people can access swimming, breakfast clubs, and play facilities. Local schools in the Radford ward do provide a whole variety of activities including homework clubs, sports, music and dance.

Within the broader locality, young people from Radford are able to access the Hyson Green youth club, and Forest Fields Play Centre, directly delivered by Nottingham City Council. In addition the Council delivers, in partnership, Take One Studios which focuses on music and music production for young people. Also in partnership, we fund Groundwork Greater Nottingham to deliver, on Lenton Recreation Ground, outreach to children and young people two nights a week, as well as activities in the Radford Road Church. Councillor Trimble has just mentioned the improvements to the Forest Fields Recreation Ground, but I accept that none of these are actually in the Radford and Park ward, but they are within an accessible distance to some residents.

Throughout the summer, starting on 25 July, there is a range of activities available for children and young people to access, for example, the Summer Sports and Play scheme for 5-13 year olds is based at Southwell Primary School. Parents and carers can access a range of activity and information via the Council's website or by contacting our

Families Information Service. The City Council continues to strive to ensure that all of our children and young people are able to access a wide range of stimulating activities and programmes. We are also committed to enabling local organisations to meet the needs of their local communities, especially where they are better placed to do so.

I will be happy to meet with Ms Corbett and with ward Councillors together with relevant officers to discuss this issue in more detail. Thank you.

Petitions from Councillors on behalf of citizens

No petitions were submitted.

33 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor:

- (1) the last meeting held on 13 June 2011;**
- (2) the Extraordinary meeting held on 13 June 2011.**

34 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive reported the following communications:

Early Intervention

The City Council's Early Intervention programme had been selected as winner of the Delivering Better Outcomes Achievement of the Year Award at the Municipal Journal Achievement Awards 2011.

The Early Intervention programme aimed to break cycles of intergenerational underachievement and deprivation experienced by some children, families and adults in Nottingham. The award recognised the strong early indicators of a positive impact on the 21,500 families who had benefited from the programme to date through 16 pilot projects.

Judges noted that Nottingham's Early Intervention programme had benefited from bold and dynamic leadership, and commended the strong focus on robust evaluation methodologies, recognised as essential when trialling innovation approaches.

National Communication Awards

The City Council won four gold awards at the national LGComms Reputation Awards 2011, held at the Council House on 26 May.

The gold awards were in the following categories:

- Employee Engagement – for the Workplace Strategy campaign during the Council's move to Loxley House;
- Council Reputation – for the Robin Hood communications surrounding the release of the Russell Crowe Robin Hood film and Robin Hood month;
- Community Safety – for the Safer Nottingham communications campaign with Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Partnership - for the Get Nottingham Working joint campaign with Jobcentre Plus to help people back into work.

The Council also picked up a silver award in the Council Reputation category for the Clean and Proud campaign, aimed at making Nottingham England's cleanest big city and improving recycling rates; and a bronze award in the Publications category for the Community Arrow.

Top 100 Apprentice Employers

The City Council and Nottingham City Homes had been announced as two of Britain's top 100 Apprentice Employers. The list had been published, for the first time, by the National Apprenticeship Service and City and Guilds.

The list recognised excellence in businesses that employed apprentices, and helped applicants to identify best practice in apprenticeships.

Councillor Joan Ducker

Former Councillor Joan Ducker passed away on Sunday 10 July 2011 at the age of 78.

Councillor Ducker was elected to represent the Byron Ward on 3 May 1979 and served on several committees, as well as being Deputy Lord Mayor.

Councillors Gibson and Campbell also spoke about Joan Ducker.

The Council stood in silence in tribute to her memory.

35 QUESTIONS

Broadmarsh Shopping Centre

Councillor Heaton asked the following question of the Deputy Leader:

Would the Deputy Leader please comment on the recent news stories about the Westfield Development of Broadmarsh Shopping Centre?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:

Can I thank Councillor Heaton for the question.

The entire Broadmarsh proposal is to increase the existing shopping centre from its current 42,000 sq m to 136,000 sq m, arranged in individual blocks over three floors. It will include retail and leisure, a transport interchange comprising a new bus station and a tram stop, new public squares, open 24 hour routes through the development, and 2700 car parking spaces as well as a new highway layout.

The application for outline planning permission was considered by the May Development Control Committee and permission was granted subject to a Section 106 agreement.

Now in Phase 1 works, Westfield are planning to undertake various works which will form the main scheme and these have planning permission already. What they comprise is the partial demolition of Drury Walk entrance and rebuilding to provide a new open street entrance in Middle Pavement which we all know, and a new square area. There will also be new retail units. This was considered by Development Control in

January 2011, and again it was agreed to grant permission subject to a Section 106 agreement.

There will also be a change of use of Middle Walk and part of Upper Broad Walk within the existing shopping centre, because they are going to create a food court, so two very very useful developments. However, there have been some recent developments still which give me more optimism. It has been announced that this new area in Middle Walk and Upper Broad Walk which they are looking to create, will also house Hollister and Cult, which I am told, I do not do these things, which Jon may know a bit better than I do, is a retail outlet, an American retail outlet for trendy clothes. I do not do trendy clothes. I do Marks and Sparks myself. This is going to compliment the new developments which are happening around there with the Jamie Oliver opening and the Paul Smith outlets. So, so far, so good.

Westfield have also recently obtained planning permission to refurbish and upgrade the existing entrances to the Broadmarsh Centre from Lister Gate and from Collin Street, and they do need them. These are intended to make the approaches to the Centre more attractive, until such time as the comprehensive scheme progresses. Now the change to the Collin Street entrance involves significantly enlarging the entrance and providing a retail unit with a shop front actually facing onto Collin Street, which I think is a particularly ugly street and it does need some proper life. So again, that is a very positive development.

They have recently announced, in the last couple of days, that they are intending to dismantle the doors on Wheeler Gate so that Wheeler Gate runs straight through, and in addition they are going to take the roof off as well, and they are going to refurbish the shop fronts along Wheeler Gate up to Collin Street. In addition they are going to be refurbishing the shop fronts to the left as you go in with the current Wheeler Gate entrance. Now the whole purpose of that is because we have been talking to them about commitment, they are doing this in order to show their commitment, not just to Phase 1 and 2 that I've described, but also to Phase 3, which is the big one, because the big one, the big development, is the development of an anchor store. Because the whole of that development depends on getting a good anchor store, and they are hoping, indeed expecting, to attract Marks and Spencers, although we do know that Victoria Centre are also vying for Marks and Spencers, and we have had meetings with Marks and Spencers and they definitely

want to move into one or the other. My gut feeling is that their preference is down that end where the transport interchange is going to be.

In addition, myself and Jon, some time ago but they are still interested, have had meetings with Harvey Nichols, and if we can get the combination of those two stores together then I think we are going to have an exceptional retail offer.

At the same time we should not forget the Victoria Centre, which is putting in a multi-million pound bid to refurbish and to expand their offer. So what we should be very interested in as a City is all of this interest that is being shown in the City at a time when retail is actually quite flat nationally, and for me, it is a massive vote of confidence in the City. Having said that, we are still the fifth shopping centre, we have been the fifth shopping centre for over a decade. We actually dropped to seventh and we've come back up to fifth, and that again, even without these developments, is showing a lot of confidence in the City's ability to attract high quality retail.

So it is all good news so far, but we are hoping that this is going to go ahead, and we are fully expecting it. The signs are looking a lot better than they were a few months ago.

Unemployment figures

Councillor Ken Williams asked the following question of the Leader:

Would the Leader like to comment on the unemployment figures this week that show an average of 9.5 people per job in the City?

Councillor Collins replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor.

The latest unemployment statistics for Nottingham, showing unemployment at 6% are very disappointing, but clearly justify why in the local elections in May we made this a priority issue for the Council to tackle. The current position is a reflection of a range of factors, including the impact of Government cuts on public services. Within Nottingham, a particular challenge has been presented by single parents being moved from Income Support to Job Seekers Allowance and by the ending of the successful Future Jobs Fund.

In our election manifesto we made cutting unemployment by a quarter over the next 4 years one of our top 5 promises. We will look to do this by:

- investing £1million in the Nottingham Jobs Fund – a locally designed and funded replacement scheme for the Future Jobs Fund to give young people real experience of the workplace;
- ensuring that more Nottingham City residents take up Nottingham City Council jobs, and ensuring that all entry level jobs are converted to apprenticeships;
- creating 1,000 new jobs in the science and energy sector through our Science City based work around the energy park and approaches to green tech jobs;
- securing local jobs through the establishment of Section 106 agreements in major developments, looking in particular to create some 500 jobs in the construction industry through that;
- creating an employer hub to connect local unemployed people to the jobs that are coming through the pipeline;
- running jobs fairs in local neighbourhoods throughout the City;
- running a social enterprise support scheme to support the creation of new social enterprises and small businesses more generally;
- attracting new job opportunities into the City through encouraging and promoting the kind of capital investment that Councillor Chapman has already mentioned, and in particular, through the Enterprise Zone, construction at the station, lines 2 and 3 of the tram, together with the development of both the Victoria Centre and Broadmarsh shopping centres.

The 1980s and early 1990s under the last Conservative government underlined for many of us the damage that long term unemployment has done within our communities, as a generation of youngsters grew up without any understanding of the world of work, or any expectation that beyond school there was a job for them.

The current government's mismanagement of the economy and their indifference to rising youth unemployment in particular raises the prospect of similar damage being done to our communities all over again.

That is why we are determined to tackle this issue head on, and we believe that the approach that we are able to take will create jobs over the next four years.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Councillor McDonald asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services:

Can the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services please update the Council on what has been done to continue to ensure successful delivery of Nottingham's BSF Programme, and what has been done to make representations to Government about why Nottingham deserves to get further funding for its schools?

Councillor Mellen replied as follows:

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

Through the good work of this Council the successful delivery of the BSF programme has continued. In our close working with the Local Education Partnership (LEP), BSF schools and Partnerships for Schools (the agency with responsibility for the BSF programme at government level), and through our continued commitment we have been able to continue the pace of delivery of the remaining schools within Wave Two of the BSF programme.

The BSF Project Team has received, approved and signed off contracts in relation to Ellis Guilford school on 30 March this year, and Nethergate school in Clifton on 5 July this year. The approximate costs of these schemes are £12.7 million in respect of Ellis Guilford and £3.2 million in respect of Nethergate. Construction has started on the Ellis Guilford site and construction on Nethergate is due to start at the end of this month.

There are three remaining schools in the BSF programme for Wave Two, these are Farnborough School, Bluecoat School (Wollaton campus) and Woodlands School. All three schools are currently in design development within our LEP and due to receive formal approval and contracts signed later this year.

But, as members of the Council well know, Mr Gove cancelled Wave Five of the BSF programme in one of his announcements in July last year. We have continued to make representations to Government around the cessation of this promised and planned for funding. Following the successful outcome of the Council's Judicial Review into the Government's decision to stop the Wave Five funding, the Council submitted a full consultation response in April this year for consideration by the Secretary of State. On 24 June this year, I led a delegation to the Department for Education that included Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North, senior officers of the Council and head teacher representatives for the Wave Five schools. The delegation presented the case for Wave Five funding to Lord Hill, Under-Secretary of State for Schools, and senior civil servants within the Department of Education. We were informed at the meeting that no decision had been made in relation to our case for funding, and no further date could be given as to when we would know whether our consultation response had been successful or not.

In the meantime, and as far as I am aware, the Central Government funding position for capital developments in schools remains uncertain. The James Review for Education Capital was released in April 2011, however the Department of Education has so far refused to comment on the findings of that review.

Article 4 direction – conversion of family homes to student accommodation

Councillor Longford asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation:

Would the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation please update the Council on what is being done to tackle problems in student areas, namely the Article 4 direction to regulate the conversion of family homes into student properties?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor and thank you, Councillor Longford for your question.

The conversion of what have previously been family homes into properties shared by less than 7 occupiers is currently classed as a

permitted development. There was of course a brief period where this was not the case, when the Labour government introduced a change to require planning permission for such conversions, but this was repealed by the Tory and Liberal Democrat coalition, and so in order to gain planning control over such changes of use, we are now required to introduce an article 4 direction to remove this permitted development right, so that we can then re-instate the need to obtain planning permission from the City Council to convert a family home into a dwelling shared by 3 to 6 unrelated people.

So these properties clearly can be occupied by any group of people, but we know that in our City there are particular areas of the City where, most often, that group of unrelated people is students who are studying, and we know that, for those areas of the City where there is a preponderance of such dwellings, there can be problems and difficulties associated with that, and we feel that, therefore, it may make sense for us to make such a direction.

So, this City has made a City wide article 4 direction that, if confirmed, would introduce the need to obtain such planning permission for this type of conversion from March 2012. That effective date reflects our decision to give 12 months' prior notice in order to avoid any potential compensation issues or liability issues if we were to do this very quickly.

So our policy framework, within which planning applications are considered, has to be fundamental to achieving effective management of houses in multiple occupation, and their numbers, locations and effects. So our forthcoming Land and Planning Policies Development Plan document will set out our policy approach, and there will be plenty of opportunity again, through the consultation on that, to take on board a full range of views on these issues

So using article 4 direction powers is part of a wider co-ordinated approach to addressing the issues associated with concentrations of houses in multiple occupation.

Other elements that we concentrate on, too, are strongly encouraging purpose built student accommodation in appropriate areas, and we have seen a number of permissions for those in the last few years, instigation of steps to bring letting boards into the planning and advertisement control regime; use of our licensing powers and accreditation schemes to improve the quality of houses in multiple occupation; and of course

working with both universities on the issue of students taking responsibility within their local neighbourhoods, together with our regular clean-up campaigns in areas where there are high numbers of houses in multiple occupation; our willingness to take action against landlords who dump rubbish items rather than disposing of them properly and working positively with responsible landlords through Unipol to enable higher standards, are all part of the approach that we take to make sure that, for the people who live permanently in our neighbourhoods, houses in multiple occupation are not so detrimental as they potentially can be to those communities.

The people who come to study at our universities can make a tremendous contribution positively towards our City, to its economy, to its vibrancy, and we want that to be the reason that we talk about student issues, not the negatives that we do sometimes hear, and therefore we will continue to work to improve regulation of houses in multiple occupation and we will seek to use all the powers available to us to exert control over these issues for the benefit of our local communities and of our City.

Hackney Carriages

Councillor Morley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation:

With the problem of overflowing taxi ranks leading the Portfolio Holder to impose on-the-spot fines upon Taxi drivers, could she explain whether the problem is a lack of taxi rank space in the city centre, or an over-provision of Hackney Carriage Taxi licenses?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor and thank you, Councillor Morley.

Lack of rank space, or too many Hackneys? Or perhaps, something far more straightforward? Perhaps, simply, drivers not obeying the regulations that exist, and I know that for some Conservative politicians the idea that the rules of the road should apply to everyone is sometimes tricky. It was of course Conservative authorities and the Tory led coalition who decided that speed cameras, for example, were somehow unfair, in that they unfairly penalised people who drove above the speed limit, and so, of course, the Tory and Lib-Dem government advocated turning them

off, and just to give a bit of a nudge, cut the funding for them too, and Tory councils did reach for the off switch, to much applause no doubt from drivers who felt that they alone were best able to judge how fast they should go, and what now? What we found was accidents began to increase again, average speeds rose above the speed limit, and those same councils are now reaching for the on switch again, despite the lack of funding.

So with that background, perhaps Tory Councillors seeming to imply that ignoring double yellow lines or blocking bus stops is ok, is no surprise. There is perhaps some other reason for this.

Now the instant tickets that are referred to is, of course, something quite straightforward too, because it's simple issuing a parking ticket for a vehicle parked in the wrong place straight away, rather than leaving vehicles there for a period of time and then later issuing a ticket, and of course we are only taking this approach in 5 areas of the City where issues of congestion and public safety have become an issue, examples of this being Milton Street, Beastmarket Hill and Station Street. All drivers will be warned first, and if they do not move, a ticket will be issued. It seems quite reasonable to me that taxi drivers should comply with both the conditions of their license, and with the rules that all motorists need to comply with, in that they should only wait where it is legal to do so, and all we are asking is that the drivers do that.

So are there too few ranks? Well we can look at some comparators. In terms of taxi rank space, Nottingham has 411 Hackney carriage licenses, with 93 day time rank bays, rising to 186 rank spaces at night. Bristol has 787 Hackney carriage licenses and 120 spaces day and night. Derby has 344 Hackneys, and 50 spaces during the day time, rising to 82 at night. Sheffield's on 850 Hackneys and 250 spaces. So, with those comparators, it is clear that the relationship between the number of Hackneys that we license and the number of ranks is fairly healthy, and of course, through discussion with the Hackney Carriage Association, we are looking at providing additional space both on Station Street and Peachy Street, which should provide additional spaces. Hackney carriages as well have that other crucial difference to other licensed private hire vehicles, in that they can ply for hire, and so moving around in the City, rather than waiting on double yellow lines or in bus stops is a reasonable thing for them to do, and our Hackney carriages are afforded, rightly, access to our bus lanes and through bus gates, giving them far

greater access to the centre of our City than ordinary vehicles or private hire vehicles.

Or are there too many Hackney carriages? I've already said that we have fixed the limit the amount of Hackney carriage licenses we offer at 411 and this has not changed for quite a number of years, and as you can see from the figures from other cities, we are not among the highest numerically, and we have not increased that number for about 5 years. In terms of other Core Cities, there are 1,500 Hackney licenses in Birmingham, over 1,000 in Manchester, 1,400 in Liverpool, and 537 in Leeds. So I think, again, we have nowhere near the number of other Core Cities, and I would ask whether people who use our City centre sometimes at night or in the very early morning, would consider there are too many or too few? And of course, the current government is in favour, somewhat contradictorily, but then what is new, of both deregulation and localism. Deregulation of Hackney numbers would lead to the City being unable to set a fixed number. We have historically resisted this because we are of the view that the current number is appropriate for Nottingham, and so, in this case, local circumstances and localism would, for me, override a nationally driven deregulation approach.

So in conclusion, I think this issue is simple, all we are seeking is for drivers to obey the regulations that are there so that our City centre can be safe, and our buses can use the stops provided, and if Hackney drivers, like any other driver, park on double yellow lines or in bus stops, or in pay-and-display bays without paying, just like any other motorist, they can expect a penalty and that is what this is really about.

Wollaton Hall

Councillor Parton asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers:

In light of the windfall that the Council will receive from Wollaton Hall hosting the production of a major forthcoming Hollywood movie, does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that in order to accommodate the anticipated increased visitor numbers and to compensate local people for the closure of the park, some of the monies received should be used to rejuvenate the Wollaton Park children's play area?

Councillor Trimble replied as follows:

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

Can I straight away dismiss the £1 million windfall printed in the Nottingham Post letters page as sheer fantasy, bordering on lunacy. Whilst the fee being received is welcome, it is absolutely not so substantive that it can deal with all the wishes and pressures that the site currently has. But, like all commercial agreements, a contract was required to be signed that prevents me from releasing the details of the exact fee received. I believe that Councillors will appreciate the restrictions placed on me. I believe it would also undermine any future negotiations on any other filming opportunities that might come our way.

Wollaton Hall and Deer Park is a fantastic park to have on your doorstep if you live in Wollaton. It is a great park for the whole of Nottingham, indeed it is a great regional and national resource, as it is one of the country's finest Grade One listed Elizabethan mansions. Which is exactly why the City Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, ERDF, and other funding partners have invested £9 million in Wollaton Hall recently in a Phase One improvement programme. We are hoping to go on and carry out future phases but, like many things, that may depend on Councillor Parton's Conservative led Coalition Government's savage and unfair budget cuts on Nottingham.

Lord Mayor, it has been the most exciting, worst-kept secret in Nottingham for weeks now, but I am now able to confirm that Wollaton Hall will feature as a location in the latest acclaimed Batman trilogy of films, The Dark Knight Rises. Councillor Chapman only remembers Adam West.

This is an incredible opportunity for the site, experience shows that locations which feature in major films are given a boost in publicity and in visitor numbers, and I am sure that this will enable Wollaton Hall in attracting many more visitors in order to help boost tourism in Nottingham.

The attraction of the film to Wollaton has already brought benefits to Wollaton Hall. As well as the £9 million invested recently that I previously mentioned, the film company will be paying for a number of improvements. These include the Great Hall and Entrance Hall both being redecorated and the main inner entrance hall has been re-gilded.

Plus a brand new carpet has been woven for the salon, replacing a tired 1980's carpet.

EM Media are a very successful agency based in Nottingham which has attracted lots of major films to Nottingham recently, and they have already said that this is a real coup for Wollaton Hall and for the City.

Lord Mayor, we have made fantastic improvements in our parks and open spaces over the last few years, you are probably fed up of me talking about 32 new playgrounds, and we have invested £5 million in our parks and open spaces in each of the last 2 years, much of it aimed at our most deprived communities.

It should also be noted that Councillor Parton's government has withdrawn all playground funding as soon as it came in. Fortunately, in Nottingham we got all of ours done in time and got it done quickly and efficiently. Lots of councils lost playground funding that had already been discussed with the local communities. Who has done that?

Area Committees have played a major role in all of our parks and open spaces improvements. Clifton and Basford have done wonders from their Area Capital and section 106, and I would be happy to have that conversation with Councillor Parton on how he can be a part of that.

I obviously want to ensure that we use what resources we can to help improve Wollaton, which includes the playground, and further enhance this gem for Nottingham. Whilst at the same time I also want to make sure that we look after our most deprived communities.

Thank you Lord Mayor.

Workplace Parking Levy – ANPR

Councillor Culley asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation:

Following consultation with Nottingham's business leaders regarding the Workplace Parking Levy, can the Portfolio Holder share with us their thoughts on the introduction of a £95,000 'spy car' as part of the Labour's Orwellian approach to enforcing the levy, and how they feel this would encourage job creation in the City?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:

Thank you, Lord Mayor and thank you, Councillor Culley.

There is a bit of a theme emerging here in terms of whether or not we should enforce things, and I do sigh for the days when we used to have questions from Councillor Sutton that appeared to be written by the Evening Post to create a story, and now the questions appear to be following a digest of last week's news. Anyway.

The business community has been fully engaged and consulted throughout our development of the Workplace Parking Levy and in the run up to the start of WPL licensing, the most recent phase, workshops were held with a number of the largest employers in the City to ensure full understanding of the purpose of the WPL and how it will be administered. Since then there have been further workshops and dialogue with many employers in the City who are keen to ensure that they fully comply with the requirements of the scheme. The business community of course also regularly tell us that they want a public transport system fit for the 21st century and with the Workplace Parking Levy that is exactly what they will get.

So, to ensure effective compliance and enforcement of the WPL, Nottingham City Council has approved a contract for the delivery of an ANPR, or automatic number plate recognition vehicle. ANPR technology of course is nothing new, it is something we use to enforce many of our traffic regulations, including bus lanes, in some cases double yellow lines, bus gates, and so as a piece of technology, it is not new, it is not different, it is simply being used for this purpose as it is for many purposes already across the City. We also use it to monitor access to off-street car parks like the Broadmarsh, to enable people to pay in advance for their parking, put in their registration number and access our car parks. That is either enabling or Orwellian, depending on how you choose to look at it. So this version of use of ANPR technology collects information on vehicles parked at an employers premises and it enables the smooth and efficient enforcement of the WPL scheme, through its ability to carry out multiple and large scale surveys at employers' sites. Using this technology minimises the administrative burden, both for us as a council and for employers, whilst providing robust evidence to be used to help ensure employers comply with their legal obligations under the scheme, and of course its purpose is to enable us to take enforcement

action against employers if necessary, because of course it is employers who are liable. This is not about individual tickets for individual people, it is about an efficient and effective way of monitoring employers, so that WPL can spend only 10% of its income on administration and enforcement, compared to the 40% of income in London's road user charging scheme.

And for our City, the case for the WPL is of course twofold. Firstly, the revenue from the scheme will be used to improve public transport, and Councillor Chapman has already alluded to that, by helping to fund two more lines of the tram, the Nottingham Station project, and to support the popular Link Bus Network. Secondly, the introduction of the charge will help tackle the growth in congestion by encouraging more employers to actively manage and reduce the number of free or relatively cheap work place parking places that they provide.

Public transport investment contributes to job creation through both the initial delivery and construction phases and, once established, contributes to improving mobility and accessibility within the conurbation, which again supports business and generates economic growth. NET Phase Two alone is predicted to generate long term employment growth of up to 10,000 jobs which could boost the local economy by around £390 million per year. I think that is a very significant amount of both economic growth and jobs, and I think that by using technology to enforce the WPL, thereby ensuring that we have the income to do that building of lines two and three of the tram, we can clearly see that the investment of technology for the enforcement is worth it to bring those 10,000 jobs and nearly £400 million of improvement to the local economy, to our City.

The station hub, of course, is already providing local employment and training opportunities, and the wider station improvements will do so to a greater extent and again will drive the local economy.

So it is simple, as Councillor Chapman said, no WPL, no tram, no station, and no Link Bus network. So, given that we at least want to drive our City economy forward, give job prospects to local people, and make us a City that is economically active, sustainable and fit for the future, we need WPL to work well, and, therefore, we do need to be able to enforce it, and we do need to embrace modern technology in order to be able to do so, whatever the Conservative perspective on enforcement seems to be today.

36 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

The report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out on pages 73 to 74 of the agenda, and the separate handout circulated with the agenda, was submitted.

RESOLVED that on the motion of Councillor Parbutt, seconded by Councillor Klein, the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for 2010/11 be accepted.

37 MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN – ELECTED MAYOR

Moved by Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Clark:

“This Council believes that robust city leadership is already provided for in Nottingham through:

- strong civic leadership from a Lord Mayor and Sheriff
- clear political leadership through an elected Leader and Executive Board
- accountability through scrutiny

It believes political arrangements should be chosen by its elected councillors who are accountable to the electorate for the way it organises business.

It would welcome clarity on an option to re-introduce a committee system.

It opposes moves by central Government to impose further organisational changes as these are not compatible with the principle of localism.

It believes that the cost of introducing a mayor and then maintaining one indefinitely, without any local powers to abolish the post, does not represent value for money, particularly in the current financial climate.

It is opposed to the introduction of an elected mayor.”

After discussion the motion was put to the vote and was carried.

RESOLVED that the motion be carried.

38 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED that it be noted that Councillor Eileen Morley was now a substitute on Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor Steve Parton had been appointed to the Committee in her place, and he was now also the Chair of Scrutiny Review Panel 3.

39 STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED that Standards Committee membership be agreed as follows:

Labour

**Councillor S Fox
Councillor C Jones
Councillor C McCulloch
Councillor T Neal
Councillor J Urquhart**

Conservative

Councillor E Morley

Independent

**Ms B Denby
Mr D Hibbert
Mr T Savage
Mr B Wells**

The meeting concluded at 4.45 pm

COPY OF WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR CLARK OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 11 JULY 2011

How much did May's referendum cost to run in Nottingham and what would it have cost if there had not been a City Council election on the same day?

Councillor Chapman responded as follows:

The final cost of running the referendum in Nottingham is not known at the moment as invoices and recharges are still being processed.

The referendum costs will be met from central government funds, which were advanced to the Counting Officer prior to the referendum to cover all necessary expenditure.

The funds are calculated using costing assumptions under each head of expenditure and totalled up to an overall recoverable amount, which is then agreed in the Fees and Charges Order.

The overall recoverable amount for Nottingham City Council for the referendum was £273,587 of which £205,190.50 was received as an initial advance of 75%.

As the referendum was conducted on the same day as the local election the costs of certain elements of expenditure (e.g. polling staff, polling station hire, poll cards and postal votes etc.) will be split 50/50 between the Electoral Commission and the City Council.

However, items of expenditure specific to the referendum or due to directions made by the Electoral Commission's Chief Counting Officer will be proportioned to the referendum costs at 100%.

The deadline for return of our Referendum Expenses to the Electoral Commission is 5 January 2012, however as soon as we have the final figures we will make these available to you.

It will be at this point that we will also be able to ascertain how much the referendum would have cost had it been held on its own.