

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Resolutions and proceedings of the Meeting of the City of York Council held in The Guildhall, York on Thursday, 4th August, 2011, starting at 6.30 pm

Present: The Lord Mayor (Cllr David Horton) in the Chair, and the following Councillors:

ACOMB WARD

Simpson-Laing

BISHOPTHORPE WARD

Galvin

CLIFTON WARD

Douglas
King

DERWENT WARD

Brooks

DRINGHOUSES & WOODTHORPE WARD

Hodgson
Reid

FISHERGATE WARD

Taylor

FULFORD WARD

Aspden

GUILDHALL WARD

Looker
Watson

HAXBY & WIGGINTON WARD

Cuthbertson
Firth
Richardson

HESLINGTON WARD

Levene

HEWORTH WARD

Boyce
Funnell
Potter

HEWORTH WITHOUT WARD

Ayre

HOLGATE WARD

Alexander
Crisp
Riches

HULL ROAD WARD

Barnes
Fitzpatrick

HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK
WARD

Hyman
Orrell
Runciman

MICKLEGATE WARD

Fraser
Gunnell
Merrett

OSBALDWICK WARD

Warters

RURAL WEST YORK WARD

Gillies
Healey
Steward

SKELTON, RAWCLIFFE & CLIFTON
WITHOUT WARD

Cunningham-Cross
McIlveen
Watt

STRENSALL WARD

Doughty
Wiseman

WESTFIELD WARD

Jeffries
Burton
Williams

WHELDRAKE WARD

Barton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Scott, Semlyen and D'Agorne

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25. Members were invited to declare at this point on the agenda any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda – that is, the petition and notice of motion relating to Union Terrace Car Park.

The following **prejudicial** interests were declared:

Councillor	Description of Interest
Looker	Employed by York St John University (YSJU)

Cllr Looker left the Chamber at this point and took no further part in the meeting.

The following **personal** interests were declared:

Councillor	Description of Interest
Alexander	Member of GMB Union, which has premises on Gillygate Former employee of YSJU, working on widening participation in higher education
Barnes	Member of Unite
Crisp	Member of retired section of Unison
Cuthbertson	Former member of YSJU staff, on a sessional/termly basis
Douglas	Lodger a student at YSJU
Fraser	Member of retired section of Unison and Unite (ACTS/TGWU Sections)
King	Retired member of TGWU, which has premises on Gillygate
Richardson	Member of Unite
Hodgson	Member of Unison
Simpson-Laing	Member of Unison Working for a charity which receives funding from YSJU's 'Aim Higher' programme
Williams	Member of Unison and Unite

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

26. The Lord Mayor reported that a total of eleven members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting in relation to Union Terrace Car and Coach Park, one of whom would be presenting the petition referred to at agenda item 3A. Each was invited to speak for three minutes, in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Dr Catherine Snape voiced the concerns of patients, doctors and staff at the Gillygate surgery that closure of the car park would prevent vulnerable patients from being able to see the doctor when they needed to. She urged withdrawal of the proposed development or, at the least, a full impact assessment of its effect on local people and access to health care.

Mr Matthew Greenwood expressed the view that the information to be presented to Cabinet was of poor quality and stated that an independent expert on coach safety had advised that none of the proposed consultation options was feasible in terms of coach parking.

Mrs Jill Richards spoke as the co-owner of Wackers on Gillygate and a member of the Save the Union Terrace Car Park group. She highlighted the importance of tourism to York's economy and the number of jobs at risk and urged Members to vote for withdrawal of the planned sale.

Mr David Richards, also a co-owner of Wackers, expressed concerns about the five proposed consultation options in terms of their safety and potential to disrupt traffic. He urged Members to abandon plans to sell any part of the site.

Mr John Cook spoke as the general manager of Barnitts, commenting on the detrimental effect that closure of the car and coach park would have upon Barnitts and other businesses in the city centre, which already had to contend with reduced parking facilities and competition from out of town developments.

Mrs Regina Longjaloux spoke as the proprietor of a tour guide company, highlighting the benefits of Union Terrace for coach tour operators and the effect that closure would have upon York's reputation as a tourist destination.

Mr Mike Fisher commented that the proposal was based upon two false assumptions; firstly, that YSJU would continue to expand and secondly that it could expand only onto the Union Terrace site.

Mr Dennis Martin spoke in favour of exploring alternative options for the site in an objective manner, highlighting the drawbacks of Union Terrace car park in terms of occupancy, pedestrian safety and toilet facilities.

Mr David Chesser, Pro Vice Chancellor (Resources) at YSJU, gave a statement outlining the university's reasons for wishing to expand onto the Union Terrace site, the cultural and economic contribution made by YSJU to York, and the work being done to address the concerns expressed by objectors to the sale.

Mr Trevor Fenwick, of the Save the Union Terrace Car Park group, raised concerns that the matter had been discussed at a Labour

Group meeting to which objectors had not been invited and stated that the consultation proposals should include an option not to sell the site.

Mrs Anne Braithwaite, also representing the Save the Union Terrace Car Park group, outlined the launch of the campaign and presented a petition, signed by over 22,000 people, protesting against the sale.

UNION TERRACE CAR PARK

27. A Petition

The petition presented by the last speaker on behalf of the Save Union Terrace Car Park group was debated by Members, in accordance with the Council's agreed process for petitions signed by more than 1,000 people. Following debate, it was

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Cabinet meeting scheduled to follow the Extraordinary meeting of Council, for Cabinet to take into account when determining their decision in respect of the Union Terrace Car and Coach Park site.

B Notice of Motion

It was moved by Cllr Runciman and seconded by Cllr Reid, that:

"Council notes the proposed sale of Union Terrace Car Park to York St John University in light of the regrettable lack of public consultation and the widespread opposition to this scheme from across the city, calls on Cabinet to agree that the current proposal for the sale of this valuable asset be withdrawn."

A named vote was then requested and taken on the motion, with the following result:

For	Against	Abstained
Aspden	Alexander	
Ayre	Barnes	
Barton	Boyce	
Brooks	Burton	
Cuthbertson	Crisp	
Doughty	Cunningham-Cross	
Firth	Douglas	
Galvin	Fitzpatrick	
Gillies	Fraser	
Healey	Funnell	
Hyman	Gunnell	
Orrell	Hodgson	
Reid	Horton (Lord Mayor)	

Richardson	Jefferies	
Runciman	King	
Steward	Levene	
Taylor	Mcllveen	
Warters	Merrett	
Watt	Potter	
Wiseman	Riches	
	Simpson-Laing	
	Williams	
20	22	0

The motion was therefore declared LOST by 22 votes to 20 and it was

RESOLVED: That the above notice of motion not be approved.

Councillor David Horton
LORD MAYOR OF YORK

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 9.10 pm]