
MEETING	DECISION SESSION - CABINET MEMBER FOR CITY STRATEGY
DATE	8 MARCH 2012
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR MERRETT (CABINET MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS HEALEY, HODGSON, REID, SEMLYEN AND WATSON.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting, the Cabinet Member is asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests he may have in the business on the agenda.

Personal non prejudicial interests were declared as the Cabinet Member acknowledged that he had involvement in the original decisions on Mayfield Grove. Also on the City Centre Footstreets as a member of the Working Group.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st February 2012 be approved and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

43. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - DECISION SESSION

It was reported that there had been 9 registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. The Cabinet Member also granted 5 requests to speak from Council Members.

- i) The Future Management Arrangements for Public Open Space at Mayfield Grove York.

Ann Leggett, David Munley and Jacquie North spoke on behalf of the Chase residents Association. They thanked the Council for taking on the matter and welcomed the opportunity to take part in the process to establish appropriate management arrangements. They advised that they were disappointed with

the framework in that in their opinion it was overly prescriptive and while it informs on what is required, it doesn't involve the community sufficiently. They felt that any management board should include local education establishments, residents groups, conservationists and ecologists but the core representation should be local residents. They requested that some interim arrangements be drawn up to ensure work such as the mowing of the meadow is carried out.

Barry Potter spoke on behalf of YNET who advised that 15 years ago he had worked with the Council to devise an innovative scheme to look after the land. Whilst he acknowledged that the local community and wider community should have involvement in the management framework, he stated that YNET were already looking after the land and had worked hard to do so. He advised that he welcomed any support from the local community and that in general he was pleased with the report.

Brian Bevan spoke in support of Anglers who use the site. He advised that people had been fishing there for at least 50 years and asked that whoever takes control of the land recognise this fact and do not prevent fishing from continuing. He gave his support to YNET who he said has done a good job of looking after the site and had allowed fishing.

Councillor Semlyen spoke as Ward Councillor. Instead of focusing on any negatives, she advised that the site is a beautiful piece of land for recreation and for visiting groups. Residents have engaged with the Council and developers to try and sort the situation out, in particular the Chase Residents Association who had been particularly persistent. She welcomed the chance for residents to be involved in managing the site.

Councillor Watson spoke as a Council Member. He was keen to ensure YNET still had full involvement at the site and commented in particular that their knowledge and skill had ensured the pond is well looked after. He distributed a photograph showing the poor access for disabled anglers and asked that this be improved on in future.

Councillor Healey spoke as the City Strategy Spokesperson for the Conservative Group. He advised that he was disappointed

with the time taken to get to this point and hoped that from now on there would be some progress.

Councillor Reid spoke as Ward Councillor. She welcomed the progress and the work that had been undertaken by all involved. She had the following observations on the report and framework:

- Paragraph 13 implies restrictions when the site should be available all year round.
- Paragraph 18 – Interim management arrangements have not been satisfactory.
- Paragraph 27 – It is local residents who have drawn attention to and campaigned for something to be done about the situation.
- The framework contains no details about access for all.
- All decisions should be taken in public.

44. THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AT MAYFIELD GROVE, YORK.

The Cabinet Member considered a report which summarised the background and history relating to the Mayfield Grove site and to set out for agreement the actions required and the process to be followed to secure long term management of the land for public benefit as per the section 106 agreement signed and dated 2 June 1997.

The Council had produced a Management Framework which was attached at annex 4 to the report. It set out the minimum requirements necessary for the successful management of the land at Mayfield Grove. It had been informed by the ongoing informal management arrangements and dialogue with York Natural Environment Trust (YNET) and Chase Residents Association (CRA) over recent months.

Having taken into consideration the representations made by the public speakers and Council members, the Cabinet Member made the following comments:

- Apologised for the ongoing situation and the fact that the land transfer is still to be finalised.
- Acknowledged the efforts made by local residents in trying to discover who has responsibility for the land. As a result

the Council has paid attention and a solution was now trying to be found. The key issue is to move forward.

Option 2 was approved with the amendments detailed below. The Cabinet Member suggested the changes to take into account the representations made by interested parties and council members at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Option 2 be approved and the process set out in the report, with the following amendments, be agreed:

- (i) That the Habitat Plan and Site Layout plan be improved for the final copy of the Management Framework.
- (ii) The Ecological Assessment should be made more specific to York species, particularly in relation to Bats etc but without being over-prescriptive.
- (iii) Section 1.4 be amended to recognise that there is currently not general disabled access to the site and improvements could be made.
- (iv) The value of the land as a community resource should be upfront in the Management Framework.
- (v) The Community involvement sections 3.3 and 3.4 should be strengthened and potentially based around a reinvigorated 'friends of' model.
- (vi) That the final wording be delegated to the Director of City Strategy in conjunction with the Cabinet Member.
- (vii) That the Council would seek to ensure that the site was managed according to the draft management framework for the interim period until a new managing organisation was established.

REASON: In order to confirm the process to be followed to secure the effective long-term management arrangements for land at Mayfield Grove York as per Section 106 agreement dated 2nd June 1997.

CLLR D MERRETT, Cabinet Member

[The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 6.00 pm].