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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND LEISURE**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**Subject: Consultation results on the Woodhouse Moor and Monument Moor car park proposal**

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**Electoral wards affected:**  
Hyde Park and Woodhouse

**Specific implications for:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the gap

Eligible for call In

Not eligible for call in  
(Details contained in the report)

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**Executive Summary**

This is a supplementary report to the report circulated with the Agenda papers which summarises the results obtained from two consultation sessions on the proposed Monument Moor car park. Information on the background to the proposed car park along with the various comments and concerns raised by local people attending the consultation sessions are included.

**1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The report provides information for Members on the responses given by local community members regarding the proposals to install a car park on Monument Moor.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 The report on today's Executive Board Agenda made mention of two surveys conducted on Woodhouse Moor to determine visitor information for the Park Management Plan. This entailed a face to face survey with 206 respondents during the 2003 May Bank holiday period. In addition there was also a household survey to 30,000 randomly selected residences in Leeds conducted in 2004.
- 2.2 The above surveys elucidated complaints over availability of car parking. Thus the household survey estimated that there were 1, 072,482 visits made by the public of which 15.27% came by car (163,768 car visits per annum). In addition this survey ascertained that 26,812 residents who use the site complained of car parking problems when visiting the Park. Therefore one of the management plan objectives was to improve the car parking situation.
- 2.3 Representatives of the FOWM made a deputation to the full Council meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 seeking answers to various aspects of the proposed car park on Monument Moor. In particular, the deputation raised key concerns about the lack of consultation; loss of designated recreational greenspace, increased traffic congestion, commuters and university people would use the car park and increased environmental pollution.
- 2.4 Two evenings of consultation were arranged at the Woodhouse Community Centre on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and the 9<sup>th</sup> May, when plans and details of the proposal were made available, and questionnaires for comments were circulated. Those responding were also asked to comment on other possible facilities for the Park, should it be possible to bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

## **3.0 Main issues**

- 3.1 Participants were asked to fill in a Woodhouse Moor Park Consultation Form about any concerns they had regarding the action plans being implemented on the Park and additional improvements they would like to see considered.
- 3.2 In summary the key findings from the two consultation sessions are as follows :
- 95 objected to the establishment of a pay & display car park on Monument Moor
  - 2 participants made no comment about the car park proposal
  - 3 respondents were supportive of the car park proposal though one suggested only half of the hard standing be used and another indicated the lower plateau northwest of the hard standing on Monument Moor for car parking.
  - 100 consultation forms were taken to each meeting and as only 98 were returned there are still 102 in circulation, which may still be received at either Farnley Hall or in the Development Department. It is also possible that some of the forms were photocopied for use by people that did not attend the two sessions.

### 3.3 Complaints against the car park proposal covered: -

- Transgression of Unitary Development Plan designation of Woodhouse Moor Park as Greenspace.
- Car park is not considered a recreational facility
- Many residential areas in the vicinity of the Park do not have their own gardens and rely on Woodhouse Moor Park for greenspace activities.
- The car park would be located close to a sheltered housing scheme on Cathcart Street
- Suggest that park visitors should use the excellent bus service that passes through the area and not come by car.
- The car park will be used extensively by commuters and university people and not park visitors.
- The car park will attract more cars to the area which is already heavily congested with vehicles.
- Car crime will be exacerbated by the car park.
- The renaissance money allocated for the car park scheme would be better allocated to improving recreational facilities on the park or elsewhere.
- Additional car fumes with cars coming to the car park and leaving will increase environmental pollution already created by car use through the area
- Loss of community recreational/green space.
- Feel the scheme does not support the existing transport policy for Leeds.
- The car park will interfere with parking requirements needed for organisations providing events on the Park.
- Only interested in drumming up revenue at the expense of precious recreational space.
- Efforts should be directed at reducing car use not exacerbating it.
- Efforts at creating a better subsidised bus service throughout Leeds to encourage Park visitors to come by bus.
- Can park in the vicinity of Monument Moor and not have to pay for the privilege.
- More provision of cycle lanes so visitors can entertain cycling safely to the Park or through to other locations.
- Simply do not want a car park for fear of what it would lead to next.
- Insufficient consultation on car park proposal
- Happy to retain the hard standing for a temporary car park be it for events or park & ride for Christmas shopping.
- Once the car park is built the land will be irretrievably lost as potential greenspace.
- Improve the recreational potential of Monument Moor rather than establishing a car park.
- The car park will not be aesthetically pleasing.

3.4 Information from the Super Output Areas prepared by the Leeds Initiative reveals there are approximately 9110 community members living in 3911 households in the vicinity of the Park ( Output areas – 1674, 1672, 1444, 1448, 1680, 1681). In view of

this, care must be taken in extrapolating the data from the consultation as the people who responded represented only 1% of the those living in the area and are likely to be affected directly or indirectly by the car park.

## **4.0 Implications for council policy and governance**

- 4.1 The car park project complies with Council Policies, Strategies and Initiatives and the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 4.2 **Creating safer and stronger communities** by delivering improved recreational facilities for local communities within local parks and open spaces and through the provision of an off road parking area to help reduce the number of vehicles blocking and obscuring paths, access points and residential areas.
- 4.3 **Raising standards across parks** through the provision of improved facilities in line with the Green Flag standards, providing much needed facilities and so raising visitors' expectations.

## **5.0 Legal and resource implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Expenditure of £154,000 on construction and £16,341.44 on fees utilising Parks Renaissance funding

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 In spite of the factual information provided to justify the car park proposal, local community feelings at the two consultations were predominantly not in favour with the scheme and cited 24 key objections.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.01 Members are requested to note the results of the two consultation sessions in regard to establishing a car park on Monument Moor.