

## DEPUTATION REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODHOUSE MOOR

**Deputation :** THE FRIENDS OF WOODHOUSE MOOR

Doreen Tinker (WTA), Freda Matthews (LWCA), Mercia Southon (NHPNA), Sue Buckle (SHCA), Bill McKinnon (BVRAG)

**Subject :** WOODHOUSE MOOR CAR PARK PROPOSAL

**Speaker :** FREDA MATTHEWS

- My name is Freda Matthews. Chair of the Little Woodhouse Community Association, here today as spokesperson for the Friends of Woodhouse Moor, which include Woodhouse Tenants' Association, Little Woodhouse Community Association, North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association, South Headingley Community Association and Belle Vue Road Action Group.
- I am speaking about the proposed car park on the part of Woodhouse Moor known as Monument Moor.

**A. Our Comments**

1. In spite of what the Director of Learning & Leisure says in the proposal and inferred by local councillors' media statements that **consultation with local residents was complete**, none of the established groups mentioned was consulted even though every one of them borders Woodhouse Moor. The first local community groups knew about this proposal was when we read about it in a Yorkshire Evening Post article dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006.
2. **It appears therefore that funding was granted under delegated powers on a false premise**
3. We also object to **Parks Renaissance money of £170,341** being used to tarmac over Monument Moor a designated green space in the UDP to provide car parking.

We maintain:

- a) The car park would be primarily for people using the universities and city centre.
  - b) For those who visit the Moor from other areas, there is an excellent bus service on the A660 which runs across the Moor.
  - c) Parking problems in the area would not be solved since car parks attract more cars to the area. Only **residents parking zones** will tackle those problems.
  - d) Motorists wanting to use the car park would cause tailbacks on to the already frequently congested A660.
  - e) Car parks are not eco-friendly. Tarmac increases run-off.
4.
    - a) Woodhouse Moor was acquired by The Council in 1857 as an attempt to provide a means of escape from urban squalor and was the first public park in Leeds. Now, just as then, it is surrounded by large areas of terraced and back-to-back houses with no gardens of their own. For the residents of many of these homes, it is the only nearby open space.
    - b) **Monument Moor is a part of Woodhouse Moor** that was formerly known as "the swing moor", probably one of the earliest children's playgrounds. It is currently designated as green space on the Unitary Development Plan and as such cannot be built upon. As a car park, what guarantee is there that some future administration might not be tempted or required to sell it for building development?

- **The proposed scheme has too many consequences for local people for it to go forward on delegated powers and not to go to full Planning.**

**B. What we want:**

- 1) **We need more consultation, format to be agreed with local groups, before this scheme goes forward to Planning**
- 2) **We agree that this part of the Moor needs improvement; therefore we want a proper scheme for restoring this part of the Moor to recreational use using the Parks Renaissance money already delegated.**