

Draft Speech for full Leeds City Council Meeting

What do you think of when you hear Belle Isle, Middleton and Hunslet?

I'll tell you what I hear when I've sat on Charity boards, Accessed Funding and -travelled through Leeds its an area of depravation, poverty, paternalism. We don't get fancy shops, restaurants, bars we get charity shops, relocation of sex offenders, drug users, those with anti social behaviour orders.

Despite that I see warm, funny people who work hard and have consistently contribute to the wealth of the City but get little in return.

Hunslet, Belle Isle and Middleton has been a dumping ground for planning and ill thought out schemes e.g. Leek Street flats, new roads, compulsory purchases, community 'cleansing' thousands of dwelling lost and never replaced.

"We are halfway through a £10bn investment pipeline that is doubling the size of the city centre by regenerating the South Bank around a revamped HS2 train station, and developing an innovation district to the North with our universities, colleges and teaching hospital" CEO Leeds City Council in the YEP.....the stealth of our ward and green spaces is alarming and the worst is the proposed Park and Ride. A very small section of our communities benefit from

WHY WE ARE OPPOSED

- Being built next to Hunslet Cemetery with no regard to the families and friends of those buried there
- Will increase traffic on our roads especially Belle Isle road where there already has been a large number of fatalities
- No real alternatives sites investigated-which seems very short sighted in the light of recent public inquiries
- Will create mayhem on our bus routes and roads as roadwork is done lasting between 12-18months
- 70+ buses on Low road most of which will be empty and cannot be used by local residents
- Bus lanes will replace a traffic lane increasing congestion, noise pollution and fumes for local residents in short and long term
- House prices will be reduced especially those near the Park and Ride
- Local Taxes will fund cheaper bus fares for non-Leeds Residents using the Park and Ride while local buses service prices continue to rise
- Create an eye-sore as this huge car park can be seen across the area
- Create Light Pollution
- Being supported by Labour Councillors without meaningful consultation "It's a done deal"-said a local Hunslet Councillor in December 2017.
- We already have 2 Park and rides in the Area neither operating at full capacity
- All Leeds residents know a park and ride is needed around Armley Gyratory or Rawdon/Kirkstall Area.
- There are more deaths from respiratory deaths locally than any other wards.
- This site is not suitable because of surface coal mining, drainage, subsidence and sink holes opening in the locality
- Its short sighted to destroy local green fields that are not linked to other travel hubs eg railways when this site will be obsolete in 10/20 years with electric cars. This flora and fauna will be permanently destroyed and an area of concrete desolation left in its wake.
- Removing horses from the site which has been used by the same 'family' for over 40 years
- Continue to 'invest' public money into a private bus company.....

We recognise that this is a Labour Controlled Council and effectively decisions made will always go through but we ask that individual councillors think of #themany in our community and don't act for the benefit of the

few around the city centre. Evidence shows Park and Rides do absolutely nothing for Air Pollution and redistribute congestion in this example onto our streets which will become rat runs for those avoiding P&R Traffic.

What we want?

We have a plan to plant trees in this area sheltering local residents from the motorway and improving air quality. We would like Leeds City Council to allow us community ownership as with many buildings across Leeds. We can convert this into a legacy site for generations of local residents plus contributing to the Leeds City green footprint. We already have investigated potential funders and there are many who will fund this innovative and inspirational project. Unlike the Park and Ride we would not access any local funding that can be better spent across the city.