

DEPUTATION THREE – HORSFORTH RESIDENTS.

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the members of your Deputation.

MS K ARBUCKLE: Thank you Lord Mayor. Members of the deputation are Jude Arbuckle, Diane Campbell, Martin Hughes, Ian Scott and myself, Kate Arbuckle.

Lord Mayor, Members of Council, I am sure that you are all know that Parish and Town Councils, such as Horsforth, are statutory consultees in the local Planning process. There appears to be some confusion in applying these rules.

Horsforth Town Council receives original applications. Amendments, or re-issues of applications, do not arrive with sufficient time to consider their impact. One wonders why Horsforth Council has habitually to ask for time extensions.

Plans are only provided after un-minuted pre-consultation meetings have taken place. Are we to be told the content of these meetings? Why are they not available? The principles set down in these meetings set the tone for subsequent applications and attitudes – developers comment on these in their submissions.

Leeds needs planners who will consult at all stages and with all the stake holders – not just the developers. Planners needs to listen to the concerns of local residents – concerns that range from traffic issues aesthetics, where proposed buildings take account of their locale rather than the whim of architects. There are good examples of this where the principle of the development is not in question – it is the way in which it is presented.

Many planning issues which affect Horsforth are replicated through out the city – issues to do with consultation, sustainability, transport, employment, environment, education. Such planning issues can also call into question the viability of areas already established as being in need of protection. Why does this happen?

Currently there are several major planning issues in the Horsforth area. The ways in which these sites will be used will be felt city-wide. Each will have its impact on transport, education and employment resources. Everyone complains about roads snarled up with traffic. The consequence of using employment sites as residential land, places an extra strain on already congested roads. Such plans have no regard for sustainable communities. They deprive local people of desirable places for business premises where workplaces, and income for the area, can be provided. The use of employment sites for residential development could be seen as short sighted – where will such places be available for development once their need becomes apparent, following economic recovery?

Also, hundreds of additional car spaces have been created at a public service site to the North West of Horsforth, and yet no consultation with Horsforth Town Council. As these plans will have a detrimental effect of Horsforth, why not? The traffic figures used for this site seem to have been collated in a somewhat dubious manner. 8.5% of travellers arrive by car, park up and then use the shuttle bus. They are calculated as arriving by scheduled bus. Last year only 6.4% arrived by fixed routes, i.e. scheduled buses. In fact 47% of users are from West Yorkshire. All others are motorists. If they use sat navs they are routed through

Horsforth, bringing even more chaos to our overstretched road system. Were we consulted? Why not?

Whilst protocols do not allow me to expand on all of Horsforth's concerns about possible future applications, the cumulative effect of approvals already granted indicate these possible future pressures.

Horsforth Town Council also has concerns about what appears to be un-joined up thinking in the wider effect of planning proposals:

- To do with the provision of school places where many of our schools are over subscribed. Will developers provide adequate provision for possible pupils?
- To do with transport links around and across the City – one bus per hour takes passengers from Pudsey as far as Cookridge, and the ring road provision is as difficult;
- To do with the sustainability of future residential developments - will such sites have doctor's surgeries, pharmacies, access to shops, recreational facilities, open spaces, schools?;
- To do with employment land – where the retention of employment land would allow all communities easy access to places of work.

We also have concerns that nothing has been done to help alleviate the traffic problems on the Outer Ring Road. The A56 Quality Bus Initiative will not extend as far as that and therefore will do nothing to reduce car usage. The same problems exist for the Horsforth section of the Outer Ring Road. We could ask, is the City going to do anything about this section of the Ring Road?

To conclude, I thank you for listening to us. As I have previously said, we believe that all Parish and Town Councils & Resident Associations do a good job, but we believe that this job could be greatly enhanced if you consult with us more often.

Thank You, Lord Mayor and Members of Council. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gruen, please.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Lord Mayor, I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for the vote? *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon to you, ladies and gentlemen.

MS K ARBUCKLE: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and thank you, Members of Council.