

CALL IN REQUEST – Option (a)

A Call In request may be made by:

Any five non-executive Members of council

Date of decision publication: 11/03/2011

Delegated decision ref: or

Executive Board Minute no: 191 or

Area Committee Name and decision ref:

Decision description: Decision to approve a 5 acre extension to a cemetery at Whimmoor Grange, Harewood Ward and a five acre cemetery site at the former curaven site (Elmete) in Rindway Wood.

Discussion with Decision Maker:

Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Please identify contact and provide detail.

Director/author of delegated decision report.

Executive Board Member

Detail Councillor Richard Procter spoke, via telephone, to

Christine Addison, Acting Head of Asset Management on 15/03/11.

Ben Jane Cook and Mark Farington are on annual leave.

Reasons for Call In:

All requests for Call In must detail why, in the opinion of the signatories, the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 of the Council constitution (decision making) (principles of decision making) or where relevant issues do not appear to be taken into consideration. Please tick the relevant box(es) and give an explanation.

- Proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
- Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
- Respect for human rights
- A presumption in favour of openness
- Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
- Positive promotion of equal opportunities
- Natural justice

Explanation Inadequate consultation with local representatives, particularly the Parish Council and local residents. Ward Members were only consulted after the report was published.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support Unit

A Member cannot count as one of the two/five signatures if they are a member of the Scrutiny Board to which the Call In will be referred. In the case of decisions made by Area Committees, a Member cannot count as one of the two/five signatures if they are a member of that Area Committee.

The following signatories request that the above decision be called in:

1) Signature *Michael Procter*
Print name *Michael Procter*

2) Signature *Ann Castle*
Print name *COUN. ANN CASTLE*

3) Signature *V. Keardall*
Print name *VALERIE KEARDALL*

4) Signature *Graham Witty*
Print name *GRAHAM WITTY*

5) Signature *JW MARDAM*
Print name *JW MARDAM*

This form should be submitted to the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development (Scrutiny Support Unit, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall) by **5.00pm on the fifth working day after the decision publication date**. The office is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

(For further information on the Call In procedure please refer to the Scrutiny Support Unit intranet site, or contact the Unit on 39 51151).

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support Unit

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development by:

Richard A. Mills.....(signature)

Date: *18/03/11*..... Time: *2:45pm* SSU ref: *2010-11-191-50*

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status checked:

Call In authorised: Yes / No

Date checked:

Signed: *Richard A. Mills*

Signatures checked:

Date: *18/03/11*

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13

Receipt details: *E mail*.....

Traffic fears over the site of new cemetery

FREE ENTRY

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Leeds CAMBA Beer Cider & Perry Festival 2011

TEL - 17103/11
Work is due to start in July

BY DAVID MARSH
MUNICIPAL REPORTER

WORK is expected to start this summer on a new Leeds cemetery amid fears it could cause traffic congestion on the busy A64.

Councillors have agreed £309,000 can be spent on creating a five-acre cemetery at Whinmoor Grange, off York road, near Thorner, to increase burial space in north east Leeds.

Harehills Cemetery, which serves the area, has only 270 multi-faith plots left - about 20 months supply - and the Muslim burial area has about four years supply remaining.

Whinmoor Grange was originally earmarked for a 46-acre cemetery, a plan which attracted much opposition and was dropped when the council agreed smaller, locally-based cemeteries were preferable.

The council's Executive Board agreed in 2008 to a five-acre cemetery at Whinmoor Grange and now preparations are being made for the scheme to get underway.

Public consultation is to be

held on a draft planning statement which would allow for the cemetery and the possible relocation of the council's growing nurseries from Red Hall to Whinmoor Grange.

A timetable presented to the board's latest meeting indicates work could start in July with the first burials held in March 2012.

The report also revealed the council was preparing a planning application for a four-acre cemetery at the former Elmete caravan park in Roundhay.

Conservative councillors for Harewood, whose ward includes Whinmoor Grange, have raised concerns about the scheme.

Coun Matthew Robinson said: "The impact this will have on the A64 must also be a consideration. Cars, particularly funeral corteges, turning into Thorner Lane from York Road would slow the traffic flow right down, possibly to stand still all of which could encourage reckless driving."

Coun Rachael Procter argued the proposed location next to sports pitches was unsuitable, while Coun Ann Castle said there should have been more consultation with parish councils.

Coun John Procter said he was concerned a design and cost report was being approved at this stage.

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Anger at five-acre cemetery proposals

By Tom Cullimore
News Editor

PLANS to create a new cemetery close to Scholes and Thornor have been met with a muted response

The five acre site at Whinmoor Grange has been given the green-light despite an alleged lack of consultation with the local Parish Councils in both Scholes and Thornor.

Elected member of Scholes Parish Council George Hall said he was "horrified" at the lack of consultation, adding that he had real concerns about the site.

"There are a number of issues we have with these plans,"

"There is already a problem with drainage in the area, and there would need to be some significant remedial work done before any work begins.

"Also, there would be a big increase in traffic.

"On top of that, we would say

that there is no real urgency for a site like this.

"The parish council just wish we had been consulted as we feel we should have been.

"The first we knew about these plans was when a concerned resident asked us for answers.

"We had to go and download all the information from the council website.

"I think it shows a lack of respect to elected representatives when they're not kept properly in the picture.

Local Ward Councillors, who met with Leeds City Council officers late last week, also expressed their reservations about the proposal on the grounds that the location needs more thought and that the site's access via the busy A64 could pose significant congestion problems.

Councillor Rachael Procter said: "Our primary concerns are around the location of the

cemetery, which is currently proposed to be adjacent to the existing sports pitches.

"This location is hardly ideal when you think of the noise levels that can be generated from football matches regardless of the level played.

"To potentially have these sounds acting as a backdrop to something as sensitive as a burial ceremony is quite alarming."

Councillor Matthew Robinson echoed her views, adding "The impact this new cemetery will have on motorists using the A64 must also be a consideration.

"Cars, particularly funeral corteges, turning into Thornor Lane from the busy York Road would slow the traffic flow right down, possibly to stand still all of which could encourage reckless driving. Serious thought should also be given to the affect this proposal will have on the residents of Morwick

Terrace, who would overlook the cemetery should it get the go ahead."

Councillor Ann Castle continued: "It was late last week when officers came to see us with the proposals as laid out in the executive board report.

"I have to say we were disappointed that the report was effectively already done and dusted prior to our meeting as we feel we could have added some valuable input into the process as elected representatives for the area.

"I'm sure the Parish Council in both Thornor and Scholes feel the same way."

● WHAT do you think of the plans? Do let us know by emailing wetherby.news@ypn.co.uk or writing to Wetherby News, 9 Westgate Wetherby, West Yorks, LS22 6LL