

Minute Extract 47 North Area Committee 04/7/02**47. ACCESS TO ARISTOTLE LANE ALLOTMENTS**

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Tony Hollander declared a Prejudicial Interest as the Chair of the Trap Ground Allotments Association and an allotment holder, and withdrew from the meeting room whilst this item was discussed.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Corinna Redman declared a Personal Interest as a Governor of SS Philip and James School.

John Bullock, Committee Member of the Trap Grounds Allotments said that a meeting had been held with the School Governors and felt that a compromise had been reached. He said that the Governors' main consideration was to gain the maximum area of land for the school as the total amount was below that suggested by Government guidelines, and pointed out that the strip of land used as access to the allotments would not add useable land to the site. He added that if a strip of land to the north of the site was given in exchange for access, the advantage would be that the Trap Grounds housing development would still be able to go ahead. He further added that with this option the Council would not need to find the £9,000 for access works and allottees would not need to use the bridge, the Allotment Association would also give the school an allotment to use. If the current access was not maintained allottees would give up their allotments.

Councillor Redman said that the reason why the decision of the Executive Board was called-in was that the proposals compromised the social housing development. If the land swap did not happen there would not be enough room for the housing. She added that the Governors were concerned about the safety of having a crossing by a school used by adults, seen by the children.

Councillor Fooks welcomed the offer of an allotment for the school, but the bridge should be used for access and that the access on Port Meadow must be improved. She added that she still had safety concerns and that if the CTE Project went ahead the access would have to be closed.

John Porter said that he had contacted Ameys who were working as contractors for Railtrack but they were 'hand maidens' to Railtrack and if Railtrack did not want to close the crossing the Government would have to do it. He added that the allottees felt that the safety of the access would be solved by having a swipe and entry system on the gate.

Councillor Goddard said that there were two issues, the first was the safety of the children and the views of the Governors. The second was a safe and convenient access for allottees to their allotments. Both issues he felt could be achieved.

The Committee agreed to ask the Executive Board and the Finance and Performance Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to:

- (a) consider the impact and economic viability of the Trap Grounds housing development application if the land swap did not happen;
- (b) clarify the position and Railtrack on safety issues and Ameys access;
- (c) ensure the safety of the children and allottees without intruding on the allottees' access.