



# Environment Not Trams Newsletter

January/February 2003

- ✍ How many are going to use it?
- ✍ Support grows for Queen's Drive
- ✍ County Council meeting

## Form an orderly queue please!

### Just how many people are going to use it?

We never cease to be amazed by NET's anticipated passenger figures for the Clifton via Wilford tram route.

Look at the half hourly Number 9 bus service through Compton Acres. When we use the bus there are usually only about 3 other passengers from this area on it. Regardless of the time of day, even when there are no traffic delays. That works out at around 150 people a day going back and forth.

NET have worked out that on average 20 people from this area will use each tram. That works out at 1,600 people each day from this area going to and fro.

If there's that level of demand, why aren't the current bus services used more? NET's figures just don't make sense.

Should we file the NET report under FICTION?

### Support grows for Queens Drive Route

NET originally put forward two routes from Clifton to the city centre. They both start at a park and ride off the A453 and terminate at the railway station.

The important difference is the

centre section of the routes. The choice is either to run via Wilford or via Queen's Drive.

We have recently received letters of support for the Queen's Drive route from companies, including major employers such as Experian and Pork Farms Bowyers. These companies want the Queen's Drive route to help people get to and from work.

Queen's Drive has been described as 'the major employment corridor in Nottingham'. Government Minister Nigel Griffiths, commenting about further tram routes in the Nottingham Evening Post said, "It's absolutely critical to ensure that people can easily get to the businesses, both workers and clients, and they have easy access to the city centre."

Unlike a bus route, once a tram line is built, it can't be easily altered. NET needs to get its sums right for us and the future generations that will be paying for it.

Build the line where customers – passengers and businesses – want it.

### County Council meeting

Over the months we have received stalwart support from our County Councillor Martin

Brandon Bravo. Martin arranged for us to meet with Steve Calvert and Kate Robinson from the Environment Department at County Hall. Steve and Kate are very much involved in the NET project on behalf of the County and gave us the latest NET timetable for any extension routes.

There is now a slip of at least six months in the programme. It is currently predicted that County Councillors will vote again on the tram routes towards the end of the year. If it gets the go ahead, the public enquiry will be in 2004 or 2005.

Following this meeting, ENT recently submitted papers to the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council. We have asked them to look again at the NET stance in view of recent developments.

### Oh No It's Not ...

Since we're just at the tail end of the pantomime season, if anyone saw the recent leaflet from the CW 'Yes Man', let us put the record straight: it wasn't a 'spoof' newsletter from ourselves, it was apparently intended as a serious contribution to the debate.

Oh yes it was!