

November 3rd

ENT Newsletter

Environment - Not trams

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Mass Action

To all those who were able to support the Mass Action: Thank you. The event was attended by Councillors Brandon Bravo, Nichols and Tipton who were very impressed. Make no mistake, visible public opposition is our most potent weapon. We achieved radio and newspaper coverage and we have some terrific photographs. Rest assured we will make full use of these in our future campaign.

NET Route Decision

Once again we have been misled by NET! We were invited to submit a report on our objections and it HAD to be with them by the 15th Oct. Why? Because the NET was to issue its' own report and recommendations on the preferred tram network routes on the 22nd October. What happened; we put in a lot of work and got the report ready and they have put off making a decision until next year. In their report we even find that there is now a new option running along Main Rd Wilford and Ruddington Lane! If this is their idea of 'consultation' it certainly isn't ours. At least we can take comfort in the fact that they have been forced to think twice about CW.

The NET recommendation was: 'Further work and consultation on route options be undertaken to ensure that local concerns have been addressed and all alternatives have been thoroughly assessed and a further report be brought before the Board in early 2002'.

This recommendation was discussed and approved by both County and City Council Meetings on 29th Oct. and members of your Committee attended

both meetings. At the Strategic Review Committee meeting at County Hall, Councillors Brandon Bravo, Cutts and Cox, spoke very strongly on our behalf. Cllr Brandon Bravo also made the very good point that if you are going to spend £350 million you need to be absolutely certain you have got it right. The general opinion of the meeting was that the City Council was attempting to progress the Network with undue haste and that progress should only be made on the basis of genuine benefit to all residents. Patronage, a sound business case and regard for the environment were all key issues. The Chairman assured the Committee that all views would be considered and that no preconceived outcome existed (even though he did refer to the nature trail as 'a dog toilet').

At the Executive Board Meeting of the City Council, (aside from the fact that some comments were more reminiscent of two schoolboys bickering over their favourite football teams than serious issues that will affect peoples lives for the next 30 years), the NET presented their report and a number of issues were raised by Councillor Cowen. He thought the Main Rd Wilford/ Ruddington Lane option was quite obviously not viable and should be removed from the options (this was not agreed to). He also asked for an alternative route from Trent Bridge via Wilford Lane to Clifton to be considered which the NET executives, reluctantly, agreed to.

You will also be pleased to know that the Vice Chairman, Brian Parbutt considers having a tram passing your back door to be a wonderful opportunity to cash in on the enhanced value of your home. He also said that the criteria for judging viability would be patronage, speed and cost; isn't it comforting to know that the effect of the tram on our lives is such a high priority.

Gird your loins - this fight has only just started!

You can see the report on the NET website or

<http://www.broxtowelabour.org/nicsnews/NET>

CW Option 2

The NET has sprung a new route option onto us which passes along Main Rd., Wilford and then Ruddington Lane. We think this just a smoke screen as this route would never meet the NETs own criteria: it would be slower, require some compulsory purchase and be more expensive. We think this is just a cynical exercise by NET to try to make CW a more acceptable corridor by offering routes that can be easily rejected. Don't be fooled: its our nature trail they want!

We Need Your Help

1. We would like to hear from anyone that has purchased a property in the last 12 months. The NET say that your Solicitor should have picked up the possible tram routes in the search. One local resident advises us that his Solicitor is adamant the search revealed nothing of the sort. What has your Solicitor to say on this matter?
2. If your property is on or near to any of the major roads, would you please be prepared to put up one of our yellow ENT (we will happily erect the sign for you if this would help)?
3. Please write to the NET (yes, again) making it clear you object to the CW route and offer CQD as an alternative. Copy this to your MP, please. There's a draft letter on our web site.
4. If you are a Solicitor or Accountant we would love to hear from you.

Web site:

<http://communities.msn.co.uk/StoptheTram>

Next Meeting: 8pm, Civil Service Club, Wilford Lane. All Welcome.