

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEEETING 22 MAY 2006

LAND AT BEDFORD ROAD

REPORT TO CABINET

At their meeting on 29 March 2006 the Cabinet, with the consent of the Mayor under Rule 15(1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, made the following decision as a matter of urgency to which the call-in procedure would not apply.

DECISION (EXTRACT FROM MINUTES)

7. LAND AT BEDFORD ROAD (3)

The Asset Manager referred to the decision of the Cabinet at the meeting on 6 March 2006 to agree the disposal of land at Bedford Road to English Partnerships subject to the conclusion of procedures to dispose of a small area of public open space. The period of advertisement did not conclude until 30 March 2006 and she commented that any objection received following this meeting should be considered by the Director for Citizens, Finance & Governance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Environment. It was noted that for English Partnerships to complete the purchase the agreement had to be completed by 31 March 2006.

The Solicitor to the Council commented that because of the deadline for the completion of the sale to English Partnerships, the Mayor had agreed that this item be exempted from the usual call-in provisions as allowed for in paragraph 15.10 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedural Rules contained within the Council's Constitution. The Solicitor to the Council also commented that the three group leaders and Councillor Glynane had been consulted and were in agreement with an exemption being made on this occasion.

The Asset Manager referred to the two objections set out in the report and a subsequent letter dated 21 March 2006 from the Secretary of Far Cotton Residents Association. In response to the correspondence that had been received to date it was noted that the car parking used at Midsummer Meadow would continue and that the area of the land affected was de-minimus having regard to the overall size of Midsummer Meadow Park and the adjoining Becketts Park. In respect of the letter received from the Secretary of Far Cotton's Residents Association, it was noted that its contents were more by way of observation rather than objection and that the Planning Officer referred to was an employee of the Borough Council and not English Partnerships are stated.

- RESOLVED:** (1) That the Director for Citizens, Finance & Governance be authorised in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Environment to consider any further objections to the proposed disposal of public open space at Midsummer Meadow.
- (2) That having considered the objections and observations made to date the disposal of public open space at Midsummer Meadow as previously reported to the Cabinet, subject to (1) above, be confirmed.

Note with regard to Resolution(1) that no further objections were received.

REASON FOR URGENCY

It was a requirement of English Partnerships that their purchase of the land must be completed before the end of the financial year on 31 March 2006. Had the decision not been treated as a matter of urgency it would not have come into force until the expiry of the call-in period, i.e. 3 working days after the decision was published. By that time the deadline would have been missed.