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Issue 192: April 1, 2011
Fortnightly - 25p

Tram gets green light

Green light given

PLANS to extend the Nottingham tram were given the green light by the Government when Transport Minister Norman Baker announced that savings have been identified to make the project more affordable.

Mr Baker said: "Line One of the Nottingham tram has proved to be a great success in encouraging people on to public transport. The proposed extensions provide the opportunity to continue this success."

"Following the spending review last year, we challenged Nottingham City Council to look again at the cost of the Nottingham light rail extension."

"The Department of Transport has been working closely with the local

authority involved to ensure this project is affordable.

"I am delighted that the Council has risen to the challenge and has identified savings from its original estimated costs. By finding savings, I can confirm that we are today allowing this project to move another step forward within our funding approval process."

Tramlink is go

NOTTINGHAM City Council has selected Tramlink Nottingham as its preferred bidder to build the two new tramlines to Chilwell and Clifton (NET Phase Two) and operate the extended tram network.

This announcement follows an extensive competitive process,

which involved a detailed evaluation of the proposals tendered from two bidding consortia – Tramlink Nottingham and Arrow Connect.

The council will now enter a period during which it finalises the details of the contract with the preferred bidder. It is hoped that the 23-year concession contract will be awarded in late summer 2011.

To ensure the extended tram network's operation is fully integrated with the existing Line One, the contract with the consortium currently operating Line One, Arrow Light Rail, will be terminated.

Jane Todd, Nottingham City Council's Chief Executive,

said: "The process of selecting a preferred bidder has involved a lengthy, formal and highly demanding process to ensure the best outcome for both the city and the future of the tram. We received two very strong bids but Tramlink Nottingham has come out on top. We look forward to working with them to develop their proposals before awarding the full contract."

Roger Harrison, Tramlink Nottingham Chairman, said: "We are delighted to have been selected as preferred bidder. Building on Arrow's successful legacy, we are excited to be taking forward the next chapter in Nottingham's tram story. Our focus now will be on working with Nottingham City Council to ensure NET Phase Two

can be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

"We have put together an extremely strong partnership and we are confident of being able to create a network which will not only be efficient and effective in terms of meeting the city's transport needs but which will also help to take Nottingham's international status to a new level."

Subject to final negotiations and the contract being awarded in late summer 2011, construction work on the new lines could start by the end of the year. Passenger services across the extended tram network could be fully operational by the end of 2014.

Continued on page 2...

Rylanders visit wind farm

THE University of Nottingham, poised to submit a planning application for permission to build a wind farm in the Trent valley, took a group of interested Trent valley residents out to look at a comparable site last week.

About 50 people from Beeston and Clifton boarded a coach laid on by the University and headed for Lindhurst Farm at Rainworth, north Nottinghamshire.

The University's wind farm plan is known as the Grove Farm Wind Energy Project. If granted permission, it should be operational by 2012 and will supply 30 percent of the university's energy requirements. It will be built on land it already

owns that runs parallel with the River Trent towards Clifton Bridge – quite close to residential properties in Beeston Rylands as well as on the 'Cliftonsides' estate.

At a public meeting held in the Rylands last autumn, University staff involved with the scheme offered to arrange a visit so that people had a better idea of what living near a wind farm would entail with regard to noise, scale and visual impact.

Lindhurst Farm

Lindhurst Farm, Rainworth, is owned and farmed by Mr Mark Warrener, who leases out the land that five wind turbines occupy to energy supplier 'n.power'.

The turbines at Rainworth are slightly shorter than the three 125m high towers that the University is planning, and the visitors were able to have a close look and listen to noise levels for themselves.

A Canalside, Rylands, resident who didn't want to be named said: "I'm concerned about the impact on residents. I think there will be noise and I believe that the prices of those houses closest to the wind farm will drop."

"I'm also concerned about the effect of the magnets (used in the turbine manufacture) on people's health."

Mark Warrener held a different point of view. He said: "I think the turbines are visually stunning, and the 'swish' as each blade passes is very evocative. I enjoy opening the bedroom curtains each morning and looking to see – literally – which way the wind is blowing."

"The night-time noise doesn't disturb me, but that's possibly because the house isn't so close to the vanes here."

Public Consultation Grove Farm Wind Energy Project

April 16 – April 21

Public Exhibition
Beeston Library
during usual opening hours

April 21

Public Meeting
11.15am – 12.45pm
Upstairs Meeting Room,
Beeston Library



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