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## County council asked not to impede progress of tram

NOTTINGHAM City Council is determined to go ahead with NET Phase Two – the proposed extensions to the tram network – providing Nottinghamshire County Council does not impede progress.

The county council threatened to withhold money pledged for the project when the Conservatives took over political leadership of the council in the local elections earlier in the month.

NET Phase Two – which received the go-ahead from the Department of Transport earlier this year following a public inquiry – will extend the existing tram network to the south and west of the city. It will take in the heavily populated areas of Beeston and Chilwell and key destinations such as the QMC and the University of Nottingham, as well as the Meadows and Clifton.

Cllr Jane Urquhart, Nottingham City Council's portfolio holder for Transport & Area Working, said: "NET Phase Two is too crucial to the future prosperity of Nottingham

and the region to even contemplate pulling the plug on it. My colleagues and I have been approached by businesses pleading with us to ensure that we continue with the project. I want to be able to give them the reassurance that we will go ahead with our plans."

NET Phase Two is at the heart of future major developments such as the Beeston Town Centre Masterplan, expansion of the ng2 Business Park and the Science Park.

Cllr Urquhart continued: "Nottingham City Council recognises the value of a modern, efficient public transport system. Sadly this view is not shared by the Conservative Group at the County Council, despite all the factors being fully and thoroughly examined at the public inquiry."

The city council has said it will be able to afford to continue with plans to extend the tram network, even if the county council does withhold its pledged cash of up to £28m. If necessary, it will reschedule payments, utilise

contingency funds and make use of low interest rates.

Cllr Urquhart said: "Nottingham City Council is committed to finding the shortfall in funding which will exist if the county council withdraws its contribution.

"However, all we ask of them is that they do not impede our progress. Delay is unhelpful and everyone needs to know what the county council's intent is in the next few days."

NET Phase Two will provide access to over 1800 workplaces in an area to which around 55,000 employees commute. It will also connect to two new park and ride sites: one at Bardill's Island on the A52, the other in Clifton just off the A453.

Cllr Urquhart concluded: "The success of the existing tram line, NET Line One, is evident for all to see. Nottingham is a dynamic, ambitious and thriving city which is proud of its many achievements. We want Nottingham to be able to deal with the current global

economic difficulties and grow as a stronger force in the future."

The county council has yet to respond to the appeal by the city council to declare its intentions.

Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer said: "I'm concerned that the development of Beeston shouldn't be paralysed by a long standoff between the new County leadership and the City – nobody is going to make any positive decisions to invest in Beeston until they know what's happening one way or the other, and the last thing we need is a party political wrestling match between the councils. I've asked to meet Cllr Kay Cutts and we've agreed a meeting on Friday, June 26. I hope to build a bridge over the political differences and get an early resolution in the interest of clarity for Beeston."

Mr Palmer also has a meeting scheduled with the directors of Henry Boot plc, owners of Beeston Square, to discuss the town centre development.

## Beeston Carnival July 11, 2009

THE fourth Beeston Carnival will take place on Saturday, July 11.

For the first time, the event will start in Beeston Square at 10.30am when the Hop Pole pub launches 'Carnival Aid' with two live bands: 'North Sea International' and 'The Leggo Men'.

This will be followed by what can only be described as a variety performance of dancing, singing and music by local groups and schools, after which the Carnival Princess will be crowned.

The Parade begins at 1pm. Beeston Pipe Band will lead the Carnival Parade from Foster Avenue to Broadgate Park where a variety of stalls, exhibitions, face painting, children's amusements, activities for the young and young at heart, refreshments – and much more – should coalesce to form a fun packed afternoon of entertainment.

### Carnival Prince and Princess

The Carnival Princess will wear a dress designed and made by three Theatre Design students from Nottingham Trent University; Laura, Sarah and Teresa.

We also have a Carnival Prince for the first time this year, and the two young

people, representing Beeston as a community – will head the parade in transport as befits a carnival prince and princess – a rickshaw.

Organiser Cllr Lynda Lally said: "Beeston Carnival was reborn in 2006 with a small committee and a budget of £250. The event has grown from year to year and one of the main challenges has been the weather – it has not always been kind to us! We are hoping for some pleasant, dry and summery weather this time around.

"With my husband and co-organiser, Cllr Pat Lally, I hope that this year's carnival will be another successful event and that, as the years go by, residents, businesses, and visitors will all come together to make Beeston a good place to be."

### Footnote

Although we promised *Beeston Express* readers that they would get the chance to vote for their choice of Carnival Princess and Prince, there were simply not enough nominations for the two roles and alternative arrangements had to be made.

Our apologies if you were looking forward to helping make the selection by voting.

## Tesco *by the Editor*

BROXTOWE Borough Council's Development Control Committee (DCC) made the decision to give Tesco the go-ahead to build their store on the derelict Shaw and Marvin site in the centre of Beeston on Thursday, June 11. Whether people think this was a good decision or not, the fact is that the heart of Beeston's shopping centre currently

looks like an impoverished inner-city area that has run out of development cash, and something needs to be done.

Objections made at the DCC meeting came from the 'Say No to Tesco' group, committee councillors and ward councillors. For the main part, objectors were concerned about the increased size of the

store, which has 66 percent more floor space than that shown on the original 2004 plans, and the increase in traffic it will create. There was a suggestion to defer the decision until a traffic study planned by the NCC highways authority had been completed, but this was ruled out as unrealistic.

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