

Council: 20 December 2005

Motion 8.5 Amendment from Councillor Alison Moore

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.

Amend the motion to read:

Council supports Barnet Football Club. Council wants the Club to stay in the Borough, and believes the Council should help the Club.

Council believes that the way forward is for joint discussions to take place with all parties concerned so as to arrive at a solution acceptable to all. Council also believes that there is a challenge to the borough councillors to set aside party differences and support the Club.

Council notes that more work is needed to find a long-term home for the Club within the Borough. Council believes that the Council must consult local residents on the idea for a stadium in Montrose Park before the Council makes any decision.

Council notes that the Planning Inquiry killed off the 2002 planning permission for the second stadium, and Council notes that, in January 2003, the Planning and Environment Committee agreed that had the original planning application come before the committee then, it would not have been supported.

Council supports retention of the Green Belt designation on both the current stadium footprint and the land to the south of the current stadium because sporting and recreational facilities are legitimate uses of Green Belt land. Council does not want the Club to move out of the Borough, but if the Club were to move from Underhill Stadium then the Council would retain the site in Green Belt.

Council notes that, as well as a long-term solution, a short/medium-term answer is needed for the Club to meet Football League standards within their deadline.

Council welcomes the publication of the *Working Together* and *Working Together Update* documents. Council believes there is great merit in the proposals, not only for the Club and supporters but also for residents in terms of youth and community facilities, helping to tackle anti-social behaviour and to engage the local community.

Council believes there is a need to put the conflicts of the past few years behind us and instead to concentrate on looking to the future. Council wants to achieve a settled consensus that will secure the short/medium-term future of the Club in the borough and to meet the requirements of the Football League by the deadline. Council believes this is possible based upon the *Working Together* proposals.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet to:

- undertake a consultation in January/February 2006 with Colindale and Burnt Oak residents to properly assess local support for the Montrose Park idea,
- publish the schedule of possible sites within the borough for a long-term stadium, and
- begin negotiations to secure the short/medium term future of the Club.