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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2004**

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**EX.160/04 FUTURE OPTIONS FOR FUSEHILL STREET COMMUNITY GARDENS  
(Non-Key Decision)**

**Portfolio** Policy, Performance Management, Finance and Resources  
Health and Community Activities

**Subject Matter**

To consider a Minute reference from the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 29 July 2004 on the future options for Fusehill Street Community Gardens, which were -

Option 1 - Retain the whole site for public open space and try and involve the community in running it again;

Option 2 - Dispose of part of the site as a new Medical Practice and retain part of it for a children's play area.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met with objectors to and supporters of disposal of the land and Ward Councillors and the views expressed at the meeting were contained in the Minute Excerpt.

The Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee had passed the following resolutions:-

(1) That it is the recommendation of this Committee that the Executive undertake further public consultation, to include a site visit by the Executive and a public meeting in order that all interested parties may have their say and ask questions of the Executive and Officers, prior to determination of the matter.

(2) That the Executive be requested to investigate the manner by which public consultation was undertaken across the Authority, particularly regarding community issues, with a view to making such consultation as wide ranging as possible.

Letters from residents at 59 Vasey Street, Carlisle in support of the doctors surgery proposals had been received by the Chairman on 16 August 2004 and were tabled at the meeting along with a letter from Miss M Smith, 53 Rydal Street, Carlisle requesting that any site visit undertaken by Executive Members to the Fusehill Street site should include the surrounding area.

28A

The Executive gave consideration to the recommendations of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the points raised by the public and Ward Councillors at the meeting.

### **Summary of Options Rejected**

None

### **DECISION**

1. That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be requested to arrange for Officers to make arrangements to undertake further consultation with the community by way of -

(a) sending a letter to all residents in the adjoining streets to the Fusehill Street site outlining the proposals and seeking their views;

(b) arranging a public display of the proposals for the Fusehill Street site at Greystone Community Centre for a period of one week and inviting comments.

2. That all Members of the Executive will make arrangements to visit the site at Fusehill Street and surrounding area.

3. That the outcome of the further consultation be reported to a meeting of the Executive in September 2004 when a decision will be taken on the future of the site.

### **Reasons for Decision**

Arrangements are being made to undertake further consultation with the community over the Fusehill Street site prior to a decision being taken on the future of the site.

A8 (b)

Ref: 200804/E+I.O&S/1/1 of 1

20<sup>th</sup> August 2004

RECEIVED

23 AUG 2004

20 AUG 2004

To: Carolyn Taylor, Head of Communications - for information,  
Dr David Taylor, Clerk to Infrastructure O & S committee  
and Mr Stephen Halstead, Clerk to the Executive  
- please circulate to members of respective committees.  
and media

CUSTOMER AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SM. 15.05

The Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations re Fusehill Street Community Gardens have been interpreted by the Executive in a very unsatisfactory way.

- 1) The "public meeting" has been watered down to a public display which has been watered down to a small display in the entrance hall of Greystone Community Centre.
- 2) The sought after "wide ranging consultation" has been watered down to sending letters to residents in adjacent streets, outlining the situation and offering a choice of the "2" options.
- 3) Instead of a resolution after extended, quality consultation with the affected community, their intention is to arrive at the decision at the next Executive meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Clearly this is more of the usual gesture consultation used to push through biased proposals quickly.

**What we are looking for is:**

- a) The site and area visit to consider the impact on the whole neighbourhood if this greenfield site were to be built upon,
- b) A questionnaire to all within a 0.5 km radius (as recommended by NPFA) of FSCG, as to what greenfield uses would be relevant to the local community,
- c) A site visit by the Executive to an Adventure Play Area to play,
- d) A public meeting to display and discuss all the various community options for the site.
- e) An objective, impartial, informed decision from the Executive in the best interests of the people of Carlisle.

Yours sincerely

*Marian E Smith*

Marian E Smith, Miss - 53 Rydal Street, Botchergate, Carlisle CA1 1SQ

