

COUNCIL
18 January 2023

Minute Extract

87/22 Motion: Allestree Hall and Golf Course

The following motion was moved by Councillor Skelton, and seconded by Councillor Atwal:

Council notes that at its meeting in July 2021 a majority of councillors voted for the motion about Allestree Hall and Golf Course requesting “that Cabinet and Council officers do not give a further time extension to the company that, although the preferred bidder, has been unable to finalise the deal.” A majority of councillors also voted to request “that Cabinet and Council officers ask Marketing Derby to identify suitable organisations who are interested in operating the Hall and Golf Course in an integrated manner or the golf course as a separate entity.”

Council notes with deep concern that neither of these actions were pursued, which went against the expressed will of the majority of councillors.

Council notes with interest that in May 2021 Stoke Park was sold for an announced £57 million. This venue has an identical provenance to Allestree Hall, designed and built by James Wyatt, surrounded by a Harry S Colt designed golf course. It was also previously a municipally owned facility.

Council further notes that several more commercial organisations have recently expressed keen interest in buying Allestree Golf Course and Hall.

Council notes with alarm the extremely difficult budget position of this Council and believes the Council should actively be open to ways to increase its income.

The application submitted to Historic England for the Allestree site to be created as a designated historic landscape not only academically validated the research conducted, but established the historic importance, and potential commercial value, of the site.

Council therefore resolves to request that Cabinet and Council officers immediately fully co-operate with Historic England to undertake the single strand of additional research required by Historic England to enable Derby to have the first ever UK golf course with its own designated historic landscape.

Council also resolves to request that Cabinet and Council officers ask Marketing Derby to open discussions and negotiations with organisations that are interested in buying Allestree Hall and Golf Course, and identify which would represent Best Value for Derby City Council.

It was moved by Councillor Shanker and seconded by Councillor Barker that under Council Procedure Rule CP42(d) the matter be referred to the Audit and Governance

Committee, to consider whether the sale of Allestree Hall should be added to the committee's work programme and to determine any further investigation that the committee considered necessary.

In moving the motion without notice, Councillor Shanker noted that the sale of Allestree Hall had been repeatedly raised in motions and questions to Council, and that investigation by the committee was necessary to bring the matter to a close; protect the interests of the authority and ensure that best value for local taxpayers was being achieved.

The motion without notice was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved that under Council Procedure Rule CP42(d) the matter be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee.

The Mayor advised councillors that agreement of the motion without notice was not mutually exclusive of the substantive motion tabled by Councillor Skelton and that having been duly moved and seconded the matter required resolution by Council.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and lost.