

## EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

### Meeting held Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the Church of Christ, Station Road, Darnall

**PRESENT:** Councillors Pat Midgley (Chair), Martin Lawton (Deputy Chair), Terry Fox, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Lynn Rooney and Jack Scott.

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#### 1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the Community Assembly meeting, and outlined basic housekeeping arrangements.

#### 2. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

#### 3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

3.1 Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Jenny Armstrong, John Campbell, Julie Dore and John Robson. Best wishes were conveyed from the Assembly to Councillor John Robson, who was recovering from a long illness.

#### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 Councillors Martin Lawton and Pat Midgley declared prejudicial interests in item 11 on the agenda (Budget Report), as Members of Manor Castle Development Trust, and did not participate in the vote to allocate funding to this organisation.

#### 5. **COMMUNITY REPORT: DARNALL WELL BEING**

5.1 Lucy Melleney, Development Manager, Darnall Well Being, reported upon the work being carried out by Darnall Well Being, a community health project which was based on Darnall Main Road. She outlined some of the schemes which were in operation, such as health walks, focus groups, exercise groups, healthy eating workshops and other campaigns, to attempt to reduce health inequalities in the area. She added that there was a dedicated team of volunteers working for the organisation, and Lucy also extended her thanks to the Assembly for providing some much needed funding for a recent project working with older people.

5.2 Lucy commented that she had worked extensively to try and let people know in the area what activities were available, to increase awareness around healthy lifestyles and choices, adding that the Darnall Well Being centre provided a

valuable one stop shop of information and advice. She had also run a series of health roadshows recently which had centred around what people in the local area perceived to be their health needs; the next of which was due to be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at the Church of Christ, Station Road, Darnall, between 1230 and 1500 hours.

- 5.3 Councillor Mary Lea thanked Lucy on behalf of the Assembly for all her hard work towards tackling the health inequalities which existed in the area. Lucy added that she hoped the new LIFT health centre would become a vibrant part of the community, with an emphasis on prevention, as well as treatment.

## 6. **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

- 6.1 Angela Wild from the Governing Body of Philimore School reported upon new initiatives to improve attendance at local primary schools. These had included working together across all three schools in the area to provide a joined up approach, with a slogan which had been created by the pupils; 'Every Child Matters and Every Day Counts'. Pupils had worked together to design attendance posters, which had been displayed outside the schools to try and encourage fellow pupils to attend their lessons.

- 6.2 A leaflet had also been designed and distributed and translated into the main community languages in the area. The Lord Mayor had attended a recent event about the importance of attendance at school, which had featured a storyteller and interactive activities, and parents and pupils had been invited to attend.

- 6.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly (a) conveys its thanks to the Governing Bodies of the three local primary schools for recent work undertaken around attendance, and (b) requests that the Community Assembly Manager send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Assembly to all three Governing Bodies.

## 7. **HIGH HAZELS PARK**

- 7.1 Sylvia Hamilton, Friends of High Hazels Park, provided an update on work and current projects at High Hazels Park. She reported that there were areas of the Park which still required a great deal of work, such as the Children's play area, and she reported that recent work had been undertaken with young people in the area, to ascertain what their favourite pieces of play equipment were.

- 7.2 Other work had already taken place in the Park, such as the transformation of a neglected rose garden into a sensory garden, and the addition of art and music features. The much-neglected Round Walk had also been reinstated after many queries about why it had been abandoned. The new Round Walk was extremely well-used, and Lucy Melleney from Darnall Wellbeing regularly held walking events using this facility.

- 7.3 A local young person called Pierce then addressed the Assembly, and stated that there were very limited activities for young people in the Park, and he requested that the Assembly consider the implementation of a skate park, which would appeal to all age ranges, and address health issues in the area by

encouraging young people to be active.

- 7.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly notes the concerns and issues raised with regard to High Hazels Park and the lack of facilities for young people, and agrees to report back at the next meeting of the Assembly with a progress update on facilities for the area.

8. **POLICE UPDATE FOR THE EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY AREA**

- 8.1 Inspector Paul Ferguson, South Yorkshire Police, reported upon Police initiatives in the Darnall area. He introduced himself as the new Inspector for the area, reporting that the areas he and his team covered were Darnall, Tinsley, Manor and Arbourthorne, as the East Safer Neighbourhood Area had recently been reorganised to match the area covered by the East Community Assembly.

- 8.2 He described some of the work he had already undertaken in his new role, including a football initiative at Woodburn Road called Darnall United, which was proving to be extremely successful, as it provided a safe and trouble-free environment for local young people to engage in a positive activity on a weekly basis.

- 8.3 Members of the public highlighted issues with drug usage behind Darnall Library. Inspector Ferguson reported that he was aware of the issue, adding that the Police ran a drop-in surgery for members of the public every Friday between 1500 hours and 1700 hours at Darnall Library, if members of the public wished to speak to the Police in confidence about any other similar issues.

- 8.4 A member of the public wished to clarify whether parked cars blocking dropped kerbs was a Police issue or a Council Parking Services issue, and John Bann, the Head of Transport and Highways admitted it was a grey area. It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the Cabinet Highways Committee for clarification.

- 8.5 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly (a) thanks South Yorkshire Police for the update, and (b) requests the Cabinet Highways Committee to consider the issue of parked cars blocking dropped kerbs, to clarify whether such issues should be dealt with by the City Council or by South Yorkshire Police.

9. **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY IN 2011/12**

- 9.1 Angela Greenwood, Community Assembly Manager, reported upon the key achievements of the East Community Assembly throughout 2011/12. She outlined the funding which had been allocated to local groups, and how this had been utilised, and also detailed many of the projects which had been led by the Assembly which had made a real difference in the area. She outlined how the budget had been used to tackle the key priorities identified by the Assembly at the start of the year, in consultation with local people and Ward

Members. She also highlighted the effective work of the Assembly's Partner Panel, which met quarterly. She thanked all involved in the successes achieved throughout the year.

- 9.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly extends its thanks to the Community Assembly team for all their hard work and achievements throughout the year.

## 10. **MINUTES**

- 10.1 The minutes of the meeting of the East Community Assembly held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were approved as a correct record, and there were no matters arising.

## 11. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

### Petitions

- 11.1 No petitions were submitted to the Assembly.

### Public Questions

- 11.2 Answers were provided as follows to public questions submitted to the meeting-
1. The Council had undertaken a great deal of work with regard to the usage of Heavy Goods Vehicles across the City and appropriate transport routes, and this information would soon be out for consultation with local communities.
  2. With regard to the costs of car parking at the new LIFT centre in Darnall, it was agreed that Lyn Brandon, Sheffield PCT, would investigate and report back to the Assembly, as there was different information in circulation at present as to what these costs would be.
  3. With regard to budget cuts made in respect of services for vulnerable adults, Councillor Jack Scott reassured members of the public that only essential cuts had been made in this area. He added that funding had been restored to key services such as the Deaf Advice Service and the Sheffield Advice Centre, and funding had been maintained for carer services, with the 'bar' to qualify for social care entitlements having also been lowered, meaning that care was now provided much more appropriately.
  4. Concerns were raised and noted over the new Fire Station site on the Parkway and potential problems with the exit onto the Parkway of emergency vehicles.

## 12. **SUCCESSFUL CENTRES STRATEGY**

- 12.1 Members received a report of the Executive Director, Place, regarding the Successful Centres Strategy, and Fiona Champion was in attendance to present this item. She reported that, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Cabinet approved the Successful Centres Citywide Framework and endorsed the Local Area Strategies for each Community Assembly Area, which would provide a

framework for future action and investment over a number of years. She added that these strategies set out a vision for District and Local Centres, and assessed the network of Centres across the City against that vision, as well as proposing which Centres would be prioritised for further work and investment.

12.2 **Decision Taken**

12.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly:

(a) notes the outcome of the consultation, and

(b) approves the Successful Centres Strategy and Action Plan prepared for the East Community Assembly Area.

12.4 **Reasons For The Decision**

12.5 It was noted that the strategies now reported set out the vision for District and Local Centres, proposing which Centres would be prioritised for further work and investment, and what actions the Council and its partners needed to take in order to realise the potential of all Centres. It was anticipated that the Council and its partners would use the strategies to identify how the City's network of Centres could improve the quality of life for people to make best use of combined resources.

12.6 **Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

12.7 None stated.

13. **EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY BUDGET REPORT 2012/13**

13.1 Members received a report of the East Community Assembly Manager, regarding the East Community Assembly Budget for 2012/13, which set out recommendations for the East Community Assembly's discretionary, or project budget, for the financial year 2012/13. It was noted that it had been confirmed at a meeting of full Council on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012 that the East Community Assembly would receive a Discretionary Budget of £336,958 for 2012/13.

13.2 **Decision Taken**

13.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly;

(a) notes the reduction in the Assembly discretionary budget of £118,613 from 2011/12 to 2012/13;

(b) regard having been had to the Sheffield City Strategy and to the relevant guidance of the Secretary of State, confirms its belief that the granting of funding as envisaged in this report is likely to achieve the promotion and improvement of the social and environmental well-being of residents of the East Community Assembly Area;

(c) allocates the sums stated in section four of the report now submitted from the 2012/13 East Community Assembly discretionary funding as follows:

(i) £6000 consultation and event budget for 2012/13; £5000 available now, and £1000 to be held back until Quarter 4 of the current financial year;

(ii) £10,000 per Ward for small grants in Richmond and Darnall Wards, with a commitment for a small grants pot to be established in due course for Manor Castle and Arbourthorne Wards;

(iii) £5,000 per Ward for an Assembly wide public realm/ horticultural scheme;

(d) agrees to use the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) based formula, created by Councillor Martin Lawton, to split the Assembly allocation into four Ward budgets;

(e) agrees to continue to fund the projects from 2011/12 listed in section four of the report now submitted;

(f) delegates authority to the East Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to work up and agree the details of the proposed allocations and projects set out in this report, to include an allocation for a weekly continuation of the community transport bus until September 2012 in Darnall to Morrison's supermarket, and

(g) authorises the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in this report is made available and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that she considers appropriate.

#### **13.4 Reasons For The Decision**

13.5 It was noted that the purpose of the Discretionary Budget was to help fulfil the priorities of the East Assembly Community Plan, and that all the projects proposed for funding contributed to one or more of these priorities. These priorities had been identified through consultation with local residents, groups and partners during 2011, and were as follows:

- Tackling unemployment and increasing skills
- Educational attainment
- Tackling poverty
- Stronger communities
- Safer communities
- Improving the environment
- Transport and Highways
- Better health

#### **13.6 Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

13.7 It was noted that alternative projects had been considered but had not been recommended for funding as they did not meet the priorities of the Assembly, or were not considered to be cost effective for the Assembly.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the East Community Assembly would be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 6.30 pm, at the Arbourthorne Social Club, Eastern Avenue.

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