

NOTES OF THE SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE ONLINE CONSULTATION EVENT HELD 19TH JANUARY, 2022

Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, Chair of the South Local Area Committee, welcomed everyone to the session and outlined the procedure for how the session was to run and the housekeeping arrangements to help the session run as smooth as possible. The Chair then invited Members and Officers to introduce themselves.

Councillor Clement-Jones displayed onscreen the agenda for the meeting.

Member Attendees

Councillors Simon Clement Jones, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Alexi Dimond, Peter Garbutt, Cate McDonald, Maroof Raouf, Richard Shaw, Alison Teal and Paul Turpin.

Public Attendees

40 Members of the public were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Apologies

n/a

Public Questions.

The Chair stated that he had received two written public questions in advance of the meeting from a local resident who was not present at the meeting. The first question was in relation to graffiti under one of the subways at Meadowhead and the second was regarding traffic flow in relation to St James Retail Park, Norton. The Chair read out to the meeting, the response that had been received from Amey and Highways regarding these matters.

The Chair then invited further questions from members of the public advising them that 30 minutes would be allowed for this item.

Ian Cracknell

Asked a question relating to the Nature Emergency which had been declared in May 2020. He said he was an Advocacy Officer for the Wildlife Trust and asked if there was an update regarding the emergency?

The Chair responded by saying that he didn't know how far the Council had got with this but would take his details and respond to him.

Jay Judge

She stated that she was a business owner on Abbeydale Road and had heard, rather disturbingly, about plans to paint red lines and/or make the length of Abbeydale Road into a bus lane. She said that she and the other business owners along her row of shops had not been given any information about this proposal and asked whether there would be any formal consultation as the many small businesses along Abbeydale

Road would be forced to close if customers weren't able to park outside their premises.

The Chair responded by saying that he didn't know at what stage the consultations were at. Jay Judge said that she had heard that there had been an allocation of further funding for the proposal.

Councillor Peter Garbutt stated that the plan was just a proposal at this stage and feedback was awaited on it. Councillor Garbutt said he would contact Jay Judge to put her in touch with the Officers dealing with the scheme. He said that such proposals would not go ahead without proper consultation.

David Boulton

Asked whether there were any plans to publicise changes to roads, giving more priority to pedestrians. He said that he walks into the city centre from Sharrow due to the fact that the buses weren't very reliable, but he added that the streets weren't pleasant to walk along.

The Chair was unaware of any proposals, however Councillor Richard Shaw said that there were changes to the Highway Code due to come into effect at the end of January which could change roads / footpaths and prioritisation for pedestrians. Councillor Shaw said that the Active Travel Team had been tweeting information about it and he felt it was something that Members and officers could help to address. Mr. Boulton suggested that the large roads signs that had been used for giving information re covid could perhaps be used to give motorists more information regarding these changes.

Alexander Tomlinson

Referred to the written question regarding St. James Retail Park which had been submitted by a local resident.

The Chair read out to the meeting the full response to the question.

Report back on the public consultation on the Local Area Community Plan

Diane Owens, Area Manager gave a presentation on the public consultation on the Local Area Plan some of key points included

- A range of engagement activities have taken place over the past 4-5 months
- We have heard from over 1,800 local people / businesses about things that are important to them in their local area
- An overview of the equalities data and gaps in terms of underrepresentation was provided
- The key themes in terms of positives, included sense of community, local shopping and business areas and parks and green spaces

- The key themes in terms of improvements, included litter and street cleaning, parking, traffic calming and crime and community safety
- Diane advised that the data comes with some caveats, including the sample size, underrepresentation and gaps and variance across the neighbourhoods.

Breakout Sessions

Members, supporting Officers and members of the public were then placed into breakout sessions lasting approximately 45 minutes and based on the following themes, which had been identified through the public engagement and local intelligence:

- Crime & Community Safety
- Environment
- Community & Neighbourhoods
- Employment & Skills
- Transport & Highways
- Children & Young People

Each breakout group would be facilitated by an Elected Member with support from council Officers.

Feedback from breakout sessions

Each facilitator was asked to feedback 2 key ideas / solutions from their breakout session.

Children, Young People & Families

Cllr Peter Garbutt advised that the two main points to feedback were:

- How do we get information to young people and their families? There needs to be a centralised area for children, young people and their families to get information about what's happening in their communities.
- Explore ways of getting information out there, go into schools, get the information to children and their parents through schools.

Employment & Skills

Cllr Ian Auckland fed back that the two main topics arising from his group were:

- How do we reach out to the digitally excluded, the unemployed or those just unable to connect with online messaging, meetings, information etc.?
- How do we level up locally? – in every community in the LAC area. could volunteering be a good way to help people gain confidence / work experience.

Communities & Neighbourhoods

Cllr Alexi Dimond fed back the 2 main ideas:

- The group felt it would be a good idea to collate information about community events and activities and store such it onto a locally based database or to add to an existing database as long as its accessible e.g. Sheffield Directory.
- To support those who are digitally excluded, local groups e.g. TARAs and local Council Officers could distribute leaflets, maps, etc. of the area with details of community facilities / activities etc, especially to those new to the area to enable them to get around / access local activities

Crime & Community Safety

Cllr Cate McDonald said some people in her group shared some of their personal experiences. Two main topics arising from the discussion were:

- NAGs – local concerns can be fed to local the Police and partners (including the council) by using the NAGs effectively. There were currently two NAGs in the South LAC area – one for Lowedges, Batemoor & Jordanthorpe and one for Sharrow and a further one was being proposed for Gleadless Valley
- It was felt that speeding was a major concern throughout the City. Community Speedwatch activity (to support Police led operations) was proposed as a way to help combat this.

Transport & Highways

Cllr Richard Shaw fed back the groups two themes which were:

- Improvements were needed in some areas in terms of pavements needing clearing of fallen leaves, litter, debris etc. Parking on kerbs is an issue in some neighbourhoods and can have implications for public safety, more dropped kerbs needed in some areas.
- More cycle training, enable young children to cycle around their area safely.

Environment

Cllr Paul Turpin said his session dealt with the environment and had some similar issues to that of Transport and Highways. Two key themes arising from discussion were:

- More community green spaces were needed, more trees, pocket parks etc. linked to this there is a need to ask the community what they would like to see in their area.
- Put nature first, create nature corridors. Get the most out of existing green spaces and use under-used sports fields and roadside verges to plant wild flowers etc.

Chair's Summary and Next Steps

The Chair thanked everybody for attending this online event. The next step is for us to collate all the feedback we have received over the past 5-6 months and review the available data, with a view to putting together a final version of the Community Plan.

We will of course continue to have conversations over the coming months to help shape the plan.

It is then intended that the Plan is presented for approval by Members, to a formal meeting of the LAC to be held in March. Obviously, this will need to be Covid compliant, but we hope by then that the situation has improved enough for us to have a full in person meeting.

This intention is for this meeting to take place on Wednesday 16th March 6-8pm at Meadowhead School. I look forward to seeing you then.

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