

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

South Community Assembly

Meeting held 5 July 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Cate McDonald (Chair), Ian Auckland, Nikki Bond, Anders Hanson, Qurban Hussain, Steve Jones, Roy Munn, Denise Reaney, Tim Rippon and Clive Skelton

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1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Clement-Jones and Bob McCann.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 29th March 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Assembly held on 29th March 2012, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, it was reported that the responses to questions raised at the meeting, together with previous meetings, were listed in the Community Assembly Questions Log, which was available at the meeting.

5.2 16th May 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Assembly held on 16th May 2012, were approved as a correct record.

6. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

6.1 RESOLVED: That Councillor Steve Jones be appointed Deputy Chair of the Community Assembly for the Municipal Year 2012/13.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

7.1 Members of the public asked questions and responses were provided as follows:-

(a) Steven Rich questioned:-

- (i) Whether the Community Assembly could explain why the grass cutting on the Low Edges, Batemoor and Jordanthorpe estates was so infrequent as it was making the area look a mess.

An officer from Sheffield Homes had indicated that the standard of grass cutting on many estates in the City was not up to the agreed frequency and standard that residents had come to expect. Sheffield Homes had a Service Level Agreement with the City Council's Parks and Countryside Service, who delivered the grass cutting on Sheffield Homes maintained green spaces in the City. Officers were in regular contact with David Hargate, Head of Parks and Public Realm, and his colleagues to ensure that both Services were working effectively to address the concerns that have been raised. One of the main reasons for the problems was the exceptionally bad weather. Sheffield Homes were taking time and date stamped photographs to evidence any poor standards of grass cutting and would continue to work closely with the grass cutting teams and also closely monitor the situation until they were fully satisfied that things had been rectified.

- (ii) When will the pavilion in Greenhill Park be repaired as it is in a very poor state and requires urgent work and would it be possible to paint the playground equipment in the Park.

The Parks and Countryside Service apologise that the building had been out of commission for some time and officers were working with colleagues in Property and Facilities Management to review the options for the pavilion following the damage that occurred from a burst water pipe and the discovery of asbestos. The removal of asbestos, subsequent reinstatement works and repairs required to the building involve significant costs, therefore discussions are taking place to assess the cost effectiveness of such repairs, as against replacement. A decision would be made this summer in time for any resulting work to be carried out during the closed season. In the meantime, the self-contained unit, which had been brought in as an interim measure, does have electricity, toilets and water from a tank in the unit. Although this was not ideal, it was seen as functional for the short-term.

- (iii) Whether, now that the Community Assembly was under Labour control, Members would set aside a budget to fund community summer and Christmas events, as had other Labour-run Community Assemblies in the City, regardless of whether the Ward is entitled to Community First money or not.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that in March 2012, the

Community Assembly took into account those Wards that were entitled to Community First Neighbourhood Funds and decided to allocate their own small grants fund to Wards that were not eligible (£5,000 to each Ward). Again, this small grants fund could, and has, funded community events.

- (b) David Bower questioned if the Community Assembly knew about the proposal to remove the No. 4 bus service from Psalter Lane, and whether it would be adding its voice to the growing opposition.
- (c) Paul Humphries questioned what representation had been made to the City Council over the proposals in the Sheffield Bus Partnership, which would see bus services withdrawn from half of Cemetery Road and the whole of Psalter Lane, leaving many elderly people living on these and adjoining roads without any form of easily accessible public transport.
- (d) A resident stated that the No. 4 bus service was not being withdrawn totally as the service would still be operating from the City Centre to Darnall, and questioned whether the proposed withdrawal of the service from the City Centre to Millhouses was as a result of subsidies being cut in the Millhouses area.

The Chair stated that the proposed withdrawal of the No. 4 bus service was a decision taken by the First bus operator and not a decision of the Council. Councillor Tim Rippon confirmed that there was no Council subsidy on this particular route, and that the decision to withdraw the service was a commercial decision by the First bus operator. The Community Assembly Manager stated that the Community Assembly Team had been promoting the ongoing consultation on bus routes and were liaising with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) to see what additional levels of consultation could occur in the Nether Edge area, particularly relating to the No. 4 bus service. Councillor Nikki Bond stated that she had distributed several copies of the consultation leaflet regarding the Sheffield Bus Partnership, to households on Cemetery Road, Psalter Lane and adjoining roads, and referred to a petition being signed by local residents, requesting the SYLTE to give consideration to Stagecoach running the No. 83 service along Psalter Lane. Councillor Ian Auckland added that the issue had been raised at the meeting of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) earlier this day, at which Councillor Leigh Bramall, Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development (including transport), had expressed the Council's concerns at the withdrawal of this service. Members had raised the possibility of the SYITA giving consideration to the diversion of an existing service along Psalter Lane, but there appeared to be no interest in terms of this at the present time.

- 7.2 RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly Manager be requested to send a letter to the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority, on behalf of the Community Assembly, expressing its concerns at the decision of First to withdraw the No. 4 bus service from City Centre to Millhouses, and requesting the SYITA to give consideration to re-installing the service or diverting an alternative service along that route.

- (e) Sally Hunt requested an update on the status of the City-wide HGV review and questioned whether Council officers were still involved in the review.

Nigel Robson, Community Assembly Highways Link Officer, stated that Chris Galloway was the responsible Council officer for the review, and was presently engaging with local fora, the North-East Derbyshire County Council and relevant Community Assemblies. It was anticipated that, subject to final feedback being received, a report on the review would be submitted to the Cabinet Highways Committee at the end of summer 2012. The Community Assembly Manager added that the Assembly had agreed to fund a number of Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) and there was a likelihood that a device would be located on Abbey Lane in the near future.

- (f) Chris Venables questioned what would happen to the mature trees in the City as part of the Highways PFI Project.

The Chair stated that not all trees in the City would be removed, but 50% of the City's trees would be replaced over the 25 year period of the PFI contract. There would be more detailed consultation on this and other issues connected to the PFI works nearer the commencement of the project in August/September 2012.

- (g) Ian Wallace questioned how the proposed 20 mph zones would be enforced.

Nigel Robson stated that, on the basis that the 20 mph zones would be in residential areas, there should not be any major problems with regard to speeding vehicles. Prior to the implementation of the 20 mph zones, there would be a campaign to ensure residents kept to speed limits and officers would be undertaking monitoring in terms of driver speeds prior to such implementation.

- (h) Hilary Taylor-Firth referred to reports she had read in the local press relating to the scrapping of the green wheelie bins used for garden waste, at a cost of £20 a bin, and questioned the justification of this action.

The Chair stated that she understood that the green wheelie bins would not be scrapped, but would be rolled out as part of the implementation of a garden waste collection service in other areas of the City. She added that Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, would provide a more detailed response on this issue.

- (i) Hendrika Stephens questioned the Community Assembly's views on the development of the Sheffield Antiques Quarter.

The Chair stated that the Community Assembly fully supported the development of the Sheffield Antiques Quarter.

- (j) Mohammed Nazir referred to the continuing problems he was experiencing with regard to a tree outside his property on Sheldon Road, which was causing damage to his property, and queried whether action would be taken in terms of pruning the trees, as had been promised on previous occasions.

The Chair stated that pruning works on the tree were due to be undertaken this month, and that the Community Assembly Team would monitor this situation.

- (k) Martin Brighton referred to the Government figures of multiple deprivation for Low Edges and other areas in the South of the City, which indicated that the area had shown a decline for a decade until 2007, then a further, accelerated decline from 2007, to the present day. He questioned, in the light of this:-

- (i) Why have the Councillors covering the areas of Low Edges not done the decent thing and resigned;
- (ii) Why did the political Party of those Councillors allow them to continue in the knowledge that they had failed;
- (iii) Can Councillors give any worse examples of where Councillors have abused the trust of those who place their trust in them;
- (iv) What is this Community Assembly going to do to put right the wrongs it has heaped upon its deprived communities;
- (v) What right do the Councillors who preside over this destruction have to remain in office; and
- (vi) When is this Community Assembly going to stop using the Low Edges area for a failed social experiment.

The Chair stated that it was up to the electorate to make a decision as to who they wished to vote for. In terms of funding allocations in the Low Edges area, the Council had changed the way it allocated funding to Community Assemblies, which was now based on both population and deprivation levels. She added that she did not accept that the Community Assembly was using the Low Edges area as a failed social experiment and if there were any failures by Councillors of that area, they would be held to account by the electorate.

- (l) Shahid Ali referred to increasing problems of anti-social behaviour (ASB) along the Abbeydale Road corridor, which he believed were occurring as a result of the reduction in services provided by Activity Sheffield, and questioned whether the Community Assembly could reassure residents and business owners in that area that action would be taken.

The Chair stated that the Community Assembly had been involved in a considerable amount of community cohesion work in the Abbeydale Road

corridor and, with the provision of funding from two separate sources, it had been involved in undertaking work with children and young people – 8 to 13 years olds and 14 to 18 year olds. The Assembly had recognised a need to provide diversionary activities in this area as a priority, and had funded this work from its Discretionary Budget. She added that she would raise the concerns of ASB in this area with the local Neighbourhood Action Group. Councillor Nikki Bond added that she had been involved in work with local businesses in the area and would discuss what additional action could be taken with her fellow Nether Edge Councillors.

8. SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY SMALL HIGHWAYS BUDGET 2012/13

The Community Assembly Highways Link Manager submitted a report containing proposed allocations from the South Community Assembly Highways Budget 2012/13.

8.1 Public Questions

In response to a question relating to the match funding contribution to South Yorkshire Police road safety work around primary schools, the Community Assembly Highways Link Manager stated that South Yorkshire Police had made a successful bid for Safer Roads Partnership funding, which could be used to improve road safety around schools within the Community Assembly area. Although he could not clarify precisely what works could be funded, a series of designs would be drafted and the schools would be consulted on the proposed designs. The Community Assembly Manager added that South Yorkshire Police and the Council would be working with the schools and that he believed that road markings, including yellow and double-yellow lines, would be included as part of the proposals.

8.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the information on the proposed allocations from the South Community Assembly's Highways Budget 2012/13, as detailed in the report now submitted; and
- (b) approves the draft programme in terms of allocations from the Highways Budget 2012/13, as set out in Appendix B to the report now submitted.

8.3 Reasons For The Decision

The local highway schemes now proposed will assist local people in crossing roads in their area, or in the control of vehicle movements in and around their area, adding to improved community safety. The schemes chosen were seen to be priorities for local people and represented a cross-section of the four Wards within the South Community Assembly area.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

The options available at present are of necessity and very limited until further decisions on funding have been made.

9. **SECTION 106 - OPEN SPACE AGREEMENTS**

The Projects Team Manager, Parks and Countryside Service, submitted a report on the proposed allocation of funds following Section 106 Agreements in the South Community Assembly area.

9.1 **Public Questions**

Members of the public raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- Whilst there were no specific plans in terms of proposed works in Chelsea Park, officers in the Parks and Countryside Service were working with the Friends of Chelsea Park and the local Neighbourhood Group, to work up some proposals.
- Whilst it was accepted that Chancet Wood Playground was some distance from Beauchief Hall, the Playground was still within the relevant distance as defined by the criteria, and there was already an amount of funding allocated to works at the Playground, so it had been decided that pooling the funding would provide a better opportunity to develop that scheme.

9.2 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly agrees to allocate the Open Space Section 106 Agreements funds to the following sites:-

| <u>Development Site</u> | <u>Project Site</u> | <u>Value (£)</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 35-47 Coniston Road | Tree planting in Broadfield Park | £2,785 |
| Beauchief Hall | Chancet Wood Playground | £6,290 |
| 122-126 Psalter Lane | Chelsea Park | £5,490 |
| 131 Psalter Lane | Chelsea Park | £11,450 |
| 105 Cowlshaw Road | Chelsea Park | £4,345 |

9.3 **Reasons For The Decision**

Section 106 Agreement funds need to be allocated to projects as soon as possible so that design and procurement work can commence. Although

funds from the Agreements which are the subject of this report have no specified claw-back date, developers may make a case for repayment if they can demonstrate that there are no plans to spend the money.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

There are various open space sites in the vicinity of some of the Section 106 Agreements. The sites suggested are those which are thought to be priority sites within the South Community Assembly area.

10. SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2012/13

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing (a) a summary of the South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 and (b) a review of three projects which had been agreed subject to a three-month review at the Assembly's last meeting.

10.1 Public Questions

Members of the public raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- The rationale in terms of how the Community Assembly has decided to allocate the funding from its Discretionary Budget has been outlined in the report.
- Details of the outputs and how they had been measured in connection with the allocation of £34,000 towards Community Engagement in Low Edges/Batemoor/Jordanthorpe, as agreed subject to a review after three months at the Assembly's meeting held on 29th March 2012, were not available at the meeting, but could be provided on request. Some of the work undertaken included working with the Low Edges/Batemoor/Jordanthorpe Forum, working with older people, distributing a newsletter and the organisation of a number of events and activities for young and older people.

10.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) agrees the allocation of a further nine months' funding to the following projects:-
 - Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team - £19,500
 - Community Engagement in Lowedges/Batemoor/Jordanthorpe - £28,000
- (b) authorises the Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Community Assembly and the Head of Highways, to negotiate and agree the continuation of the Lengthsperson Service with

the new Highways PFI provider (Amey Construction) from the commencement of the PFI contract to March 2013, and to take such steps as he shall consider appropriate regarding the continuation of the Service pending the commencement of the PFI contract, provided that the total value of the Service from August 2012 to March 2013 does not exceed £18,700; and

- (c) 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.

10.3 Reasons For The Decision

The South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 will ensure activity takes place to address some of the priorities as identified in the South Community Assembly Plan. The continuation of the three projects referred to in the report will contribute to:-

- Improve parks and open spaces
- Improve the street scene
- Increase activities for children and young people
- Improve local and district shopping areas
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Promote initiatives and projects that improve community cohesion in targeted areas
- Improve the health and wellbeing of older people
- Tackle health inequalities in targeted neighbourhoods
- Provide increased opportunity for people to access learning, skills and employment
- Contribute to the development of the voluntary, community and faith sector.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Members could have chosen not to provide further funding to the Lengthsperson Service, the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team or for Community Engagement in Lowedges/Batemoor/Jordanthorpe. Funding would then have to have been reallocated at the Assembly's meeting on 4th October, 2012, along with the Contingency Budget.

11. SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN 2012/13

- 11.1 The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing the South Community Assembly Community Involvement Plan 2012/13, which set out a clear programme of delivery for engaging with local residents over

the next twelve months, as well as providing a focal point of information that could be shared between key agencies about what activities/events were taking place to deliver consultation that affected neighbourhoods across the Community Assembly area.

- 11.2 In response to a question from a member of the public, the Chair stated that whilst the Community Assembly Team may have provided assistance to fora or community groups, if requested, the Assembly has, and never would, favour any one group over another.
- 11.3 RESOLVED: That the South Community Assembly adopts the South Community Assembly Community Involvement Plan for 2012/13, as appended to the report now submitted, as the basis for involving local residents across the area in the work of the Community Assembly and other local issues over the next twelve months.

12. SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION ON SHEFFIELD HOMES SOUTH WEST AREA BOARD

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report on the proposed nomination of a Councillor from the Community Assembly to serve on the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board.

12.1 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) having had regard to the views expressed by the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods about the proposal to nominate Councillor Steve Jones to the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board, agrees to nominate Councillor Jones to this position;
- (b) requests the Director of Modern Governance to refer the nomination to full Council for approval at the earliest possible opportunity; and
- (c) subject to Council approval, requests the Community Assembly Manager to complete the necessary paperwork to effect the appointment, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.

12.2 Reasons For The Decision

The South Community Assembly has been requested to nominate a Sheffield City Council appointee to the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods.

12.3 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

The Community Assembly could consider an alternative appointee to the Councillor who has been proposed.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 13.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Assembly would be held on Thursday, 4th October 2012, with the time to be confirmed, at the Batemoor and Jordanthorpe Community Centre, Dyche Lane