

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

South East Community Assembly

Meeting held 11 October 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Satur (Chair), David Barker, Isobel Bowler, Tony Downing, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Helen Mirfin-Boukouris, Mick Rooney and Chris Rosling-Josephs

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackie Satur and Ian Saunders.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 5th July 2012 were approved as a correct record, and there were no matters arising.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Petitions

5.1 Petition against proposed Skate Park at Occupation Lane

A petition was submitted by Jill Burkinshaw containing 38 signatures objecting to the creation of a skate/ BMX park in what was currently a car park, adjacent to the tram stop, main road and the playing fields (Occupation Lane/ Sheffield Road). Ms. Burkinshaw believed that the skate park would encourage youths to congregate, and could exacerbate existing problems with anti-social behaviour in the area, particularly with regard to the throwing of rocks at trams, and increased noise nuisance.

5.2 Petition against proposed Skate Park at Occupation Lane

A petition was submitted by Stuart Askwith containing 68 signatures objecting to the creation of a skate/ BMX park in what was currently a car park, adjacent to the tram stop, main road and the playing fields (Occupation Lane/ Sheffield Road). Mr. Askwith believed that the skate park would encourage youths to congregate, and could

exacerbate existing problems with anti-social behaviour in the area.

5.3 *Petition in support of proposed Skate Park at Occupation Lane*

A petition was submitted by Luke Hague containing 279 signatures in support of the creation of a skate/ BMX park in the South East of Sheffield. Mr. Hague stated that the skateboarding/ bike park would engage young people into positive activities and exercise, adding to the benefits of healthy living.

Public Questions

5.4 *Question regarding the proposed Skate Park at Occupation Lane*

A member of the public asked where the idea for a skate park had originated, and it was confirmed that positive activities for children and young people was a priority within the Community Assembly Plan, and there had been some Section 106 monies available for young people's facilities from the redevelopment of the Scowerdons estate. BMX and skateboarding was always popular with young people, and the Youth Forum in the local area had put forward the skate park as a suggestion, which had then been costed up, and consulted upon. The Assembly had agreed at its April 2012 meeting to allocate £25,000 from its discretionary budget towards the provision of a BMX facility within the Assembly area. 250 letters had been sent out to local households. Skateboarding happened currently in places that were not specifically designed for it, which was potentially dangerous, so a designated skate park would give the local young people a safe place to carry out these activities.

It was clarified that the equipment installed would be movable, and that the site would be monitored so as to measure levels of antisocial behaviour. There would also be CCTV at the site. Steve Garlick, Senior Health and Safety Consultant, Sheffield City Council, had given the site the go-ahead in terms of safety issues. Further issues around parking had also been raised, but it was felt that most young people would arrive at the skate park of their own accord.

5.5 **RESOLVED:** That the South East Community Assembly;

(a) notes that a public meeting had been held on 26th September 2012 in relation to the proposed skate park at Occupation Lane, and that all the viewpoints put across had been taken into consideration at this meeting and in prior consultation;

(b) notes the questions and petitions submitted to this meeting in relation to the proposed skate park;

(c) approves the selection of the site identified at Occupation Lane for the location of the skate park, and

(d) agrees to review the operation of the skate park in 18 months' time.

5.6 Question regarding youth provision in Beighton

Heather Rotherham, Methodist Church Circuit Administrator, submitted a question prior to the meeting about youth provision in the Beighton area. She stated that Beighton Youth Club had been meeting at Beighton Methodist Church until recently, when there had been cuts in the provision. The Church was also providing a drop-in centre for teenagers twice a week but this too had temporarily ceased due to lack of youth leaders. It was noted that the main leader had moved away, and the Church had been unable to find a replacement as of yet. Ms. Rotherham asked whether there was any other youth provision elsewhere in Beighton and asked what the Community Assembly was doing to ensure that youth provision was increased, not decreased, in Beighton and the surrounding area. She added that Beighton Methodist Church was very happy to hire their premises out for youth provision but that it did not have the people to staff such provision at present. She added that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour since the provision had ceased.

5.7 A reply was supplied from John Burke, Sheffield Futures, who stated that there were no longer the resources to run a two night a week youth provision in the Beighton Ward, adding that this had been taken out over two years ago because of the reduction in resources available to Sheffield Futures at the time. Sheffield Futures currently had one night's detached youth work in the Beighton Ward on a Monday night from 6.30 pm- 8.30 pm. Sheffield Futures also supported Activity Sheffield in delivering 'Friday 5's' which was a football project operated on Friday nights from 7.00 pm-9.30 pm in the area. It was also noted that Futures operated a two night open access youth club at Westfield School, which young people from the area were encouraged to access. However, he clarified that there were no plans in the near future to increase the provision in the Ward unless extra funding was secured.

5.8 **RESOLVED:** That the Community Assembly Manager be requested to (a) investigate the possibility of buying in resources from Sheffield Futures and (b) place an advertisement for youth worker volunteers in the next Assembly Newsletter.

5.9 Question regarding proposed changes to the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)

A member of the public asked a question about the proposed changes to the CAB at Mosborough and the involvement of Community Legal Advice Service for South Yorkshire (CLASSY) in the restructuring of

CAB offices.

- 5.10 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly expresses its support for the proposed changes to the CAB at Mosborough, and requests that a formal reply on behalf of the Assembly to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion be submitted by the Assembly Manager.

6. STREETS AHEAD PROJECT

- 6.1 Dave Taylor, Amey Steward for the Streets Ahead Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project for the South East area, introduced himself to the Assembly and explained that the PFI project had commenced and would take place over the next 25 years. The first five years would be spent resurfacing all of Sheffield's roads and improving the street/ road furniture across the City, and the next 20 years would be for the maintenance of the City's road infrastructure.
- 6.2 Work would commence in 2013 on the A-roads in the area, including main commuter routes such as Birley Moor Road.
- 6.3 Mr. Taylor invited people to contact him regarding road issues in the local area, and he provided his contact details.
- 6.4 The Assembly noted the information now provided.

7. SKELTON LANE HIGHWAYS PETITION

7.1 Summary of Item

The Assembly received a report of the Head of Transport, Traffic and Parking Services, regarding the outcome from consultation upon a proposal to make Skelton Lane and Spa Lane in Woodhouse one-way streets.

It was noted that the South East Community Assembly had received complaints that cars parked on Skelton Lane and Spa Lane, Woodhouse, sometimes prevented drivers from passing one another, causing congestion and delays to bus services. (Bus services operated in one direction, clockwise, from Spa Lane into Skelton Lane).

In May 2011 the Assembly asked officers to investigate the feasibility of making either the full length of Skelton Lane and Spa Lane one-way only, or making a section of Skelton Lane one-way from Water Slacks Road to Tannery Street. The resultant report, presented to Assembly Members in September 2011, concluded that, whilst either arrangement would be feasible, there would be significant drawbacks, as follows:

- Either proposal would adversely affect the accessibility of all properties along Skelton Lane and Spa Lane;

- Visitors driving to Woodhouse Library and Woodhouse Health Centre would have to travel a considerable additional distance to reach the car park or to be able to park on Skelton Lane;
- Some drivers would be likely to travel at higher speeds knowing that no traffic would be coming from the opposite direction. (The feasibility report recommended that some form of measure to moderate speeds should be introduced alongside a one-way system); and
- The considerable cost of such a scheme would be disproportionate to the problem.

The feasibility report contained an alternative proposal which would maintain two-way traffic but prohibit drivers from parking at bus stops and around junction mouths, creating a series of passing places. This was rejected by the Assembly on the grounds that it would remove much needed parking opportunities.

7.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the South East Community Assembly;

(a) notes the outcome of the consultation and the contents of the report now submitted;

(b) requests a more detailed report to be brought back to the next meeting of the Assembly, in order to give further consideration to the creation of a one-way system on Skelton Lane and Spa Lane, in order for the Assembly to make a final decision at its next meeting, and

(c) agrees to ensure that the petitioners and those who provided contact details with their survey response are kept up to date with the actions of the Assembly on this matter.

7.3 Reasons For The Decision

The Assembly felt that, given the high level of support for the one-way system on Skelton Lane and Spa Lane, there should be further investigation into this possibility, taking into consideration the concerns raised about its potential impact.

7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Congestion could be eased by creating a series of passing places along Skelton Lane/Spa Lane as described in the feasibility report and shown in Appendix C. This suggestion has previously been rejected by the Assembly due to potential loss of much-needed parking spaces.

7.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None declared

8. PRESENTATION ON BECTON SCHOOL

8.1 The Assembly received a presentation upon Becton School from Wendy Dudley (Headteacher) and David Caborn (Chair of Governors). It was noted that Becton School was a specialist facility for children with mental health problems and comprised four 'lodges' (Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and Amber) which dealt with different areas of need. The facilities at the School were excellent, and the School had proved a real success so far in helping children and their families in dealing with mental health problems.

8.2 There was a warm and welcoming atmosphere at the School, and there were excellent gardens and grounds, as well as en-suite bedrooms, an IT suite, games room and lounges.

8.3 The School had received a level of 'good, with outstanding features' in its latest Ofsted report, and it was also noted that children attended the School from all over the City, and there were some residential students.

8.4 A Christmas Fayre would be held at the School on Friday 7th December 2012, and everyone was invited to attend.

8.5 The Chair thanked Wendy Dudley and David Caborn for their report and all their hard work at the School. The Chair added that it was pleasing to have such an excellent City-wide facility located within the South East Community Assembly area.

9. WARD REPORT

9.1 Dave Luck, Assembly Manager, and Steve Edmonds from Beighton Villages Development Trust (BVDT) delivered a report upon the Beighton Ward.

9.2 Mr. Luck provided some statistics upon the Ward and its employment figures, and added that the Owlthorpe area had recently won a Gold Award for its Britain in Bloom efforts.

9.3 Mr. Edmonds then outlined the work of the BVDT, stating that the Trust had been founded in 2002, and had run smoothly until 2010, whereupon it had encountered funding issues, and, after a comprehensive review, it had been found that the Trust was not operating very efficiently.

9.4 A Finance Committee had then been established in July 2010, and several redundancies had been made across the Trust. Thanks to the findings of this review, and the work of the Committee, the Trust was now in a very healthy position financially, and was completely self-funding.

- 9.5 The Trust made a surplus of approximately £3,000 per month, and had recently set up a small grants scheme for local businesses and projects, in order to distribute this money to worthwhile projects. Mr. Edmonds encouraged local groups to apply for these funds (of up to £500 a time). The projects had to be based in Beighton or Sothall.
- 9.6 The Trust also ran free courses for adults and operated a Learning Champions project. It hired out rooms and provided support for local businesses. There was also a café operating daily at the Lifestyle Centre, from 10 am til 2 pm.
- 9.7 A member of the Limes Community Centre extended an invite for Mr. Edmonds and the Trust to get in touch with him, stating that it was disappointing that no one from BVDT had contacted Limes previously.

10. MANAGER'S REPORT

- 10.1 Dave Luck, Assembly Manager, delivered an update upon the recent activities of the South East Community Assembly. He reported that there would be a 'Youth Choose' event at the Beighton Welfare Recreation Ground on Friday 12th October 2012 at 7.00 pm and all were invited to attend.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 11.1 It was noted that future meetings of the Assembly would be held on 10th January 2013, 7.00 pm, at Birley Community College, Thornbridge Avenue (with a 'Meet the Cabinet' on this evening from 5.00 pm- 6.30 pm), and on 27th March 2013, 7.00 pm at a venue to be confirmed.