

South West Local Area Committee

Thursday 22 February 2024 at 7.00 pm

Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, S10 3BU

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend



Local Area
Committees

Membership

Councillor Andrew Sangar
(MBE)

Councillor Tim Huggan

Councillor Joe Otten

Councillor Sue Alston

Councillor Roger Davison

Councillor Barbara Masters

Councillor Ruth Milsom

Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

Councillor Minesh Parekh

Councillor Colin Ross

Councillor Martin Smith

Councillor Cliff Woodcraft

Engage · Empower · Enable

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

Local Area Committees engage, enable, and empower communities across the city with increasing control over decision making, marking a major shift in power to communities. The Committees provide a geographical framework that, over time, will be used to prioritise and direct the local delivery of an increasing number of Council services and oversee the production of a co-produced annual Area Committee Plan which will reflect resident priorities.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Area Committee meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair.

Please see the [website](#) or contact Democratic Services committee@sheffield.gov.uk for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's [protocol on audio/visual recording and photography](#) at council meetings.

Local Area Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last.

Please do not attend the meeting if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you require any further information please contact Democratic Services by emailing committee@sheffield.gov.uk.

Local Area
Committees
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**SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE AGENDA
22 FEBRUARY 2024**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 8)
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting.
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 9 - 18)
To approve the minutes of the Committee Held on
- 6. Public Engagement Session- Achievements on Community Plan Priorities.**
- 7. Feedback on Engagement Session**
- 8. Finance Report** (To Follow)
- 9. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public.
- 10. Date of Next Meeting**

NOTE: The next meeting of South West Local Area Committee will be held on a date to be confirmed,

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its Policy Committees, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** (DPI) relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from David Hollis, General Counsel by emailing david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk.

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South West Local Area Committee

Meeting held 30 November 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Andrew Sangar (Chair), Tim Huggan (Deputy Chair), Sue Alston, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Ruth Milsom, Shaffaq Mohammed, Minesh Parekh, Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Cliff Woodcraft

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Otten.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

5. PRESENTATIONS FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

5.1 Before proceeding with the items on the agenda, the Chair Councillor Andrew Sangar read the following apology:

“Before we begin, this is to be recorded in the formal minutes of the meeting, I want to address the findings of a complaint to our resident Mr Lennox.

Mr Lennox, on the 29th September a formal complaint was submitted by you to the Chief Executive of Sheffield City Council. This was about the way in which the reply to your public question of the 28th September had been handled. A written acknowledgement has been issued and the matter is now concluded.

We have some learning points that we are taking forward to improve how we deal with public questions and resident contacts. We have tightened up on the triaging of public questions as a result. I would like to formally apologise to you for the

way we dealt with your question and subsequent issues you raised with us.”

Mr Lennox, who was present at the meeting, thanked the Chair for the apology.

5.2 The Chair explained that presentations would follow on the theme of the local environment, after which there would be an opportunity to speak to the panellists at stalls representing each service. There had not been capacity to include the local “Friends of” groups so another networking event regarding volunteering would be arranged in due course.

5.3 The presenters were introduced as follows:

- Geraldine– Sheffield Litter Pickers
- Dave Rice and Stuart Turner- Parks and Countryside Service
- Marta Alfaro Tirado- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust
- Andrew France and Ian Ashmore- Waste Management/ Environmental Regulation

5.4 Geraldine Houlton of Sheffield Litter Pickers spoke first, explaining that she was an ambassador for the Sheffield Litter Pickers Facebook page which had 700 members. This was an active litter picking community across the city which she invited attendees to get involved with. This could be either by:

1. Being a local litter picker, e.g. on your own road
2. Getting involved in the events listed on the Facebook page which gave the opportunity to make friends while collecting litter.
3. Getting involved via your local Tenants and Residents Association, as they were organising litter picking initiatives which included refreshments.
4. Setting up a community litter picking group. The Council would provide equipment and remove the collected rubbish.

The benefits of the types of action listed above were to the individual- i.e. fresh air, increased fitness, making friends and to the community, wildlife and children.

5.5 A presentation on the Parks and Countryside Service, subsequently published on the Council’s website, was delivered by Stuart Turner (Programme Manager) and Dave Rice (Business Manager, Parks and Countryside Service).

The presentation outlined details of the different facilities managed by the service, the reduction in budget in recent years, recent green space improvements in local parks and at Forge Dam and Limb Brook, and the Shelter café at Whirlow Brook Park. It also outlined details of volunteering, allotments, and advised what the Services’ future priorities were.

5.6 A presentation, subsequently published on the Council’s website, entitled Waste and Recycling Services, was delivered by Andrew France (Waste Management Officer).

This outlined the services included in the contract with Veolia, the Energy Recovery facility, Beighton Materials Recycling Facility, and the Household Waste Recycling Centres. It also reported on waste performance figures and concluded

by giving details on new projects which were being planned.

- 5.7 A presentation entitled “Our Work in the South West Local Area Committee”, subsequently published on the Councils’ website, was delivered by Marta Alfaro Tirado (Nature Recovery Manager, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust).

This outlined the work the Trust did in the area including on Nature Reserves, partnership working with other environmental organisations, outdoor learning with young people, and plans for nature recovery. Additionally, the Trust had new projects underway such as the Land Management Advice Service and the development of a plan focused on young people.

- 5.8 Ian Ashmore, (Head of Environmental Regulation) thanked the litter pickers for the work that they do.

He advised that a leaflet entitled “Not Born Yesterday” raising awareness about scams was available. This was particularly relevant because loneliness and a lack of feeling safe could prevent people volunteering.

Mr Ashmore outlined the services Environmental Regulation were involved with, which included work to combat illegal dog imports, high hedges, Knotweed, contaminated land, and general pollution. They were also responsible for infection control and the issuing of business permits.

Two projects were highlighted:

1. The Volunteering Strategy, which set out how to work better with volunteer groups in the city. The Council wished to hear from environmental volunteering groups about what assistance they needed.
2. Environmental Toolkit- this was being developed to make it easier for people to get involved in improving the local environment. The Council wanted to know the top 10 or 15 issues which needed to be tackled in the local area. These would then be put into a toolkit to advise people how to deal with them. Case studies would also be included, such as the Kelham Island Group who had put artwork on telecoms boxes.

- 5.9 The Chair invited members of the public present to ask questions of the panellists and the following information was given by panellists regarding topics discussed:

Rewilding

Marta Alfaro Tirado advised that the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust was doing as much as they could towards rewilding. Their Land Advisory Service has been set up and would be promoting it.

The Waste Management Service was supporting the Species Recovery Fund to improve habitats at a landscape scale and to support nature recovery networks.

Bins

Smaller brown bins were not currently available, but the provision of different size bins was being investigated.

Flyposting on bus stops on Ecclesall Road

Owners of bus stops were responsible for removing posters, this was generally the bus company. It could be difficult to prove who was flyposting and to catch them. There was CCTV on Ecclesall Road, but people were aware of how to evade it.

A graffiti strategy was being developed for the city.

Unruly dogs and damage to wildlife

Dog ownership had risen and so had the damage caused by them to wildlife and habitats. People were encouraged to keep dogs on leads. Signage to this effect had been put up in nature reserves. It was possible to use Public Space Protection Orders, but a need would have to be demonstrated and orders relating to dogs were especially tricky. If there were issues at a particular site, this could be considered. Some areas in Ecclesall Woods had been fenced off to protect them from dogs.

Pedestrian Access to Tips

Technically all sites allowed pedestrian access but there were health and safety issues due to mixing pedestrians and traffic. Work was being done to resolve this.

Getting young people into volunteering

The Wildlife Trust provided paid training with certification, to encourage young people into volunteering. The aim of this is to train young people to a sufficient standard to enable them to get jobs in the sector. This was made possible by lottery funding.

Litter Pickers used posters and social media for volunteer recruitment and there were young people involved.

Cyclists causing a nuisance/ damage in Bingham Park

A member of the public stated that cyclists were taking over the Park and causing damage to footpaths in the ancient woodland. As the Council's policy was to encourage cycling, nothing was being done about this. She asked if the by laws could be amended to stop cyclists damaging the environment.

Panellists stated that responsible cycling was encouraged and footpath users needed to respect each other. Work was being done to produce messaging to that effect.

The Chair thanked the panellists for their contribution.

6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION- LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

- 6.1 The webcast was paused while attendees were given the opportunity to circulate and ask questions informally to the presenters.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

- 7.1 The webcast restarted and the Committee received the following

questions from members of the public who had submitted the questions prior to the meeting:

(a) Mike Hodson

“At the 6 July LAC Meeting I asked some questions about whether the LAC had concerns about the process by which Parks & Countryside Service negotiated a Lease of part of Millhouses Park to True North Brew Co. that owns the Waggon & Horses pub adjacent to the park; and about how Parks & Countryside Service had dealt with the Friends of Millhouses Park as part of that process.

The written answers I received did not answer the questions: and were written by an Officer of the Parks & Countryside Service, not by anyone from the LAC. I complained about this to the Chair and the LAC Manager; and Paul May our Chair and I met Cllr Sangar and Ms Bustamante in October to discuss my complaint. Cllr Sangar agreed that I was correct; that the answers I got did not answer the questions I put; and that the Minutes of that July meeting should be amended to show that was the case. That has not happened because the Head of Democratic Services has advised that Minutes of Council Committees can only be amended by the Committee itself.

I am also asking the LAC if they agree that it is part of the duties of Officers and Members of Local Area Committees to ensure that questions from the public are answered correctly and appropriately and in due time - as with all Council Committees - as part of the general democratic process?

Does the SW LAC agree that the right to ask questions at public meetings of this, and other Council Committees, is an inherent part of the democratic process; and that where answers to those questions are able to be answered in the meeting that should be the norm? And would they also agree that every effort should be made by Officers and Councillors on those Committees to ensure that the answers given are relevant, correct and complete; and that questioners should have the right to follow-up questions in the event that they feel that has not been the case?”

The Chair, Councillor Andrew Sanger, stated that it was not an inherent right to ask questions at LACs but it was a right that Members had wanted people to have. Sheffield Council had been a leader in this. Following the referendum, the Council was in the second year of its committee structure. Work was still being done by the Governance Committee to finalise the process for democratic engagement, including how public questions should be addressed.

He added that the South West LAC did not have policy making powers in terms of the Parks or Council assets and therefore the appropriate place for Parks related discussion was the Communities Committee. The appropriate place for Assets discussion was the Finance committee.

He explained that the South West LAC welcomed questions on matters that could be addressed by the Committee and matters that are within the decision-making scope of the Local Area Committee. Where an issue was being addressed at a Policy Committee the scope of input that a LAC could have might be minimal, particularly in the case of legal and contractual matters.

(b) Paul May

1. *“How were the responses and round-table discussions at the July Meeting about Community Safety recorded and evaluated, and will they be reported, whether to a future meeting or by email?”*
2. *Reading both the original Community Plan, and the updated version of the Plan produced more recently, it is clear there are many targets throughout the Plan which have both review dates and outcome dates. They also have timelines for achievement, many of which have now been exceeded. We have not seen any of these outcomes from the Plan reported at the SW LAC meetings. Can you tell us when these will be published and how they will be evaluated to give an overall assessment of how well the SW LAC has performed against its original targets?*
3. *Referring to the targets in the updated Plan, are these aspirational targets or just a list of those that came out of the Review? Will they also be assessed and contribute to that overall assessment?”*

Mr May's question was read out by Mike Hodson as Mr May was not present at the meeting.

The Chair advised a full written answer would be provided but also stated the following:

Question 1

The LAC Team collated together all the notes from the engagement sessions and produce a table of summary feedback received, this was collated together onto one summary. They see the feedback from the engagement sessions as highly valuable as it underpins the work they deliver in terms of projects on the community plan. It is the basis of what they focus projects and support on.

Question 2

The LAC Team had been providing summary updates at the LAC Public Meetings, at the last meeting they did this in the style of an information board. This was a response to the feedback they received at the previous public meeting in March, where they were asked to limit the time of the presentation on the LAC plan updates by the attendees present. They

expressed that they wanted to focus time on engagement instead.

The Chair added that a summary highlight report on progress made with the 22/23 Community Plan had been produced and copies of the report were printed off and available at the Public Meeting in September. The LAC Team wanted to improve the reporting to residents on progress and were developing the webpages to include a section specifically for this. Here you would be able to read updates on each of the projects they had underway and this would open up an opportunity for residents to get involved, if they were interested.

The Chair also explained that the pace of delivery on some of the items had meant the LAC Team had to roll forward some of the actions onto this year. Over the last year, they had learnt the challenges of operating in a new organisational set up and understood more realistically the kind of agile approach required to ensure that they do deliver. The approach to achieving deliverables was very much developmental; test and learn. A large part of what they delivered was dependent on how far they could influence through collaborative working with other services and partners and their available capacity as well as the LAC Teams capacity. There was a wide breadth of activity in the plan that involved a number of partners and services collaborating together.

Question 3

The items in the updated plan formed the LAC Team's work programme that they were currently delivering. They were aiming to have achieved all actions by end of March '23. Under each of the themes and priorities set out they had listed actions that they assessed and deemed as being achievable in the time period and within the budget they had available, and that will be impactful on reaching results to address the issue.

The Chair advised that the measure of success would be whether they achieved the project/initiative, an assessment of outcomes would be delivered in the post March period and would need to involve testimonies from those that had either taken part in an activity that they had helped facilitate to help measure the social value impact.

(c) Christopher Pennell

"A Green Belt runs in the west of our LAC area (and for that matter also in west of the North LAC) and beyond that the National Park. Given the current propensity for national politicians to play fast and loose with Green Belt designations suggesting that much of it is scrubland and fit only for building houses on, should the Council do more to defend such land where it is clearly of value for reasons other than those set out in planning rules for creating Green Belt.

The South West developed Area hosts on the west Green Belt land which stretches across to the Peak District National Park boundary and

provides significant ecosystem benefits to Sheffield residents, such as strong biodiversity, great access and recreational opportunities, valued landscapes in their own right to gladden the heart and spirit, and opportunities to combat climate change and to reduce flood risks.

Recognising that the value of such land as is designated as Green Belt within our LAC area is much more than the sum of the five purposes for Green Belt designation, the Dore community is drafting a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Green Belt land wrapped around developed Dore. We will in the New Year want to consult the City Council on our draft Strategy. Who should we consult? Who within the Council team has the knowledge and the clout to assess the true value and ecosystem service potential of the land beyond the developed areas of the South West LAC up to the boundaries of the National Park. Will we get a knowledgeable and considered hearing?"

The Chair stated the following:

The Council was in the process of reviewing the Local Plan and many people had contributed to this. Planning Officers were putting most of their efforts into getting the Local Plan adopted.

The development of a supplementary planning document that is specific to Dore would not be a priority for the Planning team at present, though they intend to develop a city-wide supplementary planning document on Biodiversity Net Gain and other aspects of design for biodiversity.

He explained that their limited resources were currently being channelled towards supporting work on the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for South Yorkshire (work being led by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority). Mapping of natural capital (including the Dore area) had already been completed and the maps were available on the SYMCA landing page. Dore Village Society might find it useful to use the information held there in developing their Green Infrastructure Strategy.

The Planning team anticipated that one of the aspirations of the LNRS would be to embed Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards within it. This would also include elements such as active travel, ecological prioritisation, and waterways management. The LNRS would cover the whole of the city, so would incorporate the Dore area. There would be engagement with the public and community groups as part of developing the LNRS.

- 7.2 The Chair thanked everyone present for attending the meeting and reminded them to fill in a feedback form.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

- 8.1 The next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 22nd February at 7.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

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