

NOTES OF THE SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE ONLINE CONSULTATION EVENT HELD 20TH JANUARY 2022

Councillor Andrew Sangar (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the procedure for how the meeting was to run. John Turner (Democratic Services) read out the housekeeping arrangements. The Chair then invited Members and officers to introduce themselves.

Report Back On The Public Consultation On The Local Area Committee Community Plan

Denise Devoto (LAC Manager) gave a presentation on the public consultation on the LAC Community Plan.

Breakout Sessions

Members, officers and members of the public were then placed into breakout sessions, which lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Feedback from the Breakout Sessions

Theme 1 – Transport and Highways

Group TH1 (Barbara Masters)

- A number of comments on bus services - questions as to whether we should get involved as no control.
- Reference to the public consultation organised by the SCR on the Enhanced Bus Partnership. Need for better/improved technology.
- Speeding traffic - possibility of having 20 mph zones as a default across the city, rather than just in specific neighbourhoods. Need for better enforcement of speeding offences to encourage a cultural shift.
- Inconsiderate parking was a major issue in the area, mainly around schools and parks.
- Need to encourage more car-sharing.

Group TH2 (Joe Otten)

- Need for an improved bus network, including better provision to certain areas. Need for improved reliability and display of information regarding the bus times.
- Dore and Topley corridor - potential route to extend Supertram. Queries whether such extension was realistic - better to focus on improving bus services.

- Need to make it easier to report highways issues - could the LAC be the forum where this could happen.

Theme 2 – Local Environment

Group LE1 (Cliff Woodcraft)

- Need for improved recycling facilities, including better information/education regarding the recycling of different/more items, including food waste.
- Need to look at making use of certain items, including the possible transfer to areas in more need.
- Achieving Net Zero - more emphasis in terms of planning applications.
- Need an over-arching vision for the area.
- Need for better information regarding parks and open spaces in order to make them more accessible to people from other areas of the city.
- Need for more public toilets in parks and other areas.
- Litter - need for continued engagement with schools in terms of educating younger people.

Group LE2 (Tim Huggan)

- Need to encourage a reduction in waste from local shopping centres.
- Need for strategic placement of litterbins.
- Need for better assistance regarding biodiversity enhancement in parks and open spaces.

Theme 3 – Community and Neighbourhoods

Group CN1 (Colin Ross)

- Need for an improvement in response times when reporting ASB - need for closer liaison with the police and social housing groups.
- Need to engage young people to attend meetings and become more involved in local issues.
- Need for improved facilities to help engage with young people.
- Fear of crime - work with Neighbourhood Watch Groups.
- Expand the community network – encourage more people to get involved.

Group CN2 (Sue Alston)

- Need to work closer with the police and improve the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Teams.
- Use of libraries as communication hubs - need to look at how residents can access local events/initiatives and get advice/support if facing problems. LAC to contact the various groups/organisations to help people access such information.
- Local shopping areas - lack of disabled parking - LAC to review this.
- Encourage more cycling.
- Building and development- need to consider the areas biodiversity needs.

Group CN3 (Mohammed Mahroof)

- Need for better/more effective communications regarding the excellent work undertaken by local community fora.
- Concerns regarding the lack of engagement by young people - need to share information via the Youth Cabinet.
- Community groups - need to bring them together to improve and encourage best practise.
- Lack of activities for young people.
- Lack of buildings to facilitate community groups - need to look to share use of facilities.
- Play Streets - shared used to bring people together.

Public Questions

Received in Advance of the Meeting

Cathy Rhodes

Written – Nature Recovery Sheffield and Nature Emergency Action Plan (NEAP).

Response – (Cllr Andrew Sangar) - The Council was in the process of working on the NEAP, and such work was being undertaken in parallel with a range of duties and responsibilities, both at a Sheffield and South Yorkshire level, in relation to the Environment Bill. The Council was keen that the Plan captured, and played on, the good work being undertaken by a range of partners across the city, and it was hoped that an update would be provided shortly on

how local communities could contribute to the Plan. Reference was made to the new committee system, to be introduced in May 2022, when it would become clear which committee would be dealing with this issue.

Jan Fitzgerald

Written – Limited class sizes in parks – Change to policy, with no consultation with user groups.

Response – (Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed) – Need for the LAC to have more control over the city’s parks. He had not received any complaints regarding the use of parks by community groups.

Councillor Andrew Sangar stated that a written response would be sent to Ms Fitzgerald, and that he would liaise with local Councillors to facilitate discussions between the community group and the Parks and Countryside Service.

Questions Raised at the Meeting

Richard Storer

When will the Local Plan be adopted and how can residents address their concerns, as part of the process, regarding the use of the Green Belt?

Response (Councillor Martin Smith) - The Climate Change, Environment and Development Transitional Committee met on 13th January to 2022, and each Member expressed a preferred option, from the five set out in the report. The minutes of that meeting were forwarded to the Co-op Executive at its meeting on 19th January 2022, and the issue will be discussed by full Council on 2nd February 2022. The Council would then look at identifying specific sites for development, which would then be consulted on with the public in September/October 2022. Councillor Smith offered to speak to Mr Storer, to provide a more detailed explanation of the process, to include the proposed timetable.

Deborah Enzenbacher

As part of the community planning process, will there be continual monitoring and evaluation, together with a timetable, and will the strategy be publicly reported on the website?

Response (Councillor Andrew Sangar) - the Council was committed to be open and transparent. All targets in the Plan would need to be measurable. Denise Devoto and Nic Hamilton would take these comments into consideration.

Jenny Prideaux

Will the LAC be involved in the development of a Covid Exit Strategy, now that restrictions were starting to be lifted?

Response (Cllr Andrew Sangar) - Greg Fell (Director of Public Health), had provided regular updates throughout the pandemic, which were likely to continue in the short- term. It was accepted that a plan for living with Covid would be required, and that this would be communicated by Mr Fell and his team.

Christopher Pennell

Local Plan - There had been consultation on the Plan in 2020 regarding the issues and options. However, the Government had now increased the number of homes expected in the city from 40,000 to 53,000. Are the public going to be consulted on this prior to the consultation in September/October 2022?

Response (Councillor Andrew Sangar) - The report submitted to the Co-operative Executive on 19th January 2022, included feedback from a planning consultant procured by the Council to look at the city's land use for development up to 2039, in accordance with the Government's requirements.

Councillor Martin Smith - the process had dragged on for a long time, and there was concern that if no agreement was made, the Government could instruct the city to develop a specific number of homes, and where such homes should be.

Paul May

How does the LAC plan to work with the People Keeping Well Group?

Response (Councillor Andrew Sangar) - The LAC was working very closely with the Group, and had representation on its Steering Group. There was the need to have a Community Plan, based on residents' views, and the LAC would measure targets against the Plan on a periodical basis.

Alana Clarke

Did the LAC have any views on what it considered a sustainable population for the city?

Response (Councillor Andrew sangar) - A written response would be sent to Ms Clarke. The Local Plan would include details of the city's projected population in 2039 to determine how many homes would need to be developed.

Robert Eastwood

Would the next LAC meeting be a hybrid meeting, whereby people who were not able to, or could not, attend the meeting be able to have an input online?

Response (Councillor Andrew Sangar) - the Covid-19 pandemic had changed the way the Council used

technology, and it was always looking for ways of helping more people to engage, so this would be investigated.

Chair's Summary and Next Steps

The Chair felt that a good start had been made and the next steps were to collate all the feedback, review any available data and present the LACs findings to the next meeting.

Residents would have a further opportunity to contribute to the Community Plan before the Committee's next meeting, to be held on 17th March 2022, at the Tapton Masonic Hall.