

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**Meeting held 21st March 2012 at the
Shirecliffe Community Centre, 349 Shirecliffe Road**

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Price (Chair), Joan Barton, Jane Bird,
Leigh Bramall, Tony Damms, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain,
Talib Hussain, Alan Law and Peter Rippon

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1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Chris Weldon.

3. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Agenda Item 7 – Yorkshire Muslim Academy, Bland Street: Petition Report

Councillors Ibrar Hussain and Talib Hussain declared personal interests as they had children who attended the Yorkshire Muslim Academy.

Agenda Item 8 – Discretionary Budget Allocation 2012/13

Councillor Leigh Bramall declared a prejudicial interest as he was a Committee Member of the Parson Cross Forum and a member of the Southey/Owlerton Area Regeneration (SOAR) Board.

Councillor Tony Damms declared a prejudicial interest as Chair of Community First, which was a partner organisation of the Parson Cross Forum, and a member of the SOAR Board.

Councillor Peter Price declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the SOAR Board.

Councillor Jackie Drayton declared a prejudicial interest as her husband was employed by the SOAR Board.

Councillor Alan Law declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the Firth Park Advice Centre Committee and a member of the Longley Organised Community Association Ltd (LOCAL).

Councillor Peter Rippon declared a prejudicial interest as his daughter was employed by the Foxhill and Parson Cross Advice Centre.

None of the above took part in any discussion or voting on those parts of the decision which involved the allocation of funding to those bodies.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 Petitions

The Assembly received and noted (a) a petition containing 15 signatures from the Verdon Street Agewell Group and a letter from the Burngreave Tenants' and Residents' Association regarding proposed staffing changes at the Verdon Street Recreation Centre and (b) a petition containing the forenames of 149 users of the Pitsmoor Adventure Playground regarding proposed staffing changes there.

5.2 Public Questions

Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

1. The Chair, Councillor Peter Price, indicated that Activity Sheffield was having to take its share of the financial cutbacks with some of their workers having to reapply for their positions. Alison Rayner, Community Assembly Manager, added that the Council were reviewing staffing issues at the Pitsmoor Adventure Playground and the Verdon Street Recreation Ground, and Councillor Jackie Drayton stated that she was looking for Members to be involved in any consultation and that a report would be made to the Burngreave Ward meeting before the end of May.
2. Alison Rayner indicated that an update on progress regarding the Lion Works, Osborne House and Pitsmoor Working Men's Club had been sent to the questioner and that a Council officer had been designated to monitor progress.
3. Councillor Leigh Bramall stated that each Community Assembly would choose a 20 mph zone in their area over a two year period and these zones would be extended on a worst first basis thereafter. There were some schemes already in place in the City with the one in Shiregreen being funded by Sanctuary Housing Association.
4. The Chair indicated that officers would be asked to look at reported parking issues on Firth Park Road between the Library and Page Hall.
5. Alison Rayner stated that she would raise the issue of litter in the wooded areas adjacent to Busk Knoll with Sheffield Homes, which had responsibility for their maintenance.

6. Councillor Jane Bird indicated that reports of illegal parking around the garage at the junction of Molineaux Road and Hatfield House Lane, and around the cafes on Hatfield House Lane, would be raised at the next Neighbourhood Action Group meeting.
7. Councillor Leigh Bramall indicated that the request for the provision of traffic lights at the junction of Halifax Road and Southey Green Road would be assessed by officers and prioritised accordingly. It should, however, be borne in mind that such schemes were competing for limited resources.
8. Councillor Leigh Bramall stated that funding would be provided by the Community Assembly to support the Parson Cross Forum as an interim step prior to the award of Lottery Funding. This sum was subject to approval later in the meeting. Councillor Tony Damms expressed his determination that services would continue to be provided by the Parson Cross Forum at the Thomas More Church Centre.
9. The Chair explained that each Ward had made its own decisions regarding funding allocations for Activity Sheffield and that the Assembly only funded the officers' salaries. It should be noted that each Ward had carried out its own consultation regarding the Activity Sheffield funding and was able to demand that its requirements were fulfilled. A breakdown of the activities provided was always produced and it may be worthwhile to invite a representative from Activity Sheffield to a future Firth Park Ward meeting.
10. Councillor Peter Rippon pointed out that there had been plenty of opportunity, prior to the ballot on the management of the housing stock in Shiregreen, for residents' questions to be answered. Councillor Tony Damms added that he had attended at least two public meetings, which had been called by the community, at which the issues surrounding the ballot had been fully discussed. Councillor Jackie Drayton commented that the majority of those voting had voted in favour of stock transfer and that Members had set up Neighbourhood Commissions to ensure that Sanctuary Housing Association were held to account by tenants and elected Members.

6. **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOUNDARIES**

Inspector Simon Leake, South Yorkshire Police, gave a presentation on the revised Safer Neighbourhood Boundaries. He explained that these areas matched the Community Assembly Wards and aimed to align most services and enable more efficient partnership working. Inspector Leake went on to outline the composition of the North East Safer Neighbourhood Team and gave an indication of the roles and responsibilities of the Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers. In conclusion, he explained that the new arrangements would be operational from April 2012 and informed the meeting of what the changes would mean to the community, making particular reference to reduced fear of crime and increased public confidence.

Public Questions

Inspector Leake responded to public questions as follows:-

1. Longley was within the Firth Park Ward.
2. Staff would be deployed where there was a demand.
3. Core operational times were from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm, but this would be extended at the weekend.
4. The North East Safer Neighbourhood Team was based at Ecclesfield Police Station and he would ensure that refreshed contact details were circulated.
5. Quick phone call delivery was being encouraged and it should be noted that all Police Community Support Officers had Blackberries so that people could talk to them whilst they were on duty.

RESOLVED: That the North East Community Assembly thanks Inspector Simon Leake for his presentation and notes the information reported.

7. **COUNCILLORS JOAN BARTON AND JANE BIRD**

The Chair, Councillor Peter Price, paid tribute to Councillors Joan Barton and Jane Bird who were not seeking re-election at the forthcoming Council elections, and who between them had given over 54 years valuable service to the community. These tributes were endorsed by Councillor Jackie Drayton who referred to the assistance and support which she had received from both of them when she first became a councillor and the time and effort which each of them had put into their Wards. She added that they would be greatly missed by both elected Members and the community. This was followed by a presentation by the Chair of a bouquet and flower arrangements to each of them.

Councillor Joan Barton thanked Members for their tributes and referred to achievements in the Shirecliffe area, and Councillor Jane Bird also thanked Members and expressed how much she had enjoyed serving the community. Councillor Bird offered particular thanks to the South Yorkshire Police for their work in connection with the Shiregreen Designated Public Places Order and cited this as a good example of partnership working. Both retiring Members indicated that they would attend future Community Assembly meetings as members of the public.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISIONS

8. YORKSHIRE MUSLIM ACADEMY, BLAND STREET: PETITION REPORT

The Director of Development Services submitted a report in response to a petition requesting traffic calming measures and road safety improvements around the Yorkshire Muslim Academy, Bland Street.

8.1 Public Questions

Responses to public questions were provided as follows:-

1. Nigel Robson stated that the installation of appropriate road signs might be useful and consideration could be given to this.
2. Nigel Robson indicated that the photographs of the road shown in the presentation were taken in the afternoon and that no assessment had been undertaken whilst pupils were leaving the Academy. He added that it should be borne in mind that this was only an early assessment.
3. Councillor Tony Damms emphasised the need to adopt road safety measures at locations where problems had been identified.
4. Councillor Ibrar Hussain indicated that the restricted budget on which the Council was operating needed to be borne in mind.
5. Andy Godson, Transport Planning Officer, referred to the number of road safety schemes on the waiting list which were in excess of the funding which the Assembly had available and added that a major speed reduction scheme could cost in the region of £150,000 to £200,000.
6. Andy Godson stated that the Council's Travel Advisers could meet representatives of the Yorkshire Muslim Academy with a view to addressing the road safety issues raised.

8.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the North East Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the concerns of the petitioners and thanks them for raising this matter;
- (b) requests officers to undertake further monitoring of road safety issues around the Yorkshire Muslim Academy, Bland Street;
- (c) requests officers to explore the possibility of installing appropriate road signs and markings in the vicinity of the Yorkshire Muslim Academy, Bland Street and provide costings for such measures;

- (d) requests Burngreave Ward Members to liaise with representatives of the Yorkshire Muslim Academy to discuss the petitioners' concerns; and
- (e) requests that officers contact the petitioners to inform them of the Community Assembly's decision.

8.3 Reasons For The Decision

- 8.3.1 There have been two reported injury accidents in the vicinity of the Academy itself during the last 5 years. One was classed as slight whilst the second involving an intoxicated pedestrian was classified as serious. Therefore the introduction of substantial road safety measures would be difficult to justify in view of the significant cost involved.
- 8.3.2 Physical traffic calming measures such as road humps may not discourage the use of Petre Street as a through route especially by commercial vehicle drivers who may go over the features at inappropriate speeds.
- 8.3.3 There may be many other locations, within the North East Assembly area, that have had a greater number of pedestrian injury accidents in recent years. General pedestrian activity is low. The Assembly may judge other locations as a greater priority for potential schemes.

8.4 Alternative Options Considered

- 8.4.1 A centrally funded area wide road safety scheme is very unlikely due to the comparatively small number of accidents, their severity and with the vast majority being vehicle/vehicle collisions.
- 8.4.2 The roads around the Academy are predominantly non-residential and as such are likely to fall outside the 20mph speed limit programme.
- 8.4.3 A request for a speed indication device (SID) on Petre Street has been received. However, this has not been included on any rotation schedule as Members agreed to repeat last year's schedule.

9. DISCRETIONARY BUDGET ALLOCATION 2012/13

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing recommendations regarding the allocation of funding from the Assembly's Discretionary Budget for 2012/13.

9.1 Public Questions

Responses to public questions were provided as follows:-

1. Councillor Jackie Drayton pointed out that the amounts allocated to the 'Brighten Up Your Streets' theme not only included floral features but also amounts to the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Teams and Bring Out Your Rubbish Days. Councillor Joan Barton expressed her support

for the inclusion of the floral features as she considered that it lifted the appearance of the area.

2. The Chair, Councillor Peter Price, indicated that each Assembly's budget had been cut by approximately 25% with some slight variations.
3. The Chair stated that the Job Club funding had been allocated to Burngreave Works.

9.2 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the North East Community Assembly:-

- (a) regard having been had to the Sheffield City Strategy and to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State, confirms its belief that the granting of funding as envisaged in the report is likely to achieve the promotion and improvement of the social and environmental wellbeing of residents of the North East Community Assembly area;
- (b) agrees to prioritise areas of work as set out in section 4.2 of the report and to allocate funding against priorities within the Community Plan;
- (c) agrees the proposed allocations of funding for projects particularised in section 4.2 of the report, subject to the Director of Community Services being authorised to vary the amount of this funding by not more than ten per cent in each case if funding is available;
- (d) delegates authority to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly and having regard to recommendations made by Ward Councillors, to allocate funding from the Shiregreen/Brightside, Southey, Firth Park and Burngreave Wards Quick Wins budget;
- (e) delegates authority to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly, to allocate funding to further the Community Plan priorities as identified within the report where, in the opinion of the Assembly Manager, such funding needs to be provided before the July Assembly meeting to allow sufficient time for the project/service to be delivered; and
- (f) 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 the 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.

9.3 **Reasons For The Decision**

The North East Community Assembly 2012/13 Discretionary Budget is £345,143. Initial recommendations have been made regarding the 2012/13 Assembly budget that link to the Community Plan priorities. The proposals from this report will:

- Help partners and delivery agencies know which areas of work Members support
- Identify which areas of work are a priority for the Assembly
- Provide partners, delivery agencies and local residents with an indication of which priorities Assembly Members wish to support from the 2012/13 Discretionary Budget, along with an indicative allocation.
- Delegate decision-making powers to the Community Assembly Manager where an allocation has been made to an area of activity within agreed Plan priorities but where detailed spending proposals have yet to be developed, to enable funding to be spent quickly and within timescales.

9.4 **Alternative Options Considered**

Variable levels of funding between Assembly Plan themes and between Wards and Assembly-wide projects have been considered. The division of the budget between Assembly-wide and Ward-level budgets reflects a decision after discussion to reflect the diversity of need between the four constituent Wards, expressed in the new Ward Plans, in the budget allocations, rather than impose centrally agreed priorities across the Assembly area.

10. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 25th January 2012, were approved as a correct record.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Assembly noted that its next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 11th July 2012, at 6.00 pm at the Shirecliffe Community Centre.

(NOTE: These minutes are subject to approval at a future meeting.)