



**NORTH EAST
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
MEETING – 25 OCTOBER 2022
WRITTEN ANSWERS PROVIDED TO
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**



1.	Public question from Lyn Brandon, Member of Friends of Abbeyfield Park
	<p>Question:</p> <p>Abbeyfield Park and House are very important features in our local community. Whilst not a city 'designation park' it certainly serves as a destination park for the local area, An inclusive place, well used by all the local community for informal sport, recreation, socialising, cycling, walking, running, exercising, play etc. Abbeyfield House provides space for local groups to meet, English Language classes, arts and crafts activities, educational and learning opportunities, a computer repairs service and soon to be a base for a local repair cafe. The house also provides office accommodation for Green City Action, Pedal Ready and Burngreave Messenger. An active volunteer gardeners' group is working closely with the Parks Department transforming the neglected flower beds; regular litter picks are ongoing, local community members all play a part in keeping an eye on the park and report problems or acts of vandalism.</p> <p>We have a small but committed group of volunteers, the Friends of Abbeyfield Park, who meet monthly to plan and support activities. In July we held a very successful community festival, the Bowls Club has been reactivated. The local church made temporary use of the building when their building was subject to an arson attack. I could go on. We want to make the park and associated building the best they can be. We have support from local Councillors and met with various Council Officers over the past couple of years. Yet we don't seem to be making much progress. A couple of examples</p> <p>Access to Abbeyfield House is very difficult for people with mobility problems, no accessible toilet facilities steps at the main entrance which resulted in Abbeyfield House not declared fit for purpose as a polling station (voters had to use portacabins specially installed at what cost) whilst Hillsborough Library received about £245,000 for a new entrance.</p> <p>We recently heard that £100,000 has been allocated to Concord Park.</p> <p>Whilst we are not against investment in other parks and facilities, I would like to know how we raise the importance on Abbeyfield Park and House up the council agenda. We are shortly to become a register charity and will be able to apply for funding. We know that Council Officers are also in a position to apply for funding directly. How can we develop a partnership approach to improving facilities and investment in the park and the house to meet the needs of this community.</p>
	Response:

	<p>It is agreed that both Abbeyfield Park and house are important features in the local community. We in the Council and the local area are grateful for the work that volunteers within the park do.</p> <p>The monies that you refer to are specific pieces of funding that have been applied for, or applied to those parks for discrete building or parks improvements:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillsborough Library was successful in securing Arts Council funding for a new entrance to the library building; and • The project to develop plans for parks improvements in Concord Park with Public Health monies that were allocated is now underway. <p>We are excited to hear that you are set to become a registered charity and hope that this may open up new opportunities to access funding that is not directly available to the Council. The Council is keen to work with you on plans to make improvements within the park, but unfortunately cannot avoid the issue that capacity and resource is an ongoing issue. You have developed strong links with officers in the Council so we would welcome the opportunity to join conversations about potential ideas and funding streams that you may have with those officers so that we can keep Abbeyfield on the agenda.</p>
2.	Public question from Kanthi Fanthome
	<p>Question:</p> <p>What specific information can the Council give on levelling-up funding in the North East of Sheffield and where it is spent? In terms of funding, this money was promised at the beginning of the year, so what is the plan and how will it be shared with attendees?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>The Council submitted a bid in Round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund; a national competition in which we were awarded £20 million for the Castlegate Gateway to Sheffield scheme and £17.8 million to develop Attercliffe. Bids for Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund were submitted for Heeley Regeneration and Parkwood Springs but we are waiting to hear the outcome of those. No Levelling Up fund monies have been awarded for the North East of the city and no promises of funding have been made.</p>