

South Local Area Committee

Meeting held 21 March 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones (Chair), Richard Shaw (Deputy Chair), Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayris, Nighat Basharat, Alexi Dimond, Peter Garbutt, Maroof Raouf and Paul Turpin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marianne Elliot and Sophie Thornton.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 meeting of the South Local Area Committee held on 12th January, 2023, were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Question from Dr. Simon Duffy

Would the LAC agree to set up a working group - which would include interested citizens - to explore how we might empower the many different neighbourhoods within the area and to follow the path taken by Frome and other places - radically reducing loneliness and increasing wellbeing?

In response, Councillor Steve Ayris thanked Dr. Duffy for his question and said that he had held discussions on this matter with the Co-Chair of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee and that whilst it was felt that the South LAC should consider this, he was not sure of the best way forward with it. Councillor Ayris said that contact should be made with Council Officers and felt that the issue could be included within the community plan.

Diane Owens, South LAC Manager, said that she thought this might link with

some existing work in the city around cohesion and collaboration and that she had shared the question with some colleagues from the council and VAS (Voluntary Action Sheffield) who are doing work in this area. Diane said a member of the Team would speak to Mr Duffy after the meeting and that she would obviously take a steer from the committee in terms of following this up.

Councillor Simon Clement-Jones said that unfortunately we were at the end of the municipal year but felt that the matter would fit well with priorities in the Community Plan.

Councillor Sue Auckland asked whether the Chair could put the matter on the agenda for the first public meeting of the new municipal year or for future discussion by the committee.

Councillor Nighat Basharat felt that something needed to be done and tackling loneliness was about working with communities. She said that since covid, there were still many people who did not have the confidence to go out in public. Councillor Basharat said that it was good to hear that this was being addressed in Frome and other places.

5.2 **Questions from Russell Johnson**

1. Are the Elected Members here aware that Sheffield City Council is using part of the old nurseries land at Graves Park as a Waste Transfer Depot?

It is likely that the required registration for this use is not in place. Would Members, particularly Councillor Johnson who serves on the relevant Sub-Committee, please concisely comment?

Furthermore, an FOI response from Sheffield City Council stated that the area is not designated as a depot. If that is the case, the observed and photographed activities at the site appear to be inappropriate.

More broadly, are South LAC Councillors content with the Sheffield City Council Trustees' oversight of the Charitable Trust with regard to Graves and many other parks?

Should the Sub-Committee consider co-opting people who have the necessary knowledge and who have the Park's interests at heart?

In response, Councillor Ian Auckland said that the area in Graves Park was a depot and was referred to as a depot. He said the park was gifted as charitable park land and used as Norton Nurseries. With regard to the management of the area, he disagreed with how it was run as the Council and Charitable Trustees are the same. Councillor Auckland said he was supportive of more local involvement in the running of the park, but the Council is the Trustee and didn't think it would be appropriate to have the park run by the LAC. Councillor Auckland felt that local groups should be allowed to sit on the management group thus changing the setup. He said that the Council does have a licence in terms of waste transfer.

Councillor Richard Shaw said that he and his Liberal Democrat colleagues had called for the area to become part of the park as it joins onto the arboretum. He said he has raised the issue with the Cabinet Member, insisting that this was park land. Councillor Shaw felt that it was not for the City Council to do whatever it wanted to do, the Park belonged to the people of Sheffield and there was a need to safeguard the integrity of the Park.

Councillor Paul Turpin felt we needed to be wary. Parks take a lot of maintaining and it was necessary to use the depot for plant machinery to be stored there. He said that by storing large equipment on site, it would save on fuel and the carbon footprint by not moving plant machinery around the city. Councillor Turpin said that personally, he hadn't seen any fridges or furniture dumped on the site, so as far as he was concerned, it was to store machinery, but he would look into the matter and ensure that the depot was used appropriately.

Councillor Sue Auckland said that she lived across the road from the depot and had seen vans arriving at the depot and dumping rubbish. She said it was a big issue that needed addressing.

2. In the context of the excoriating and utterly damning Lowcock Inquiry Report, please would each of the Councillors here, on the record, briefly express confidence or otherwise in the Leader of the Council and the Finance Co-Chair continuing as Councillors or in their current positions of responsibility? (Long explanations unnecessary – really a yes/no answer only is needed)

In response, all Members present at the meeting, with the exception of Councillor Nighat Basharat (*or Labour Councillor*) said that they did agree that the Leader of the Council and the Finance Co-Chair should no longer continue as Councillors, and each stated their reasons why.

5.3 **Question from Annette Taverner**

1. Annette Taverner said that she lived in the Nether Edge area and the roads were full of potholes. She said the Council workmen would paint a yellow ring around the pothole and then come and fill it in with tarmac. She asked what are we paying for?

Are there any plans to properly resurface Sheldon Road in Sharrow and, if so, what are the timescales as there are numerous large potholes and the temporary fixes don't work, feel the road is dangerous for some users e.g. cyclists?

2. Ms. Taverner then referred to the tree dispute. She said that she had been told that if she stood in her garden, she would be arrested. She said that she had given evidence at the Inquiry and had had no response from those responsible, she felt totally failed by the Council. Ms. Taverner said that on her road, it had once been a community prior to the tree felling issue, now there was no community cohesion and asked the Labour Councillor present to comment on this.

In response, Councillor Basharat said that with regard to the potholes, as a Councillor her role was to represent the community, and she worked honestly and respected the feelings of local people about issues such as this. She said she was aware of local issues and when she was elected, she stepped into the role to try and help respond to them. She said she would carry out a site visit in relation to the potholes, and get back to residents.

Councillor Simon Clement-Jones said that the LAC Team would contact Highways and a response would be provided on behalf of the LAC in relation to the potholes.

5.4 **Question asked by Alison Teal**

Alison Teal referred to the Tree Inquiry and asked what could be done to bring about change?

In response, Councillor Nighat Basharat said that she was aware of the level of impact and that there was an element of not being listened to. She said that the Council was there to listen to the people and take their issues and concerns on board and address them.

Councillor Peter Garbutt responded by saying it depended on individual commitment to the Nolan principles which were Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership and applied to anyone who works as a public office-holder, including all those who were elected or appointed to public office. He said all Councillors when elected, undertake a training session based around the Nolan principles. He said there was no mechanism to force a Councillor to resign from public office, the only power to do so rested with national Government.

Councillor Alexi Dimond said there needed to be open, honest and transparent decisions made, not taken behind closed doors. He said that the Committee system would be in place for the next 10 years and this presented the opportunity to ensure that the Council was more accessible and prevent Councillors spreading mis-information particularly with regard to "red lines", traveller sites, etc.

Councillor Maroof Raouf said that there needed to be a real mechanism in place to remove Councillors from office.

Councillor Ian Auckland said that he felt that day to day issues should be devolved to local areas. With regard to the Committee system, he said it was always good to have opposition parties to put forward alternative options.

5.5 **Question from Joy Arnott, Friends of Batemoor Park**

She said that the Friends of Batemoor Park engage local people in litter picking in the Park and had raised funds. She said that she felt that Batemoor was getting forgotten about and there needed to be much needed

play equipment installed in the Park as soon as possible; she asked if Councillors could support the group to ensure this happens as soon as possible.

Councillor Richard Shaw said that he was always happy to engage and offer support to the Friends of the Park and said that if anyone wanted to meet him to come forward at the end of the meeting. Cllr Simon Clement Jones also said he would support the efforts of the group.

5.6 Question regarding the red lines on Abbeydale Road

The questioner referred to the reconciliation process and looking at working together and get over political sniping. He said can we have a precise update on the “red lines” on Abbeydale Road.

Councillor Nighat Basharat stated that the Labour Group had already expressed its concerns and would not be supporting the scheme. She said that a report and recommendations would be submitted to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee in June/July.

Councillor Maroof Raouf stated that nothing had been taken off the table, He said that the plan was to replace the double yellow lines already in place to red and was unsure as to why Members were against the scheme. He said the single red lines would be in force, on a time basis, between 4.00 pm and 6.30 pm, and that they were easier to enforce.

Councillor Alexi Dimond said that there had been a lot of misinformation regarding the red lines and bus lanes. He said that the consultation process had been followed and all options would be put forward to the relevant Policy Committee. Councillor Dimond said that in the most deprived areas of the city, many people could not afford cars, so what was needed was a more reliable bus service.

Councillor Peter Garbutt said that red routes would make it easier to enforce parking regulations and get rid of poor parking. He said that officers were aware that some business owners along Abbeydale Road and Ecclesall Road were very worried and said their views would be taken into consideration.

5.7 Question from Mohammad Mahroof

Mr. Mahroof said that he had asked the question at the previous LAC meeting regarding the takeaway opposite the Mosque on Wolseley Road and whether the Planning Committee could attach a condition to ensure that the takeaway owner provided litter bins outside the premises. He said that so far, he had not received a response to his request. He said that an officer of the local area team had contacted him to confirm that this condition could be attached but so far this had not been done. He then referred to the recent bad weather, there were no grit bins along Wolseley Road.

Councillor Peter Garbutt said that he had looked into the matter, but it would appear that a different route would need to be considered to try and resolve the issue and install a bin.

Councillor Nighat Basharat said that with regard to the red lines scheme, no-one was totally against the scheme, but businesses needed to be fully consulted on it. Everyone wanted reliable bus services. With regard to the litter and grit bins along Wolseley Road, Councillor Basharat said that she would contact the necessary Council department and make sure the grit bins were in place and filled up as and when necessary.

6. ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND ROUND 2: FUNDING TO HELP IMPROVE LOCAL HIGH STREETS AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SPEND THEIR TIME AND SHOP THERE

6.1 The Local Area Committee received a presentation from Dan Wilkinson, Information Officer, Business Sheffield. He gave a brief update stating that the Economic Recovery Fund was there to help build the foundations for economic renewal across Sheffield by investing in communities and high streets, building resilience to the cost-of-living crisis and future economic challenges, making high streets and local centres feel safe and welcoming and to encourage residents and visitors to spend time and shop there. He said that it was hoped that the fund would encourage businesses and groups to work together on ideas to improve their high streets and bring new energy to those that are already in place. Dan Wilkinson said that the fund would support high street businesses to work with their communities and the infrastructure would continue to thrive once projects were completed. He said there were two types of funds available, firstly the District Centre Fund which was up to £200,000 for a large project or up to £50,000 for a small project and secondly, the Flexible Fund for new, innovative ideas that benefit local businesses up to £50,000. He said the focus was on collaboration and working together for the benefit the business sector broadly not individual businesses and the deadline for applications was 30th April 2023. He said that scoring for the grants would take place in May, with contracts being agreed in June and July 2023. The aim would then be for projects to start during August 2023 for completion by the end of September 2024. Dan Wilkinson stated that more information could be found via www.sheffield.gov.uk/business/covid-19-economic-recovery-fund. In response to a question, Dan Wilkinson was funded through the City Council.

6.2 Councillor Simon Clement-Jones thanked Dan Wilkinson for his presentation.

7. SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY PLAN - UPDATE

7.1 The Local Area Committee received a presentation from Diane Owens, South Local Area Committee Manager, outlining the Community Plan. Ms Owens gave a brief update following on from the information she had provided at the meeting of the LAC held in January, and highlighted the six key themes of the Plan. She provided more detail around the work that had been carried out to the clearing up

of The Lumb in Gleadless Valley, the speed indication devices that had been installed, and said that the Committee would be looking at the data received regarding speeding in those areas and potentially identifying other areas for the devices to be installed. She also provided an update on the Neighbourhood Action Groups that had been set up in the South LAC area following the £30k allocated by the South LAC. She said there had been a boost in youth activities in the area, and referred to the Youth Conference held in November, and that the feedback from that would be fed into work around the Economic Recovery Fund. She highlighted the work that had been carried out using the Ward Pots and the Community Infrastructure Levy. She referred to the priorities approved at the January meeting for the purchase of two portable CCTV cameras, funding allocated for community capacity building and also for street art projects and where they would be located. She said that over the next couple of months, the Team along with Members, would be working to support voluntary, community and faith sector, local communities and businesses by looking at projects and how to get projects off the ground and would also be looking at the online engagement platform and how this could be best used to engage with local communities, and finally the King Charles III's Coronation, each LAC had been allocated £5,000 so that they could offer grants to help support local community organisations and residents for celebrations over bank holiday weekend.

- 7.2 Councillor Simon Clement-Jones thanked Diane Owens for her presentation and asked those present if there were any questions regarding the Community Plan.

A member of the public said that the Community Plan had talked about engaging with local communities and he raised a question regarding parking outside Greenhill school. He asked whether, as a community, have can we push forward to tackle the issue. It was not about the lack of parking spaces for safe parking.

Councillor Clement-Jones said he met at the Greenhill Historical Society the previous week and a similar issue was raised. He said that at the LAC Chairs Committee earlier in the day, there had been a presentation from Highways Services and the outcome from this was that a much better way to tackle problems around parking would be at grass roots level, for communities to raise issues and get things done at a more local level. He said that he had asked about School Streets Projects and around the A61 corridor and that he wanted the South LAC to be part of that consultation and to work to find out what the problems were, to find a solution and how it would be funded. Councillor Clement-Jones felt that there was a need for a more holistic community approach to get things done.

Councillor Richard Shaw referred to issues around Greenhill shops. He said many people had got in touch with him recently regarding parking on pavements, obstructing footways and said that he was raise this with Parking Services and Council officers. He said that Parking Services along with local police would like to do a "day of action" to concentrate on problem areas and discourage people from parking dangerously.

Councillor Alexi Dimond said the School Streets Project was something that should be looked into by speaking to the school and getting them involved. He

said that parking enforcement generally was a city-wide problem as Sheffield didn't prioritise parking as much as other cities. He encouraged the public to contact their local councillors asking them to prioritise parking matters. He said children's safety should always be a priority.

Question from Alan Newsome

I am aware that in the northwest of the city, the local policing team has something in place where a member of the public can report problem parking on the streets and footpaths and take photographs. He asked if there was something in place that could be used in the southwest area of the city. He said he had been documenting these problems and has challenged parents, but it was not always safe to make your case. Was there a safe place to report this and document hotspots in certain areas?

Councillor Maroof Raouf said that there were safe routes to explore this and that, in the North West area of the city, the police had surveyed all residents asking for their priorities, and safe parking was one of them. In the South West Police Team, it had been decided that safe parking was not one of their priorities. Councillor Raouf said that he was aware that there may be another survey to be carried out in the next 12 to 18 months, and encouraged people in this area to raise concerns around dangerous and illegal parking if this was deemed a priority.

Councillor Nighat Basharat said that since she had been elected, parents had shared concerns around pavement parking and parking on zigzags outside schools. She said that she would share the concerns with local Councillors. She said that speaking with communities, it had become apparent that people were not aware of what LAC meetings were about, that these meetings were there to tackle local, real issues that matter to the local community. She said that parking around schools was an important issue and should be placed on the next LAC agenda.

Councillor Richard Shaw said that in terms of reporting, in the first instance it was necessary to report matters and pass information to parking services. He said the Southwest Police team did not have this as a priority, but the City Council should be able to take any action by passing information to the Council's Enforcement Team of the best time to patrol and act as a deterrent. Councillor Shaw said that tackling parking issues was part of the Community Plan.

8. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 Councillor Simon Clement-Jones thanked everyone for their attendance. He said the next meeting would be sometime in June/July, yet to be confirmed.