

Northern Community Assembly

Meeting held 17 October 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Garry Weatherall (Chair), David Baker, Katie Condliffe, Richard Crowther, Adam Hurst, Alf Meade, Vickie Priestley, Steve Wilson, Philip Wood and Joyce Wright

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Trevor Bagshaw.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

4.1 Petition

The Assembly received a petition containing 184 signatures to save the skateboard/bike ramp at Sycamore Park as consideration was being given to removing it due to problems of anti-social behaviour. The petition was supported by a short presentation from two of the young people who used the facility.

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly agrees:-

- (a) to discuss the petition at a future Members' briefing meeting; and
- (b) to bring the petition to the attention of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure.

4.2 Public Questions

Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

4.2.1 Cattle Grazing on Loxley Common

The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, indicated that consultation was taking place on the proposal to graze cattle on Loxley Common and that all those who had contacted the Council as a result would

receive a response. There was a proposal to have the area divided into five sections, to satisfy the requirements of all the users, and this arrangement had worked well in other areas of the City. Ultimately, the decision would lie with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure. The Chair added that the concerns expressed by the questioner would be passed to Scott Porter, Ranger Service Manager, who would be invited to give a presentation on this issue at a future Assembly meeting.

4.2.2 Parking Restrictions on Ash View, Chestnut Drive and Holly Close

Following the receipt of a counter report, submitted by residents, to the one submitted at Agenda Item 8 (Petition Report – Parking Restrictions on Ash View, Chestnut Drive and Holly Close), the Chair indicated that this would be discussed in connection with that item. He added that the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development was undertaking work with regard to school signage and the deployment of a mobile CCTV camera to help address parking issues around schools in the City. Parking Services would also be informed of the parking situation around Windmill Hill School and Simon Botterill, Northern Project Delivery Manager, Transport, Traffic and Parking Services, would investigate the possibility of the ice cream van parking in the school drive, rather than at the nearby bus stop.

4.2.3 Bradfield Bowling Club

In connection with the Assembly's rejection of an application for funding for two boilers at the Bradfield Bowling Club, the Chair explained that the Assembly had a list of projects requiring funding and that there would inevitably be some losers where applications outweighed the amount of resources available. In an attempt at fairness, funding had to be shared through the Wards. However, he was willing to meet with the questioners to reconsider, but could offer no guarantees.

5. YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

- 5.1 Representatives of the Northern Youth Forum gave a presentation on their work in giving a voice to young people, making particular reference to its launch, the Youth Conference and the Northern Youth Forum Awards.
- 5.2 The Assembly thanked the young people for their presentation and the Chair offered the opportunity for work shadowing with him.

6. CHAIR'S AWARDS

- 6.1 The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, made a presentation to those

present and announced the recipients of the Chair's Awards as follows:-

- Inspector Steve Mouzer, South Yorkshire Police, who was standing down as the Safer Neighbourhood Area Inspector after many years of service in the area.
- Burncross Action Team which had earned a gold 'In Bloom' award.
- Ecclesfield Tenants' and Residents' Association for its work in improving Tunwell Park.
- Liz Westby for her work in the community over a period of 30 years and who had also been an Olympic torch bearer following her nomination as a result of this work.

6.2 The Chair also expressed his congratulations and thanks to those people who had been involved in securing 'In Bloom' awards for Bradfield, Ecclesfield, Grenoside, High Green Methodist Church, St John's Church, Deepcar, The Stocks public house, Ecclesfield, Chapeltown and the Stocksbridge clock tower.

7. STREETS AHEAD PRESENTATION

7.1 Rachel Morris, Northern Assembly Streets Ahead Programme Steward, Amey, gave a presentation on the delivery of the Streets Ahead contract. The presentation provided some background information, details of the benefits that the contract would deliver, information on what was included, details of the Core Investment Period and improvement works and an outline of the work which would be undertaken in the Northern Assembly area during years 1 to 5. In addition, information was provided on routine maintenance, communication and how to contact the Streets Ahead Team. The presentation concluded by informing the meeting as to what the public could do to assist the process.

7.2 Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

- Amey's Planning Team would pick up on issues, such as what constituted a main road, prior to the commencement of works and this information would inform the design programme. As the question concerned Ecclesfield, this would be given particular consideration.
- Amey were not contracted to empty litter bins and dog waste bins in parks.
- The utilities were involved in the planning process and were aware of the 5 year programme to bring the highway up to

standard. This would hopefully avoid the utilities undertaking works after Amey had brought any particular area up to standard.

- Drainage would be included in the 5 year plan and new drains installed where necessary.
- The reduction in speed limits around schools was an ongoing priority for the Assembly and any works in this respect would be coordinated with the works being undertaken by Amey, unless road safety problems became more serious at a particular location.
- Road markings and signs were included in the contract.
- The circulated map was a snapshot of the first 3 years of operation, with all areas being covered by the end of the 5 year period.
- Performance of the contract would be carefully monitored by the Council.
- Amey would work with the Community Assemblies with regard to any action which could be taken to assist the process, such as arranging alternative parking areas in densely populated areas.
- Amey were not contracted to undertake work on unadopted roads, but would work with the Community Assemblies in this regard.
- Amey would work with the Community Assemblies with regard to the introduction of improvements such as yellow line road markings.

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) thanks Rachel Morris for her presentation; and
- (b) notes the information reported.

Executive Decisions

8. PETITION REPORT - PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON ASH VIEW, CHESTNUT DRIVE AND HOLLY CLOSE

The Director of Development Services submitted a report in response to a petition requesting parking restrictions on Ash View, Chestnut Drive and Holly Close.

8.1 Public Questions

In response to public questions, it was felt to be a question of opportunity as to when double yellow line road markings were placed outside schools and that one way to address the residents' objections to the recommendations in the report would be to add the placing of such road markings to the Assembly's Small Highway Schemes list.

8.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) agrees to include the placing of double yellow line road markings at the junctions near Windmill Hill School in the Assembly's Small Highway Schemes requests list for consideration against the other schemes in the list;
- (b) notes that the Chair of the Assembly will meet the petitioners on site, together with Ward Members and appropriate officers, to discuss the issues raised in the petition; and
- (c) thanks the petitioners for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.

8.3 Reasons For The Decision

- (a) The parking patterns have been long established in the area under examination and, overall, the road safety risks are judged to be low. The lead petitioner has described the situation as dangerous, but the police incident data is testament to the low risks associated with the site. At school opening and closing times vehicle speeds tend to be low (this is acknowledged by the petition organiser who states that, "the road is so congested at peak times that cars cannot even reach 20mph"). Other contributory factors to the safety of the location include that Ash View is not a particular through route and traffic volumes are relatively small. As is normally the case in modern times, the vast majority of students are escorted to and from school by an adult. The adult accompaniment is a significant factor in child pedestrian safety. Vehicle/pedestrian collisions outside schools and incidents involving accompanied children are rare.
- (b) There are many junctions throughout the City where drivers park within 10 metres of a junction. From a road safety standpoint, junctions with an incident history (where visibility was acknowledged as a causation factor) would be prioritised for parking restrictions. The recommendation in paragraph 7.1 of the report has been given taking into account a view of overall road safety priorities.
- (c) At the Assembly's discretion, a proposal for parking restrictions at the junctions could be worked up and it was agreed that

further consideration could be given to this. The opportunity could be taken to revise the existing school keep clear markings along with implementing parking restrictions at the junctions. Other things being equal no negative road safety implications would arise from such proposals. It is possible that an alteration of the "School Keep Clear" markings could be deferred until the arrival, in the area, of the Streets Ahead initiative.

8.4 Alternative Options Considered

- (a) The cost of raising a Traffic Regulation Order is £3,500. The order would be required if the Authority was to enter into public consultation on any proposal to implement double yellow lines at the Ash View/Chestnut Drive, Ash View/Holly Close and Bevan Way/Ash View junctions. Any lining work would be an additional cost. It should be noted that parking restrictions, when in force, apply to both footway and carriageway parking.
- (b) Rule 243 of the Highway Code advises that drivers should not park within ten metres of a junction but, at school opening and closing times, vehicles are parked on the radii of the junctions near Windmill Hill School. Provision of lines at these locations would not be detrimental in road safety terms. However, from a road safety viewpoint, priority, for implementing parking restrictions, would be given to junctions with a high level of collision incidents and where a lack of visibility was a contributory factor. As stated, no injury incidents are recorded in the area surrounding Windmill Hill School.

Bus drivers would be assisted by implementation of parking restrictions at the Ash View/Bevan Way junction. There are occasions when school related parking inhibits the right turn (from Bevan Way into Ash View).

- (c) The Assembly may elect to engage in a more expansive lining scheme which would include a revision of the existing school keep clear marking. The existing marking would be obliterated and two new school keep clear markings (with enhanced enforcement status) could be provided outside the current pedestrian entrances. Representatives of the School have expressed approval for the basic idea). The school vehicle access and the caretaker access could be covered with, more appropriate, white "H" markings. The cost of this scheme (including double yellow lines at the junctions) would be approximately £7,500 -£10,000. Alternatively the Streets Ahead initiative could offer the prospect of revising the "School Keep Clear" markings. Provisionally this area is scheduled for treatment in year three of the programme. This may prove to be the optimum opportunity to revise these inappropriate

markings.

- (d) Wholesale or more widespread parking restrictions outside schools are, in general, not recommended by officers. Reasons include the probability of creating conditions whereby vehicle speeds are likely to increase past the school and the prospect of merely moving parking to other locations where a new set of residents will express dissatisfaction. However if the Assembly chose to pursue this option the cost would be £3,500 (the TRO) plus the lining costs.
- (e) The petition organiser has suggested provision of bollards in order to prevent full and partial footway parking at the junctions of Ash View/Holly Close and Ash View/Chestnut Drive. In isolation such obstacles would not prevent parking in the carriageway near junctions. The cost of an appropriate bollard, at Street Force prices is £250.
- (f) The Authority could choose to do nothing. The situation will remain as it is.
- (g) Implementation of a resident parking scheme, at a location, where mass parking is transitory may be viewed as a disproportionate response. The Northern Assembly area has many schools where residents may experience similar inconveniences. Residents parking schemes usually cover areas (rather than a single road). An approximate estimate of the cost of such a scheme would be in excess of £10,000. As usual, a proposal for a residents parking scheme would require consultation. Residents views cannot be predicted. Some find the cost of £30 per vehicle (per annum) a deterrent.

9. HIGHWAY SCHEMES IN THE NORTHERN COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY FOR 2012/13

The Head of Transport, Traffic and Parking Services and the Northern Community Assembly Manager submitted a joint report which set out a methodology for spending the Assembly's allocation for highways schemes in 2012/13.

9.1 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly approves the spending of highway funding as described in paragraph 4.12 of the report.

9.2 Reasons For The Decision

The highway budget is not sufficient to satisfy all the requests made for changes. It is necessary to agree an appropriate distribution of the

funding to ensure benefit across a range of request types over the whole Assembly area.

9.3 **Alternative Options Considered**

- (a) It would have been possible to spend the whole of the budget on a one or two large scheme alone, but this route would not provide benefit across the whole Assembly area. Alternatively, utilising the whole budget on small schemes prevents the Assembly from achieving a strategic goal of improving the safety on its roads.
- (b) At this time, the Streets Ahead project is active in only a small part of the Assembly area and it is not practical to align more highway budget to realise greater benefit.

10. **NORTHERN COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY 2012/13 BUDGET ALLOCATION REPORT**

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing proposals to allocate funding from the Assembly's Discretionary Budget 2012/13.

10.1 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the information contained within the report and allocates the remaining **£21,988** of the 2012/13 Discretionary Budget to the projects identified in Section 4, namely:
 - Fund actions/ work identified as a result of three older peoples conferences - **£5000**
 - Supporting the work of the Northern Youth Forum **£500**
 - Ward Walkabouts, **£1000**
 - Additional Highways budget to deliver small schemes alongside the Streets Ahead programme for this financial year, **£13,500**
 - Economic Workshops (e.g. Funding, green technology, food and tourism, enterprising mums /dads, specialist business advice, tax returns) **£2000**
- (b) Delegates authority to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly, to -
 - Agree the particular activities to be funded from the activity budgets agreed in (a) above;
 - Agree targets, outputs and outcomes for all funded activity with the identified service deliverer and ensure best value for money;

- Vary the amount of these allocations by not more than ten per cent in each case, funding permitting; and
 - Reallocate any further underspend to projects that will tackle one or more priorities within the Northern Community Plan; and
- (c) 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.

10.2 **Reasons For The Decision**

- (a) The areas of work are put forward on the basis that they align with the Northern Community Assembly Community Plan priorities and build on the experience of previous funding.
- (b) The allocation of the remaining 2012/13 Northern Community Assembly Discretionary Budget will ensure activity takes place to address some of the priorities as identified in the Northern Community Assembly Plan, namely;
- Supporting Local Communities
 - Safer Roads
 - Better Parks and Open Spaces
 - Activities for Children and Young People
 - Supporting the Local Community

10.3 **Alternative Options Considered**

- (a) A number of alternative projects/ activities were considered for funding from the unallocated **£21,988** discretionary budget. These were identified through ongoing consultation and discussions with Councillors and partners. Consideration was given to:
- Running an ICDH course (Introduction to Community Development and Health Course)
 - Broadband and Telecoms Study
 - Funding Community Organiser Posts
- (b) The options above are not being recommended in the report as a result of one or more of the factors below:
- Unable to be delivered in the time frame (ie. by March 2013)
 - Insufficient information to enable a decision to be taken at this time

- Could potentially be resourced from other funding
- (c) The report recommends delegation to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly, to reallocate any under spend to projects that will tackle one or more priorities within the Northern Community Plan.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 11.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 10th July 2012, were approved as a correct record.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 The Assembly noted that its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th December 2012, at 6.30 pm at Grenoside School.

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