

Central Local Area Committee

Meeting held 13 July 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Brian Holmshaw (Chair), Angela Argenzio, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Tom Hunt, Douglas Johnson, Bernard Little, Laura McClean, Ruth Mersereau, Henry Nottage and Martin Phipps

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maleiki Haybe and Toby Mallinson.

2. EXCLUSION OF 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. CENTRAL LAC UPDATE (5 MINUTES)

4.1 The Central Community Services Manager, Adeel Zahman, gave a Central LAC (Local Area Committee) update via a presentation.

4.2 The presentation explained that Sheffield was made up of 28 wards. There were 7 LACs that each covered 4 wards.

4.3 There was 12 Councillors who represented the Central LAC. 3 Councillors from each of the 4 wards. The wards for Central were:

- Hillsborough
- Walkley
- Broomhill & Sharrow Vale
- City

4.4 The presentation outlined that Councillor Brian Holmshaw is the Chair for the Central LAC with Councillor Maleiki Haybe serving as deputy.

4.5 The presentation highlighted the work undertaken by the Central LAC over the previous 12 months. It stated that they had invested £136,000 into communities. A breakdown of the number of projects and the different community groups supported were listed.

- 4.6 The Central LAC had 5 key themes identified as part of the Community Plan. They were:
- Transport & Highways
 - Environment
 - Community & Neighbourhoods
 - Community Safety & Crime
 - Business, Employment & Skills
- 4.7 The Central Community Services Manager explained that each ward had been allocated a funding of £25,000. In addition, each ward had the following funding allocated from ward pots.
- Broomhill and Sharrow Vale - £5319.34
 - City - £6972.98
 - Hillsborough – £6583.86
 - Walkley – 7569.18
- 4.8 The Central Community Services Manager explained that the theme of the meeting was Parks and Open Spaces. He stated that members of the public will have their opportunity to impact on their local area by engaging in the breakout session later in the meeting. In addition, a LAC Roadshow were being delivered across the Central area, in order to hear from as many people as possible.

5. THE COUNCILS PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE (5 MINUTES)

- 5.1 Ruth Bell, Head of Parks and Countryside, gave a presentation to the Committee and members of the public in attendance at the meeting.
- 5.2 The presentation highlighted all the parks and open spaces that the Council's Parks and Countryside service covered. It was mentioned that the service managed approximately 3,934 hectares of land.
- 5.3 Ruth Bell explained that Local Authorities across the country had budget cuts, and this was the same in Sheffield. She explained that Parks and Countryside Service had a noticeable reduction in their revenue budget.
- 5.4 The presentation highlighted any developments across the city. It was mentioned that Pounds Park and Wisewood Park were recently created. It then outlined all the recent improvements made to green spaces in the city.
- 5.5 Ruth Bell referred to some of the challenges that the Council were experiences managing parks and open spaces in the city. This included Anti-Social behaviour, legacy expectations, popularity, diseases, staff & machinery, costly operations, and fly-tipping.
- 5.6 The presentation highlighted the future projects and priorities planned for the city.

6. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE GREEN SPACES FORUM IN SHEFFIELD (10 MINUTES)

- 6.1 Ted Talbot, Director of Place, Green Estate, and Chair of the Green & Open Spaces Forum, gave a presentation on the work of the Green Spaces Forum in Sheffield. He mentioned how green spaces across the city were key for the health and mental wellbeing of the citizens of this city. He then stated how budget cuts were significantly impacting the city and the opportunities for the city and its residents in a negative way.
- 6.2 Ted Talbot explained some of the reasons why it would be important to invest in green spaces. He also mentioned how this significantly improved wildlife in green spaces.
- 6.3 Ted Talbot stated that the Green Estate Community Interest Company believed in a world where all urban places were engaging, adaptive and resilient. Green Estate looked after Sheffield Manor Lodge and 5 other urban parks on behalf of Sheffield. They also worked to the Green Flag Award standards.
- 6.4 It was stated that the vision was to create green corridors through S2 by joining up green spaces which used to form part of the Great Deer Park. This would improve wildlife in the city and reconnect green open spaces. He added that the trend of funds for parks and open spaces in Sheffield needed to be reversed and that any funding for parks would be greatly appreciated.

7. UPDATE ON TASK AND FINISH GROUP SETUP BY COMMUNITIES, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE (3 MINUTES)

- 7.1 Councillor Bernard Little gave an update on the Task and Finish Group setup by Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.
- 7.2 Councillor Bernard Little wanted Sheffield to be a place where they lived as part of nature, not apart from it. Across the country, over the last 50 years, 30 million birds had disappeared, nearly 70% of the insect population had been lost. Sheffield City Council declared a nature emergency in June 2021, with a plan to reverse the onslaught. Therefore, why were glyphosate been sprayed in parks and open spaces. Why were parks and open spaces been cut down or sprayed just as insects were about to pollinate. Why doesn't Housing, Parks, Highways and School departments in Sheffield City Council not cooperative on how they manage the land. Councillor Bernard Little finished by asking members of the public in attendance to contribute to the plan and help reverse the damage to parks and open spaces in the city.

8. NATURE RECOVERY SHEFFIELD PRESENTATION (5 MINUTES)

- 8.1 Dr Nicky Rivers, Advocacy and Developments Manger (Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust) gave a presentation to the Committee and members of the public in attendance.

- 8.2 Dr Nicky Rivers explained that there was an initiative that started 2 years ago, whereby local groups and individuals noticed a problem in Sheffield regarding nature. At that stage approximately 1000 people and 30 groups formed together to declare a national emergency.
- 8.3 It was explained that Nature Recovery Sheffield were a group of people, and groups, all working together to protect nature in Sheffield. It was their vision to throughout Sheffield, from the streets and neighbourhoods to the wider countryside, be an abundance of nature that is protected, cared for, and experienced by everyone. They wanted to see at least 30% of land and water great for nature by 2030 and also more wildlife.
- 8.4 Dr Nicky Rivers highlighted some of the groups part of Nature Recovery Sheffield. She then mentioned that their mission was by thinking and acting globally, together we can turn around the nature emergency and put nature in recovery. Following a consultation event, Nature Recovery Sheffield agreed they could achieve this mission by growing, coordinating, and empowering a group of people to: -
1. Protect & Restore: looking after land and water that is already good for nature, restoring what is in poor condition.
 2. Create: more spaces for nature, helping wildlife to thrive.
 3. Inspire: more people to take action for nature.
- 8.5 So far Nature Recovery Sheffield had a successful campaign in declaring a national emergency. They now had over 1500 individuals and 65 groups signed up.
- 8.6 Nature Recovery Sheffield had put together a Community Action Toolkit that can be accessed on their website. There was also an action map which outlined the work being undertaken by the groups in Sheffield.

9. INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS (45 MINUTES)

- 9.1 Following the presentations, Members of the Committee broke out into breakout groups with Officers and members of the public.

10. FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT SESSION (3 MINUTES PER TABLE)

- 10.1 Following the breakout session, one person from each group was asked to feedback their groups thoughts. A summary of the feedback presented were as follows: -

Table 1

- How can we encourage members of the public to behave better in parks and open spaces.
- Good behaviour in parks can also help to discourage bad behaviour.
- Look at routes and challenges in parks.
- How can we encourage private sector organisations to contribute to parks

and open spaces.

Table 2

- Ruth Bell mentioned how there was a lot of discussion around communication and joined up working. She explained that it was clear from the discussion that a lot of people were interested in getting in touch to share ideas therefore Ruth Bell shared her contact details for people to get in touch with her after the meeting.

Table 3

- The need to turn around bio-diversity and the lost of species.
- Discussed climate change resilience.
- How water in open spaces can improve health and wellbeing.
- How to encourage active travel.
- Identified a large number of agencies that have responsibility for rivers. Therefore, they needed to work together better.
- Facing more problems with waterways but though that most of these can be turned into positives.
- Needed to open more rivers up.
- Needed to improve public awareness of pollution on the negative impact that has on the city.
- Needed a new blue/green strategy for Sheffield.

Table 4

- Needed to push for education and raise awareness.
- Continue professional development and ensure ecology is covered in organisations.
- Discussed the Council wide climate emergency route map.

The Chair (Councillor Brian Holmshaw) mentioned that all the feedback captured in the groups will be fed into the appropriate channels.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS (10 MINUTES)

11.1 The Committee received two questions in advance of the meeting, the Chair stated that these questions had been referred to the relevant Policy Committee.

RESOLVED: That the question submitted by Colin Early in regard to demolition sites in Sheffield be referred to Transport and Highways Policy Committee.

RESOLVED: That the question submitted by Matthew Smith in regard to the 'SNUG Scheme' be referred to the Housing Policy Committee.

11.2 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public, in attendance at the meeting.

11.3 Simon Ogden

18 months ago, we managed to get to come up with £80,000 for a feasibility study which looked at Hillfoot to Herries Road route becoming part of the cycling network. The study was completed last November but the public have not been able to see it. In the meantime, we understand a report had gone to Councillors. Therefore, Can I ask that this report is shared.

Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo confirmed that a copy of that report will be shared with Mr Ogden.

11.4 Graham Wroe

Two years ago, I brought a 6300 named petition to Full Council requesting the Council to stop using glyphosate. Parks had reduced the use of this but overall, it was still being used in many areas. Therefore, can the Council stop using glyphosate.

Ruth Bell explained there was a task and finish group looking onto this and that they had their first session on the 12 July 2023. She mentioned that the task and finish group had asked for an update report on glyphosate reduction be taken to a meeting of the Community, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

11.5 Bridget Ingle

Stated that City Centre Management managed the City Centre parks and green spaces. From a volunteer perspective she believed that all the services organisations involved in looking after the City Centre were not working together and that there was no volunteer strategy, making it difficult to get involved.

Ruth Bell mentioned that this had previously been discussed as part of the breakout session and that officers as part of Sheffield City Council would speak with City Centre Management and then relay that information back to the public, of how that joined up working may look.

Councillor Martin Phipps explained that City ward councillors supported Briget Ingle's comments and appreciated volunteer work.

Councillor Douglas Johnson highlighted that depending on the work carried out within the City Centre, the work may be responsible by different services or organisations such as Amey. He agreed that joined up working was important and was something Councillors did already look at.

Ted Talbot added that Green Estate acted a contractor on behalf of Amey to manage greater green sites, and also behalf of Sheffield City Council to manage other green sites in the city.

11.6 Vicky Seddon

Stated that at the previous meeting of the Central LAC in March 2023, Rebecca

Maddox discussed the Culture Strategy and that she mentioned the next steps would be to recruit skilled consultants although believed this was yet to be carried out. Therefore, Vicky Seddon asked for an update on this.

Councillor Tom Hunt believed this was process had begun although he confirmed he would check this and contact Vicky Seddon along with the LAC team.

11.7 David Lipka

1. Nothing mentioned earlier about CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding for parks and open spaces. Especially in the Arbourthorne Area.

2. The Upperthorpe Precinct was previously designated as an open space in the blueprint plan approximately 30 years, although now it was being used as a car park.

1. The Community Services Manager confirmed that he would provide David with a written response following the meeting.

2. Councillor Tom Hunt explained that he had chased up the costing for the work to improve the precinct. Ward Councillors were working hard to ensure this area was not being used as a car park. He confirmed that the funding was still available as part of the CIL funding and it will be used to make improvements to the precinct.

11.8 Nicola Dempsey

Explained she was at an event held by Sheffield Food Partnership, they discussed land with the Parks Service. Therefore, she asked to what extent was the Central LAC and other Committees working with other services on issues such as active travel and food growth in the city.

Councillor Angela Argenzio explained that conversations were happening although it was not as joined up as it could be. She confirmed that a Food Strategy had recently been approved at Strategy & Resources Policy Committee which previously went through the Health & Wellbeing Board. This strategy will be developed in consultation with partners.

11.9 John Blay

Mentioned that many citizens swim in Sheffield ponds, lakes and rivers. Therefore, can the Council display signage informing citizens of the quality of the water.

The Chair mentioned they had been a survey regarding the quality of these waters although they were still awaiting the results of that survey.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 12.1 RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2023, and 17 May 2023, were approved as a correct record.