



**SOUTH WEST
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023
WRITTEN ANSWERS PROVIDED TO
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**



1.	<p>Public questions from Donald Lennox</p> <p>Question 1:</p> <p>Local Area Committees have been established to ‘Empower, Enable and Engage’ local citizens and communities.</p> <p>This has been endorsed recently by the City Council, so that further steps will be taken to ensure community development practices are embedded in LACs, prior to decision making.</p> <p>In what way exactly will this actually be implemented - generally and at 2 major potential development sites in the SWLAC area?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future use of Banner Cross Hall and surrounding land and woodland at Ecclesall Road South and Carterknowle Road? 2. Redevelopment of derelict land and property at the top of Murray Road and an adjacent property on Tullibardine Road, Greystones <p>Opportunities abound for the involvement of, and benefit to, residents adjacent to these sites, and beyond.</p> <p>How will this be facilitated by Council staff, councillors and local citizens working together?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>The LAC’s ability to empower, enable and engage local citizens, is developing and is currently on the agenda of Governance Committee to consider the scope of extending their parameters of influence. In the context of Planning Service matters, these are currently minimal. The community development practices and influence that the LAC has does not extend to decisions that fall within the legal planning authority processes or the consultation procedures that Planning undertake. This is unlikely to change within the next few years.</p> <p>We have previously supported service consultation and provided a mechanism at our Public Meetings for groups and residents to contribute to plans that are in development. This is something that we will continue to do. In the consultation of the Draft Sheffield Plan, Planning officers attended the SW LAC Public meeting in January 2023 and held an information/engagement session for the public to attend prior to the meeting starting. Attendees were then invited to engage in round the table</p>

conversation also with Planning Officers on the Draft Sheffield Plan at the meeting.

In relation to the two sites referred to above, the local planning authority is required to undertake a formal period of public consultation prior to deciding a planning application in accordance with procedures set out in the Development Management Procedure Order. On larger schemes, applicants are encouraged to undertake pre-application consultation with the local community and/or stakeholders, but this is not mandatory. Further information can be found in the Statement of Community Involvement, which also describes the process for consulting on draft policy documents [How the Council consults on planning applications & policies | Sheffield City Council](#)

Banner Cross Hall, as a private sale, is subject to the procedural consultation set out in the Policy for the local planning authority. The land and property at Murray Road and an adjacent property on Tullibardine Road, Greystones is privately owned which leaves no opportunity for community development here. If the land at each of these sites was council owned, then there may be opportunity to consider how we can get community input to engage, empower and enable the shaping of the future use of the space.

Consideration was given to what devolved powers might look like for the LAC from the Planning Service. However, given the legal structure and resource involved with Planning matters, there wasn't any feasible scope to devolve powers further and so influence from the LAC is currently very minimal.

We have taken advice from Strategic Housing service to answer your questions on older persons accommodation and this is set out below. I understand you received a written copy of this reply at the Public meeting in September, but wanted to make sure you received the response from your original question and so I have set this out below.

I trust that this response has served to clarify the influence and limitations that the LAC has within the legal planning authority process. I understand you have spoken to Dinah Hope to clarify on the specific procedures that would pertain to Banner Cross Hall and have met with a member of the SW LAC Team to get an understanding of the community development practices and remit of the program of work for the LAC.

The influence of the LAC is very limited in the legal planning authority process. That said, if you have an idea or an approach that you feel is valid, we want to listen to your suggestions, bearing in mind the parameters of influence that the LAC currently holds and the resources available to deliver.

	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>What is the policy of the city Council in identifying the need and then facilitating additional older persons independent living accommodation in the SW LAC area?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>There is no single agreed methodology for identifying the need for older persons independent living accommodation, but SCC's Planning Service previously commissioned the University of Sheffield to look at the supply and demand of retirement housing (such as sheltered and assisted living/extra care housing) in Sheffield up to 2034, which used the 'Three Dragons Model'. This identified significant shortfalls in most of Sheffield's 13 housing markets areas (HMAs), including the South West HMA. In recent years this has been the main evidence source for identifying the need in different HMAs for this type of accommodation.</p> <p>SCC's Strategic Housing Service is currently refreshing it's Older Persons Independent Living (OPIL) Housing Strategy and also plans to work with partners to produce an OPIL Market Position Statement. It is expected that these documents will be published in 2024 and clearly set out for the Council and its partners the types and numbers of OPIL housing needed in different areas of Sheffield, including priority locations. These will use a range of evidence including the University of Sheffield's supply/demand analysis, other 'desktop' models such as the Extra Care Demand Assessor, Sheffield's Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2018, Census 21 data, the Indices of Deprivation, waiting list data from current OPIL/retirement schemes, social care services data and dementia prevalence rates.</p> <p>The Council has a stock increase programme which includes OPIL/retirement housing and the types of properties delivered on sites are guided by housing need evidence. Opportunities are constrained in the SWLAC area by the lack of council-owned housing development sites and there are currently no new council OPIL/retirement schemes planned in this area but the council's Housing Growth and Strategic Housing Service are keen to help partners deliver more age-friendly housing in this area, for example by support with funding bids and the provision of housing needs evidence.</p> <p>SCC's Strategic Housing Service produces Housing Market Area (HMA) profiles which set out for partners the property types and tenures that are most needed in each of Sheffield's 13 HMAs and the current South West HMA profile states that opportunities should be sought for new provision of older people's independent living (OPIL) accommodation where suitable land is available. The neighbourhoods of Bents Green, Bradway, Greystones, Lodge Moor, Totley, Whirlow/Abbeydale and Fulwood are all identified as neighbourhoods where this type of housing should be prioritised. The profile also identifies smaller age-friendly properties for sale and rent which are suitable for downsizers as a priority in this area. The Strategic Housing Service will generally recommend the inclusion of a proportion of age-friendly</p>

	<p>homes suitable for downsizers/rightsizers when it is asked to provide feedback on planning applications where new homes are being built in areas such as the south west where there is an identified shortage.</p> <p>The draft Local Plan contains several new Planning policies which should support the delivery of more age-friendly housing and has been submitted for approval by the Government's planning inspector. Draft Policy N4 (Housing for Independent and Supported Living) sets out that all new homes should be designed to enable independent living by being built to accessible and adaptable designed standards, with 2% of new homes built on larger sites (of 50 or more homes) designed to be wheelchair adaptable. The policy states that specialist housing designed for older people will be promoted in areas of need where sites are close to essential services and these areas will be set out in the new OPIL Housing Strategy.</p>
2	Public questions from Paul May
	<p>Question 1:</p> <p>How did you record and evaluate the responses you collected from the table groups at the last LAC meeting? Can we see them?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>We collate together all the notes from the engagement sessions and produce a table of summary feedback received, this is collated together onto one summary. We see the feedback from the engagement sessions as highly valuable as it underpins the work we deliver in terms of projects on the community plan. It is the basis of what we focus projects and support on.</p> <p>We always work through the findings of the sessions as an overall with the Chair and vice chair and have incorporated actions under the priority themes related to this. All feedback is shared with full members of the Committee also. Where there are quick wins or actions that we need to move on quickly, we will act on those and sometimes there are specific actions related to personal circumstances we will try and assist individuals with those matters as a priority.</p> <p>We are working on getting the 'You Said We Did' section of our LAC Webpages up and running, we know that communication could be improved and are really happy to say that we have a new officer starting with us that will help provide some support in getting this improved. Communication and developing how we feedback on the engagement we undertake, the 'You Said We Did', is one of the priority actions. The initial draft version from the Community Safety Public meeting has been included in our response to you, this is not at the point for sharing more widely as we are still developing the document and there are further feedback items to add in as we redraft.</p>

	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Priority 3.3 under Community Involvement highlights intergenerational activities. Can you tell us what progress has been made. Specifically with reference to working with PKW and also with reference to working with our schools to see how willing they are to participate.</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>In the 2022/23 financial year, SW LAC funded an Intergenerational Lunch Club at Wesley Hall, supported by King Edwards School and delivered by MHA Communities South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw. Kate Dales Scheme Manager said: “The children are fantastic with the members and they all buddy up brilliantly, and with this financial support the kids tuck into a big 2 course meal with everyone else! We make homemade chocolate brownies and ice cream every time they come! The school identifies pupils who have really struggled and worked really hard to come as a treat, and the whole atmosphere is fantastic, playing table tennis, carpet bowls, ten pin bowling, table football, air hockey, dominoes.”</p> <p>Two key projects that are on hold and we hope to initiate again are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with AGE UK, DECSY (Development Education Centre South Yorkshire), SW LAC and two schools, Tapton School and King Edwards School and a local Care Home. SW LAC initiated a strong partnership to deliver on an Intergenerational Climate Project. This project would bring together students and the Aging Well Population who face loneliness and isolation, The project was placed on hold as capacity to deliver was not available, but we hope to restart this project soon and will be making contact again with the key people involved in the coming weeks to see if there is scope to plan this in for the year ahead. • A Musical Project with Age UK and King Egbert’s School. This project was about bringing together students from King Egbert’s School and Senior Citizens residing within the Dore & Totley Ward. The project was going to be delivered by a Poet, who was going support both groups to write and record a song, which they would share with all stakeholders by the way of a celebration event. Unfortunately, the restrictions that were in place due to Covid put a halt to this work. We would be keen to reignite the initiative and will start discussions again in November to see if there is scope to plan this in with the school. <p>We have some other intergenerational projects taking shape that we hope to initiate this year. We are currently working with our Universal Youth Service and Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Friends of Whirlow Brook Park to create new volunteering opportunities for our young people across the SW LAC. This project will involve taking our young people out into the great outdoors, give them experience of working with animals or on the land and environmental issues alongside older volunteers. We hope to support these young people to build a portfolio of the work whilst they are getting various experiences within different areas of work.</p>

	<p>People Keeping Well and SW LAC have setup a number of Friendship Lunches across our LAC area, namely at the following pubs, The Ball, Crosspool Tavern, The Greystones, Shepley Spitfire. We hope to start discussions with local schools and Age UK to bring students and the Aging Well Population together in bridging the gap between the generations but to enable them to experience, learn and share together.</p> <p>SW LAC have been involved in recent discussions with two TARA's (Tenants & Residents Associations) to increase local volunteers through the creation of volunteering opportunities and working with our Universal Youth Service to enable young people to be aware of local volunteering opportunities, and support young people's participation within what happens locally. This would increase young people's knowledge and potentially attain qualifications and work experience via their chosen volunteering opportunity.</p>
	<p>Question 3:</p> <p>I notice that there are many targets throughout the Plan all of which have a review and outcome date. They also all have timelines the vast majority of which have been exceeded. I have not seen any outcomes which are also due to be reported to our public meeting. Can you tell us when these will be published and what the overall view is of how well we have been doing?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>We have been providing summary updates at the LAC Public Meetings, at the last meeting we did this in the style of an information board. This was a response to the feedback we received at the previous public meeting in March, where we were asked to limit the time of the presentation on the LAC plan updates by the attendees present. They expressed that they wanted to focus time on engagement instead.</p> <p>A summary highlight report on progress made with the 22/23 Community Plan has been produced and copies of the report were printed off and available at the Public Meeting in September (please find attached a copy to this email). We want to improve the reporting to residents on progress and success we have, and we are developing the webpages to include a section specifically for this. Here you will be able to read updates on each of the projects we have underway and hopefully this will open up an opportunity for residents to get involved, if they are interested.</p> <p>The pace of delivery on some of the items has meant we have had to roll forward some of the actions onto this year. Over the last year, we have learnt the challenges of operating in a new organisational set up and understand more realistically the kind of agile approach required to ensure that we do deliver. The approach to achieving deliverables is very much developmental, test and learn. A large part of what we deliver is dependent on how far we can influence through collaborative working with other services and partners and their available capacity as well as the LAC Teams capacity. There is a wide</p>

	<p>breadth of activity in the plan that involves a number of partners and services involved and collaborating together.</p> <p>There is a need for an agile approach to the work programme of the LAC so that we can work with key partners and services within their available capacity and be able to respond to external issues and matters as they arise. The timelines and outcome dates for projects from the original plan 22/23, that have been exceeded have been reviewed as a whole programme of work and refreshed into the new 23/24 Community Plan. Our target aim for timescales for this year is to deliver on projects by the end of the financial year by end of March '24 and we hope to be able to assess as a whole the outcome and impact of the action that has been taken. This will set out clearly where we have made impact in projects and initiatives and any lessons learnt to take forward into the coming year ahead.</p> <p>SW LAC Members have provided a response on their view of how well we are doing overall. Cllr Sue Alston states that “whilst we do feel that we are identifying where actions are needed to meet the objectives we have identified from the public surveys and meetings, and the ways of funding them are being identified, we are also frustrated at the time implementation can take, for a whole variety of reasons, many of which are outside our control. So yes, I believe that we are listening, and identifying changes and projects which will meet the requests of the public, we are not doing so as quickly as we would like and we still need to get better at communicating how we are meeting our objectives. We are able to engage with the public at a much more local level than the council as a whole and use local knowledge to identify where the council can usefully implement changes.”</p> <p>Councillor Barbara Master adds “ I feel we review, evaluate and amend as we go along and explore options which would allow us to deliver our objectives. However we are constrained in what we can achieve often because, as Sue says, reasons outside our control and we have to be alert to a quick change in circumstances which will put initiatives on hold. We do need to find ways of communicating better, not least because too many people are still unaware of what it is we are here for. Many of the changes we have implemented are localised in their effect and unobtrusive, so tend to go un-noticed even though their reach is much more widespread. We take note of the varied concerns raised with us but our remit is limited and maybe this needs clarifying. We are still learning.”</p>
3.	Public questions from Tim Lewis
	<p>Question 1:</p> <p>Can we please have an update on the Sheffield Local Plan? Why have seven Labour councillors been suspended from the party for voting against its adoption?</p> <p>They claim that the views of local communities were not being taken into account. What did they object to specifically?</p>

	<p>Response</p> <p>The Publication Draft Sheffield Plan was approved for submission to the Planning Inspectorate at Full Council on 6th September. All the necessary information is now being collated to enable the Plan to be submitted in early October. The Examination process will then commence with appointment of an independent Planning Inspector.</p> <p>The question about Labour Councillors is not a Council matter, it is a matter for the Labour Party and as such the LAC are not able to answer.</p>
	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Consultation on the Local Plan was closed at the beginning of 2023. At what point - if at all - in the past 2 years, was the Local Plan the subject of any South West Area Committee public meetings?</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>Planning officers attended the SW LAC Public Meeting in January '23 and held an information/ engagement session for the public to attend prior to the meeting starting. Simon Vincent delivered a presentation on The Draft Local Plan and then attendees were invited to engage afterwards in a table consultation focussed on the Draft Local Plan.</p>
	<p>Question 3:</p> <p>I note that:</p> <p>A meeting of Sheffield City Council's transport, regeneration and climate policy committee (September 20) agreed to confirm experimental measures put in place for the active travel neighbourhoods (ATNs) in Crookes and Walkley and Nether Edge, which have provoked controversy.</p> <p>I note also that Cllr Sangar described the Crookes and Walkley experience as 'painful', which it was, especially for residents.</p> <p>Why was no public meeting held with residents prior to this decision being taken by the committee?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>The democratic process for decision making is set out here About the Committee System of Governance and Local Area Committees Sheffield City Council and is as a result of an earlier referendum. Consultation and</p>

	<p>public engagement took place between August 2021 and July 2023. This included workshops, ongoing consultation during the live trial of the scheme, a number of public drop ins, a public meeting, and perception surveys (both targeted and self-selecting). All the detail and results of this can be found in the additional documents section of the report presented to committee which can be found here Agenda for Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee on Wednesday 20 September 2023, 2.00 pm Sheffield City Council. In addition, members of the public could contact their respective local ward councillors.</p> <p>Councillor Huggan said; “I asked for and was promised a Public Meeting at the end of the evaluation by the then Cabinet Member responsible. This did not take place and I am unsure why this was the case.”</p> <p>Councillor Ruth Milsom has added that; “I and other councillors had suggested earlier in the year that residents and other stakeholders would benefit from the chance to scrutinise the outcomes of the Active Neighbourhood trials before committee decision. Although it is somewhat disappointing that there was not sufficient time in the process to create public engagement events, it is certainly the case in Crookes that councillors and transport officers had confidence in the analysis of the large amounts of feedback received during the trial period, and were naturally at a point of consensus regarding which measures should be retained or removed permanently. I have also been clear that any decisions to make measures permanent should be accompanied by opportunities for members of the public (primarily those who live or spend significant time in close proximity to the measures) to be involved in co-designing the permanent infrastructure. In Crookes this will be the School Street, the closure/filter on Newent Lane, and the filter on Hands Road / Leamington Street. (The two light-controlled pedestrian crossings will be of standard design.) I am very conscious that Mr Lewis has been a keen follower of, and participant in the Crookes trial scheme, and thank him for all the effort he has put into providing feedback and holding councillors and officers to account. I would like to invite Mr Lewis to discuss in person any ongoing concerns he may have.”</p>
	<p>Question 4:</p> <p>Why has no open evaluation of all aspects of this scheme, from its (inept) conception to its (bungled) implementation ever taken place?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>The report linked here Draft Protocol for Cabinet Reports (sheffield.gov.uk), sets out that lessons have been learnt regarding the process of developing and implementing the active travel neighbourhood, section 8 specifically covers this.</p>

Councillor Tim Huggan has said that “I hope that this will be made public. Councillors have been briefed on the evaluation of the scheme and I hope that this will become available in the shortest possible time.”

From a personal perspective, I hope the council has learned lessons from the LTNs in Crookes / Walkley and Nether Edge. The council’s co-operative executive (i.e. the Labour / Green cabinet) imposed these schemes on local residents with limited consultation with either residents or local elected councillors. In terms of Crookes LTN, SWLAC then held some reactive workshops to respond to the many concerns that local residents were raising. This public engagement could and should have happened before the cabinet decision. Following a referendum, the council has moved from a strong leader and cabinet form of governance to a committee system. I would hope that in future the relevant policy committee reaches out to local elected councillors and LACs before starting public consultation and engagement on schemes such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.