

Central Community Assembly

Meeting held 27 September 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Ben Curran (Chair), Janet Bragg, Jillian Creasy, Jayne Dunn, Neale Gibson, Bob Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Mohammad Maroof, Shaffaq Mohammed, Robert Murphy, Nikki Sharpe and Stuart Wattam

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

1.1 No apologies for absence were received

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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. LOCAL POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

4.1 The Community Assembly received a presentation from Inspector Darren Starkey, Central Safer Neighbourhood Area (SNA), on the new policing arrangements in the Central Assembly area following a restructure of the SNAs. The Central SNA now covered the Walkley, City Centre, Broomhill and Hillsborough Wards and was coterminous with the Community Assembly boundary.

4.2 Inspector Starkey reported on the staffing levels in the Central Safer Neighbourhood Team, the general priorities of South Yorkshire Police in terms of crime prevention, current statistics in terms of crime levels, challenges for the SNA and key issues in the area at the present time.

4.3 Members of the public and the Community Assembly raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- The Police regularly reviewed crime statistics in Tasking Meetings, so would be aware of any specific spikes in crime in certain areas. If there were increases in crime, they would look at preventative work in those areas, and increase resources if possible.
- The Police were making increasing use of software which could be downloaded onto items such as laptops and mobile phones, and which enabled the Police to track the whereabouts of such items if they had been

stolen. The public could also use websites such as www.immobilise.com or www.preyproject.com to register any items of value on a national database, and which enabled the Police to return any goods to their owners if located after being stolen or lost.

- The Police were aware of the recent rise in street robberies and car crime in the Uppertorpe area and had deployed additional resources to deal with the increase. It mainly involved teenagers and a number had been arrested and were presently in custody. A number of offenders had been caught with stolen goods by using the tracking software.
- If the Police suspected goods had been stolen, they could either visit the offender if they knew where they lived, and scan the goods in question, or use the tracking software to locate the goods. They also undertook such checks at second hand shops and were able to scan suspected stolen goods which had been handed in at police stations.
- A very high proportion of crime was committed by people known to the Police. This was particularly prevalent in respect of the recent instances of crime in the Uppertorpe area.
- It was agreed that the Witness Protection System could be operated more efficiently in order to provide greater assistance and protection for those people coming forward to give evidence against offenders. The Police worked with such people under the Community Justice System, and aimed to give people more confidence to come forward to provide evidence. It was accepted that it was not easy for people to provide evidence, but there was a facility for reporting anonymously through Crimestoppers.
- Those members of the public who had volunteered to compile Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) diaries for the Police, and who were likely to receive visits from the Police, should be encouraged to make their own arrangements with the visiting Police Officer in terms of whether the Officer should wear plain clothes or whether they should meet at a venue other than the resident's home. This would then make the members of the public less susceptible to reprisals. This would also apply to victims of crime.
- The Police worked closely with licensees and the Council's Licensing Service in connection with problems of alcohol-related ASB. Whilst the Police could object to the opening of licensed premises or request reviews of the operation of such premises if they considered there were grounds to do so, they did not have the powers to stop new licensed premises from opening. In terms of the issues regarding alcohol-related ASB in the Broomhill area, the Police continued to work closely with the City's two Universities in connection with students' drinking habits. The City Centre was designated as an Alcohol Restriction Zone, and the Police were looking at the possibility of extending the zone to specific areas just outside the City Centre.
- The "101" number was the Police's preferred contact number for the public

reporting non-urgent issues as it provided a better method of logging such calls on the system.

- The Council could request information from the Police in terms of calls received through the “101” contact number, when drafting plans for road safety schemes, including 20mph zones.
- The Police had found that the allocation of funding by the Community Assembly in terms of the provision of youth clubs and other activities for young people had contributed towards reducing crime levels in such areas. The Police worked with the Council to look at which areas such funding should be targeted.
- Staffing levels in the Central SNA were greater, by varying degrees, than all of the other SNAs.
- It was appreciated that consistency in terms of staffing in the SNA contributed towards keeping crime levels down on the basis that the Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) were familiar with the area and representatives of community organisations and members of the public formed trusted relationships with such Officers. It had been accepted that there had been a recent change in the Central SNA, which had occurred as a result of the PCSO requesting a transfer to another Community Assembly area.
- It was understood that the plans to extend the Alcohol Restriction Zone to cover a number of neighbourhoods just outside the City Centre had been proposed by a number of different bodies and agencies. Information had been received from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), which indicated that extending the boundary of the Zone would provide the Police with powers to deal with any alcohol-related ASB linked to licensed premises.
- There had been an increase of 14 offences in terms of sexual crime for a given period ending April, 2012, compared with the same period in 2011. There were a number of specialist Police Officers who dealt with offences of this nature.

4.4 RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the information reported as part of the presentation, together with the responses to the questions raised; and
- (b) thanks Inspector Darren Starkey for attending the meeting, making the presentation and responding to the questions raised.

5. CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS UPDATE

The Community Assembly Highways Link Manager and the Community Assembly

Manager submitted a joint report providing updates on (a) those highway schemes which the Community Assembly had agreed to fund from its Highways Budget 2012/13 and (b) the corporately-funded 20 mph zone chosen by the Community Assembly (Walkley – Ref C09).

5.1 Public Questions

Members of the public raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- The relevant Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in respect of the proposed 20mph zone in the Winn Gardens area would hopefully be advertised before the end of 2012 and, subject to the number and nature of responses received to the Orders, they would then either be amended or confirmed unamended.
- Whilst there was a 20mph scheme in Hanover, there were no signs to indicate this. The plan was to use any underspend from the proposed scheme in Winn Gardens to fund the provision of relevant signage for the Hanover scheme.
- It was hoped that by providing an additional signal lead for the pedestrian crossing on South Road, it would be possible to reinstate the currently banned right turn at the bottom of Greenhow Street. This would capitalise on the Streets Ahead works being carried out in the area.
- Only adopted highways will be treated under the Streets Ahead Project. Members of the public would be able to check details on the Council website as to when their area was to be treated under the Project. Amey had and would continue to work closely with the Council and the utility companies to enable the works under the Project to be carried out with the minimum of disruption. Whilst there were likely to be some issues, due mainly to unforeseen circumstances, the aim was to keep any disruption to the treated work to a minimum.

5.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly notes:-

- (a) the contents of the report now submitted, relating to the progress made on the small highway schemes which the Community Assembly had agreed to fund from its Highways Budget 2012/13; and
- (b) the progress on the corporately-funded 20 mph zone chosen by the Community Assembly (Walkley – Ref C09).

5.3 Reasons for the Decision

The purpose of the Highways Budget is to respond to local requests for highway improvements. Traffic and parking is one of the Central Assembly Community Plan

priorities. The 2012/13 budget of £40,000 will only allow for small schemes to be implemented in this financial year.

5.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

No alternative options have been considered as this report only provides an update on decisions previously made.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

6.1 **Petitions**

- (a) The Community Assembly received a petition submitted by Ernest Crookes, containing 61 signatures and requesting road safety measures at the junction of Welbeck Road and Fern Road. Jean Gleadall, who spoke to the petition, stated that the problems were caused by a local resident parking his car on Fern Road, very close to the junction with Welbeck Road, making it very difficult and dangerous for drivers turning right from Welbeck Road onto Fern Road. Despite a number of requests, and the fact that the local resident in question had off-street parking, he had refused to move his car off the road.

The Chair stated that although there was no funding left in the Assembly's Highways Budget 2012/13, the Assembly would consider the request for road safety measures at this junction as part of any review of the Highways Budget 2013/14. Inspector Darren Starkey stated that if the car in question was causing danger to other road users, the Police could take action, and that he would ensure one of his officers went to investigate the claims being made.

- (b) The Community Assembly received a petition submitted by Bernard Little, containing 40 signatures and requesting road safety measures at the junction of Upperthorpe/Springvale Road/Commonside.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that this request would be referred to the Head of Transport, Traffic and Parking Services for them to investigate. She added that as the junction in question was on the boundary of this and the South West Community Assembly, a copy of the petition would be referred to Tammy Barass, South West Community Assembly Manager.

6.2 **Questions**

- 6.2.1 Members of the public raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- (a) Penny Ralph questioned what the Council was doing in terms of safeguarding important local buildings and the development of significant sites, as set out in the Central Community Assembly Plan 2011/12, referring specifically to the Crookes Valley Methodist Church and Vestry and the Crookesmoor Community Centre.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that both the Crookes Valley Methodist Church and Vestry Hall were privately owned, resulting in the Council having limited powers as to what action it could take. The Community Assembly could request that Conservation Officers contact the owners and request that further steps be taken to secure the buildings. She added that the Crookesmoor Community Centre was still owned by the Council, and officers were currently looking for an alternative use for the premises. The Chair stated that Members would talk to Conservation Officers to discuss what work was required and report back thereon to the next meeting of the Assembly.

- (b) Leni Oglesby questioned whether the Community Assembly could instigate proceedings against the owners of the former Hallam Towers Hotel to ensure that the site was cleared of rubbish and made secure. She stated that the site had been badly vandalised and neglected and was aware that people were taking drugs and committing other acts of anti-social behaviour on the site.

The Chair stated that in the light of these, and other concerns raised by the previous questioner, the Community Assembly would discuss issues regarding sites and buildings within the Assembly area which appeared to have been neglected, at a future briefing meeting, to which Conservation Officers and any other relevant Council officers would be requested to attend. Inspector Darren Starkey added that whilst he was not sure of the reasons why the Local Community Safety Officer was not able to enter the site, he believed that it could be due to health and safety reasons, and would discuss this with the Officer.

- (c) Alan Wellings questioned whether the Community Assembly held a list of listed buildings in its area, which had been neglected and fallen into disrepair.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that the Council had a list of all listed buildings in the City, but it did not indicate what condition they were in.

- (d) Jenny Carpenter raised a number of issues regarding traffic movements from the City Centre to Walkley routes at Commonsides and questioned whether any road safety measures could be implemented to make it safer for both motorists and pedestrians.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that the request could be placed on the Assembly's list of small highway schemes to be considered as part of the consideration of the Highways Budget 2013/14.

- (e) A member of the public stated that he was aware that there were Enforcement Officers in other local authority areas whose job it was to look at properties which had been left vacant, and fallen into disrepair and questioned why this could not happen in Sheffield.

The Chair stated that the Council had an Empty Property Team, but officers were limited in terms of their powers and resources.

7. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 7.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Community Assembly held on 21st June, 2012, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom:-
- 7.2 The Community Assembly Manager reported that (a) further to the concerns raised by the Broomhill Forum and University Student Union regarding the implications of the proposed fortnightly bin collections from Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), she had requested the Head of Waste Management to provide a review for the first six months of alternate weekly bin collections at the Community Assembly meeting in March 2013, (b) a further consultation meeting had been held in connection with the proposals to build houses on the former Crown Sash Works site, Whitehouse Lane, (c) the No.4 bus service had been retained with a subsidy from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, and would comprise an hourly service to operate Monday to Saturday daytime, from the Interchange to Bents Green, via Psalter Lane, (d) a number of suggestions had been made in respect of the Walkley Active Corridor scheme and (e) in response to a question from Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, Helen Judge had been appointed as the Community Assembly's Amey Link Officer, and arrangements would be made for her to attend a future meeting of the Broomhill Forum; and a walkabout with local Councillors and local residents would be arranged in Broomhill to discuss any issues prior to the commencement of the Streets Ahead works in that area.

8. CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET UPDATE

The Central Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing (a) details of how the balance of £28,130 from the Community Assembly's Discretionary Budget 2012/13 had been allocated by the Central Community Assembly Manager, acting under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Community Assembly and (b) proposals with regard to the reallocation of £4,000 and £2,975 from two projects where the funds could now not be used.

8.1 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the information contained in the report now submitted, regarding funding allocations from the Community Assembly's Discretionary Budget 2012/13, made under delegated powers since 21st June 2012;
- (b) agrees to reallocate (i) the £4,000 earmarked for Walkley Community First Emergency Matched Funding to other projects in the Walkley Ward and (ii) the £2,975 underspend from the grant to Hillsborough Advice Service to other projects in the Hillsborough Ward;
- (c) delegates authority to the Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Community Assembly, to agree the utilisation of the

sums referred to in (b) above, in line with the priorities of the Central Assembly Community Plan; and

- (d) 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 this 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.

8.2 Reasons for the Decision

The allocation of the Discretionary Budget will ensure activity takes place to address the priorities in the Central Assembly Community Plan, across all four Wards in the Assembly area, including:-

- Things for young people to do
- Education, jobs and incomes
- The environment
- Community support and people getting on together
- Health
- Community Safety.

8.3 Alternatives Considered And Rejected

Several options were being considered for using the balance of available funding, and these options were currently being investigated:-

Walkley Ward:-

- Small-scale improvements to Upperthorpe Precinct
- Service user survey/profile in Langsett, Netherthorpe and Upperthorpe
- Philadelphia green space improvement

Hillsborough Ward:-

- Air conditioning for Wisewood Sports Centre Community Room
- Drainage works at Hillsborough Arena Sports Association.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Assembly would be held on Thursday, 24th January, 2013, at Quaker Meetinghouse, St. James Street. From 5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., there will be a Meet the Cabinet session, with a Question Time debate and public questions and the Assembly will meet from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.