

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Central Community Assembly

Meeting held 28 March 2013

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

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rob Murphy and Stuart Wattam.

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. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Assembly held on 24th January 2013, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, the Community Assembly Manager reported that:-

4.1 Former Crown Sash Works Site, Whitehouse Lane

an application for planning permission had been submitted for the construction of family housing on the site of the former Crown Sash Works, Whitehouse Lane, and the construction company who had submitted the application was in the process of seeking funding from the Government to enable the development to proceed.

4.2 Use of the Corner of Harcourt Road and Northumberland Road as a Temporary Car Park

a seminar had been arranged for residents on 1st May 2013, at which Planning and Highway Officers and representatives from the University of Sheffield would be in attendance, to discuss parking problems in this area.

4.3 20 mph Zone at Winn Gardens

the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the implementation of the 20 mph zone at Winn Gardens had been advertised and, as no formal objections had been received, it was hoped that the scheme would be completed during Summer

2013.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Petitions

The Community Assembly Manager reported on the receipt of a petition requesting road safety improvements at the junction of Commonside and Upperthorpe, which had been considered at a recent Members' briefing. She stated that the request had been referred to officers dealing with the Streets Ahead programme, and that there were copies of a report on this issue, available at the meeting for people to take away.

In response to a query from a member of the public, the Community Assembly Manager confirmed that the request had been added to the Council's List of Highway Schemes, and would be investigated as and when the necessary funding became available.

5.2 Public Questions

Peter Hartley requested full details of a number of contracts held between the City Council and other companies/organisations, including Amey (Streets Ahead), Veolia (Waste disposal and recycling), Mercure Hotel, Capita (Finance and IT), and Kier (Council cleaning, catering and maintenance).

The Chair stated that whilst there may be some details relating to contracts between the Council and the companies and organisations referred to, the contracts themselves would not be publicly available for reasons of confidentiality.

6. SECTION 106 PLANNING GAIN - ALLOCATION OF SITES

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing details of proposed sites regarding the allocation of Open Space Section 106 Agreement funds, relating to agreements where payments had been received, but sites not yet allocated and where payments had not yet been received.

6.1 Public Questions

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

- The Masterplan for the Ponderosa had already been produced, therefore the allocation of funding for this and Crookes Valley Park and Philadelphia would be used to fund the actions within the Masterplans.
- It was accepted that the Botanical Gardens had recently received a large grant, but there were rules which required that the Section 106 funding could only be allocated within a specific distance of the development site. The Community Assembly Manager stated that she would find out what the future arrangements would be in terms of future Section 106 allocations, particularly

in the light of the concerns now raised regarding the fact that there would no longer be anyone from the Community Assembly Team to visit community groups/organisations to discuss possible allocations.

6.2 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) confirms that it is in agreement with the proposed allocation of Open Space Section 106 funds to the sites as set out in Section 4 of the report now submitted, subject to further discussions regarding the proposed allocation in Ref.No.1075 – Walkley Centre, South Road; and
- (b) regard having been had to the Sheffield City Strategy and to the relevant guidance of the Secretary of State, confirms its belief that the allocation of Section 106 funds, as envisaged in the report now submitted, is likely to achieve the promotion and improvement of the social and environmental wellbeing of residents of the Central Community Assembly area.

6.3 **Reasons for Decision**

Community Assemblies currently have an agreed role in allocating Section 106 Agreement funding to suitable sites in the Assembly area. All the proposed sites have been discussed with colleagues in the Parks and Countryside Service and Development Services, have tried to take into account current and future site developments and are also mindful of the views of local groups.

6.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

In most cases, the open space or project nearest to a residential development is the obvious site to be allocated. In some cases, two alternative sites have been proposed for an agreement, to take into account the unknown timescales for receiving funding.

7. **CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2012/13 - FINAL UPDATE**

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report providing a final update on the allocation of funding from the Community Assembly's Discretionary Budget 2012/13, and setting out information where underspends in the Budget had been re-allocated, under delegated powers, by the Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly.

7.1 **Public Questions**

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

- Funding for the security gate at Walkley Library had not been utilised due to delays in implementation.

- The allocations from the Discretionary Budget have to be spent before 31st March 2013. The additional street cleaning in Broomhill and Central Wards had to be completed by 30th June 2013. It was envisaged that all the funding would be spent within these timescales. In terms of the street cleaning, the funding had been allocated and the arrangements had been agreed with Amey. It was planned that the deep cleans would be scheduled to be undertaken in between the day to day street cleaning works.
- In terms of street cleaning, Amey were well aware of the problems caused by cars on streets when it was attempting to undertake the cleaning. Leaflets have been sent to households and posters have been put on lampposts and other street furniture, warning of the dates of street cleaning, and requesting people to move their cars to alternative streets where possible. It was accepted that this was very difficult in some areas, such as Walkley and Crookes, where there was very little alternative in terms of places to park.
- Whilst there was a team of officers who patrolled areas, issuing spot fines to people who dropped litter, there was not enough funding to employ more such officers.
- Amey would clear up any dog waste on pavements or roads under the Streets Ahead Project, but the dog waste bin service was operated by the Council.
- Whilst it was accepted that the majority of litter in the Broomhill area was caused by people walking back to the area from pubs in town, or on the route from town, apart from providing waste bins, the Council did not have sufficient resources to fund enforcement work.
- Whilst there were no such arrangements in place at the present time, the Council could look at the possibility of giving Parking Services staff responsibility for issuing spot fines to people dropping litter, whilst they were out on duty.
- Whilst there had been a number of campaigns targeted at students regarding their responsibilities in terms of disposing of litter safely, there had not been any similar such campaigns targeting non-students living in student areas. However, the Council would work with Amey to keep the City's streets clean.

7.2 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly notes and welcomes the final funding allocations from its Discretionary Budget 2012/13.

7.3 **Reasons for Decision**

Whilst the funding allocations set out in the report have already been made using delegated powers, it is important that a complete and transparent record of the budget spent is presented in public, to fulfil the remit of the Community Assembly.

7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Alternative options for using the budget have been considered, and these have been reported to previous Assembly meetings.

8. CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS BUDGET 2012/13 - FINAL UPDATE

The Community Assembly Highways Link Manager and the Community Assembly Manager submitted a joint report providing a final update on the schemes chosen and progress made in respect of the allocation of funding from the Community Assembly's Highways Budget 2012/13, including details on the corporately-funded 20mph zone chosen by the Assembly and the works funded to compliment the Streets Ahead Programme.

8.1 Public Questions

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

- It was hoped that, following the abolition of the Community Assembly, and the consequent funding in terms of the Speed Indication Devices (SIDs), the Council's Highways Service would take ownership of the devices to ensure that they could be located at all the sites agreed by the Assembly.
- It was considered a disappointment that the Community Assembly had not been able to fund road narrowing at the junction of Crookes Valley Road and Harcourt Road, but the Community Assembly Team would ensure that the request is logged with the Highways Service. It was believed that the Highways Service would retain a list of all the schemes which had been chosen by the Community Assembly to be funded, but a specific reminder regarding this particular scheme would be made to Highways officers.
- It was believed that the proposal to relocate the bus stop on South Road, outside the library, had been incorporated into the Walkley Traffic Scheme.
- The issue regarding enforcement of the 20 mph scheme implemented in the Hollowmoor Road area, would be a matter for the Police. It was hoped that the implementation of this, and other 20 mph schemes in the City would bring about a change in driving culture.

8.2 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly notes the progress made on the chosen Highway Small Schemes for 2012/13 and the emerging influence of the Streets Ahead Programme of highway maintenance treatment.

8.3 Reasons for 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 only allowed for small schemes to be implemented in this financial year, but the report gives a progress update on all the schemes chosen.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

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

9. CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF AREA WORKING

9.1 The Community Assembly Lead Director reported on the abolition of the Community Assemblies and on the consultation held, and the next phase of consultation, regarding the future of area working.

9.2 He stated that the Council had decided to remove Community Assemblies from its formal decision-making structure for budget reasons, but would retain the same geographical boundaries in order to build on the community work undertaken with Partner Panels. The Council had allocated a sum of £300,000 for future Ward-based work.

9.3 In terms of consultation already undertaken, it was stated that approximately 300 responses had been received to the Stage 1 consultation questionnaire, and that after analysis of the responses, there would be a further phase of consultation in terms of the framework to be implemented regarding the future arrangements. This consultation would comprise a further questionnaire and meetings held in each of the seven Community Assembly areas, and would include the views of young people and BME communities. In the meantime, the Community Assembly Teams would continue to work, providing a link between community groups and local residents and the Council, and in terms of mapping the community links to build up a database of information.

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

- It would not be clear, until after the second phase of the consultation, as to which of the Community Assembly's functions would continue, and in what format.
- A new team would be established, which would still be based within the Communities Portfolio, to undertake the functions to be determined following the consultation.
- The abolition of the Community Assemblies would result in savings of approximately £2 million per year, therefore the level of work undertaken by the new team would be much lower than in previous years.
- The second phase of consultation was to commence in April 2013, and end in May 2013, and any interested parties would be informed of the results of the consultation.

- It was accepted that a large proportion of the population still do not have access to the internet, so they would be encouraged to take part in the consultation by using other methods, such as by mail or through the media.
- Whilst the precise details of the arrangements in terms of area working would not be known until the outcome of the second phase of consultation, local residents could still contact their local Ward Councillor with any issues or problems.

9.5 RESOLVED: The Community Assembly notes the information now reported, together with the responses provided to the questions raised.

10. SOURCES OF SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND FUNDING

10.1 The Community Assembly Manager reported on the arrangements being made for the provision of support, information and funding for community groups, after the abolition of the Community Assembly. Five representatives of groups/organisations attended the meeting and reported on their services and objectives, and how they would be able to provide such support, information and funding, as follows:-

South Yorkshire Financial Advice Bureau (SYFAB)

- Provides information, advice and support to community groups who want to know about funding.
- People can register on the Bureau's website to receive information, and also to search for the various different funders.
- Staff can look at completing applications for funding on behalf of community groups for a small fee.

South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF)

- Raises money from wealthy people and businesses and from the interest accrued there was a pot of money available for community groups, known as the Small Grants Fund.
- Local Giving – A fund-raising website, which provides advice for wording for inclusion in applications for funding.

Sheffield Hallam University Students' Union

- Community Rep Scheme – Aims to have student volunteers based in areas with high student populations, including Hunters Bar, Broomhall, Sharrow, Sharrow Vale, Highfield and the City Centre, who would regularly attend local community group meetings, with the aim of working alongside other residents on projects and campaigns to help the areas and build a sense of community spirit.
- Community Audit – Student volunteers asking what local residents like about

their area and what they would like to improve. The results of the audit would be produced into a booklet, which would be available in the new year, and would help to inform a number of community projects led by student volunteers which aim to benefit the local community.

- In total, over 800 students volunteered in community-based projects in 2012.

University of Sheffield

- Community Rep Scheme – Currently operating in Broomhill, Crookes, Walkley and the City Centre, with plans to have reps in other areas.
- Sheffield Volunteering – offer help with relevant projects.

Streets Ahead (Amey Donation Scheme)

£7,000 available across all seven Community Assembly areas, where local community groups can apply for a maximum amount of £250 towards a programme relating to either environmental or educational issues. The deadline for bids was 30th April 2013, and successful applicants would be notified in May 2013.

10.2 RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes and welcomes the information now reported relating to the groups and organisations able to provide support, information and funding to community groups following the abolition of the Community Assembly; and
- (b) thanks the representatives of the groups and organisations for attending the meeting.

11. COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY TEAM

11.1 The Chair referred to the fact that this was the last meeting of the Community Assembly, and reported on the excellent work undertaken by all the staff in the Central Community Assembly Team.

11.2 RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly places on record its thanks and appreciation for the excellent work undertaken by Rebecca Maddox, Community Assembly Manager, and her staff, during the last four years.