

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Northern Community Assembly

Meeting held 11 December 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Garry Weatherall (Chair), Trevor Bagshaw, David Baker, Katie Condliffe, Richard Crowther, Adam Hurst, Alf Meade, 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 Vickie Priestley.

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. ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH FOOD BANK

4.1 Maureen Greaves, St. Saviour's Church, High Green, informed the meeting that the Church had set up a Food Bank on Greengate Lane which also included household goods, clothing and a washing machine for people to use. The Food Bank operated through a system of vouchers, which were given to those in contact with people in need to distribute, and provided three days' worth of food. The facility had only recently been opened and had received donations of food but more was required. If anyone knew of people in crisis they should contact the Food Bank which would be open between Christmas and the New Year.

4.2 The Chair added that the Assembly had granted a request for funding of £589 for the Food Bank and Maureen Greaves confirmed that this had already been used. The Chair also indicated that the Food Bank's telephone number was available on the Assembly's website.

4.3 The Assembly thanked Maureen Greaves for this information which was noted.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 17th October 2012, were approved as a correct record.

6. CHAIR'S AWARDS

6.1 The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, presented certificates to those present and announced that the Chair's Awards had been made to Chapeltown in Bloom,

Chapelton Forum, Thorncliffe Conservation Group and Burncross Action Team in recognition of their work in the community.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

7.1 Petitions

There were no petitions received.

7.2 Public Questions

Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

Traffic Volumes and Speeds on Warren Lane

Simon Botterill, Northern Project Delivery Manager, Transport, Traffic and Parking Services, indicated that surveys had shown that traffic speeds were not excessive on Warren Lane, compared to other residential roads. However, consideration would be given to improved signage and road markings, and the use of a mobile speed camera, together with its inclusion on the list for the rotation of the Speed Indication Devices.

Deepcar Dumpit Site

Simon Botterill stated that he would check as to whether the Deepcar Dumpit Site was to be closed down and report back to the questioner.

8. FINANCE UPDATE REPORT

8.1 Marika Puglisi, Community Assembly Manager, referred the meeting to the circulated list of community groups which had been funded by the Assembly in 2012/13. She explained that the process had been simplified, with the grants being awarded in four rounds during the financial year. There had been 123 applications from across the area, of which 79 had been funded, with 8 new groups being supported. A total of £46,000 had been allocated and this needed to be spent by 31 March 2013, for the benefit of the receiving groups and wider community. The assessment process was carried out by officers and two Members for each round of grants, with the aim of achieving an even distribution across the Assembly area.

8.2 The Assembly noted the information reported.

EXECUTIVE DECISION

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 an amendment to the approved methodology for spending the Assembly's allocation for Highway Schemes in 2012/13. The amendment was to add the High Green North 20 mph Area as a third large scheme.

9.1 **Public Questions**

Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

- The High Green North Scheme would fit the amount of funding available and the need for it was backed up by statistics. The Council had its own programme for 20 mph areas, which would be introduced on a worst first basis, so other areas may be included as a result. Ward Councillors were in favour of the scheme and there were two schools within its area. The other part of High Green was high on the priority list, but the Assembly did not have the funding to introduce a 20 mph scheme in that area.
- Greengate Lane was a C class road and as such was not under consideration for inclusion in a 20 mph zone. Roads would be considered for inclusion if there were high numbers of accidents. It may be possible to introduce some measures as part of the Streets Ahead works, which were due to take place in 2014. Ultimately, it was up to local Members to lobby for these schemes.
- A reduction of the speed limit on Ecclesfield Road was not a priority for this financial year. Statistics showed that there had been 12 accidents in the last 5 years, but there had been no pedestrian accidents since a crossing had been installed within the 40 mph limit area. The Assembly had wanted to lower the speed limit to 30 mph, but the South Yorkshire Police had objected as it was felt that the character of the road warranted a 40 mph speed limit. If the Police's objection was ignored, then the Council may be held partly responsible for any consequent incidents or it may be that the Police would not enforce a 30 mph speed limit. National guidance indicated that speed limits which drivers did not understand should not be introduced and there was little activity on Ecclesfield Road other than the school. It could also be said that having unrealistic speed limits encouraged people to break the law.
- The Assembly awaited the Coroner's report on the fatal road accident which had occurred on Ecclesfield Road.
- The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, was due to meet with the Headteacher of Ecclesfield School and would take up the issue of pupils not crossing Ecclesfield Road in a safe and orderly manner.

9.2 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly approves the revised spending methodology for highway funding to include the High Green North 20 mph Area.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 The High Green North 20 mph Area was an Assembly priority which it hoped would be chosen as one of those to be implemented using central funding.

9.3.2 Cabinet Highways Committee, in September, decided to prioritise the Spinkhall area of Stocksbridge, which was the Assembly's nomination. Accordingly, the Assembly has now reassessed its spending to allow the High Green North scheme to be funded from its own highway funds.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 The Assembly had considered its priorities for spending and had tried to strike a balanced approach to dealing with requests for changes on the roads within its area.

9.4.2 At this time, the Streets Ahead project was active in only a small part of the Assembly area. The Assembly had chosen to allocate funding to two large schemes to realise greater benefit.

10. **NORTHERN COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY STREETS AHEAD WORKS UPDATE**

10.1 Rachel Morris, Northern Assembly Streets Ahead Programme Steward, Amey, reported that the Ewden works and the scheme at Station Road, Ecclesfield, would be completed before Christmas and that the New Year would see works commence in the Wisewood area, which would include Stannington, Loxley, Dungworth, Hillsborough and Walkley. Four roadshows had taken place in the Wisewood area and these had been positively received. Works would commence on local and residential roads in High Green and Bradfield, with roadshows taking place in Bradfield on 9th January 2013, and in High Green on either 16th or 23rd January 2013. Plans would be available at the roadshows showing the areas covered.

10.2 Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

- Requests for litter bins were all being reviewed at the moment and discussions would be held with Assembly Members to decide which locations were to be selected. Any information which would assist prioritisation was welcomed, e.g. to ensure that officers did not visit proposed locations just after a local litter picking had taken place.
- Street cleaning issues at Ashwood Road and Compton Close would be investigated.
- In the financial year 2013/14, works would be undertaken on local and residential roads in Stannington and some main routes in Ecclesfield, and there would be drainage and structural improvements in Stocksbridge.
- Rachel Morris would take further details from the questioner about flooding on Brightholmlee Lane, Wharnccliffe Side, so that a proper investigation could take place.

10.3 The Assembly noted the information reported.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The Assembly noted that its next meeting would be held on Thursday, 25th April 2013, at 6.30 pm at a venue to be arranged.

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