

South West Community Assembly

Thursday 21 March 2013 at 7.00 pm

**To be held at Wesley Hall Methodist
Church, Crookes, Sheffield S10 1UD**

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors Andrew Sangar (Chair), Sue Alston, Sylvia Anginotti, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Rob Frost, Keith Hill, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Diana Stimely and Geoff Smith

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

There are seven Community Assemblies which cover Sheffield; each is made up of the local Councillors from four wards. It is part of their remit to promote the local involvement of local people in the democratic process and to bring decision making closer to local people.

The formal meetings of the Community Assembly are open to the public and are the place where the Councillors make funding decisions as delegated by the Cabinet, relating to the priorities set out in the Community Plan and the Community Involvement Plan. They take place a minimum of 4 times per year, though more often, if required.

There is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and submit petitions at these meetings.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday, or you can ring on telephone no. 2734552. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Community Assembly decisions are effective six working days after the meeting has taken place, unless called-in for scrutiny by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in which case the matter is normally resolved within the monthly cycle of meetings.

Further information on any of the agenda items can be obtained by speaking to either:

- Tammy Barrass, Community Assembly Manager
Tel: 0114 203 7212
Email: tammy.barrass@sheffield.gov.uk
- Martyn Riley, Democratic Services
Tel: 0114 273 4008
Email: martyn.riley@sheffield.gov.uk

**SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY AGENDA
21 MARCH 2013**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting.
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 24 January 2013.
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public at the meeting.
- 7. Community Assembly Achievements**
Presentation by Tammy Barrass, Community Assembly Manager.
- 8. Update of Sheffield City Council Locality Management/Community Assemblies**
Vince Roberts, Head of Locality Management to report.

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

New standards arrangements were introduced by the Localism Act 2011. The new regime made changes to the way that members' interests are registered and declared.

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** (DPI) relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) -
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Under the Council's Code of Conduct, members must act in accordance with the Seven Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership), including the principle of honesty, which says that 'holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest'.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life.

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously, and has been published on the Council's website as a downloadable document at [-http://councillors.sheffield.gov.uk/councillors/register-of-councillors-interests](http://councillors.sheffield.gov.uk/councillors/register-of-councillors-interests)

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Lynne Bird, Director of Legal Services on 0114 2734018 or email lynne.bird@sheffield.gov.uk

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South West Community Assembly

Meeting held 24 January 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Andrew Sangar (Chair), Sue Alston, Sylvia Anginotti, Penny Baker, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Geoff Smith and Diana Stimely

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Davison, Keith Hill and Janice Sidebottom.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 There were no items 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

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 18th October, 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Petitions

5.1.1 There were no petitions reported to the meeting.

5.2 Public Questions

5.2.1 Crosspool

In response to a member of the public seeking progress on providing a warning sign to motorists on Sandygate Road, on the approach to Crosspool, requesting that they reduce their speed, Tammy Barrass, the Community Assembly Manager, advised that if local Ward funding was not available for the sign, consideration would be given for it to be included as part of the Streets Ahead, Private Finance Initiative.

5.2.2 Lydgate Junior/Infant School

Further to concerns raised over inconsiderate parking and safety issues when parents drop-off and collect their children from Lydgate Junior/Infant School, the meeting was informed that Highway Services provided a mobile unit to monitor parking offences and that fines were issued. A local Ward

Councillor acknowledged that the behaviour of parents was difficult to modify in respect of this matter but, if necessary, the School would be approached to request that they impress upon parents the need to act sensibly and reasonably.

6. SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS UPDATE

6.1 The Director of Development Services submitted a report giving an update on the progress on various schemes and requests for highways work within the Assembly area. In considering the report it was noted that the request for double yellow lines at the two junctions of Marston Crescent with Baslow Road should be included as part of the small highway schemes for Dore and Totley Ward and that under paragraph 4.22 the word "Road" should be substituted for the word "Street".

6.2 Public Questions

6.2.1 There were no public questions received.

6.3 **RESOLVED:** That, as amended at paragraph 4.22, and with the addition of double yellow lines at the two junctions of Marston Crescent with Baslow Road, the South West Community Assembly notes the progress with the various highways schemes and requests included in the report.

6.4 Reasons for Decision

6.4.1 To keep Members and the public informed of progress

6.5.5 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

6.5.1 No alternative options have been considered as the report only provided an update on the progress of various schemes and requests for highways work within the Assembly area.

7. PETITION REQUESTING SIGNS FOR THE EXISTING SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS ON PINGLE ROAD ON THE APPROACH TO AND AT THE ACCESS INTO DOBCROFT JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

7.1 The Director of Development Services submitted a report in response to a petition requesting signs for the existing School Keep Clear markings on Pingle Road, on the approach to and at the access into Dobcroft Junior and Infant School.

7.2 Public Questions

7.2.1 Residents of Pingle Road at the meeting raised objections to the proposed measures being recommended in the report. It was stated that the proposals were too invasive and not what was requested through the petition. In particular, it was explained that the restrictions were too onerous, that it was perceived that the measures would not improve safety and the scheme was too costly for what had been requested. It was further clarified that residents wanted the existing measures to be enforced. In response, it was stated that the proposed scheme was the

most appropriate solution to the problems being experienced by residents and that a Traffic Regulation Order was necessary to enforce parking restrictions.

7.2.1 In addition, the residents' asked that the proposed bollards be withdrawn from the scheme, that all "School Keep Clear" markings remain and not be replaced by a single yellow line and that the restrictions be limited to 08.35 am to 09.05 am and 15.25pm to 15.55pm with signage provided accordingly.

7.3 **RESOLVED:** That:-

- (a) the petitioners be thanked for bringing their concerns to the attention of the Council; and
- (b) in light of the comments now made, authority be given for the Head of Transport, Traffic and Parking Services to advertise the intention to make a Traffic Regulation Order introducing no waiting between 08:35 and 09:05 hours and 15:25 and 15:55 hours in term time on the existing School Keep Clear markings on Pingle Road, along with appropriate signage and, subject to no objections being received, approval be given for the Order to be made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended.

7.4 **Reasons for Decision**

7.4.1 The provision of a Traffic Regulation Order for the School Keep Clear markings on Pingle Road at various times in term time was in response to the residents' request and would aid better enforcement and discourage school related parking, hence improving road safety.

7.5 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.5.1 Proposed waiting restrictions in place of the School Keep Clear markings adjacent to the houses on Pingle Road was not supported by residents, although the Department of Transport advice is that to maintain motorists' respect for the concept of School Keep Clear markings they should only be provided at locations where there are large amounts of people crossing.

7.5.2 The provision of bollards in the footway in the turning head area to help reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, especially at school opening and closing times, was not supported by residents.

8. **UPDATE ON SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCALITY MANAGEMENT/COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES**

8.1 Vince Roberts, Head of Locality Management with responsibility for Community Assemblies, gave a brief presentation on the Council's proposals for the future of Community Assemblies. He referred to the Government funding cuts which required the Council to save £50 million during 2013/14. It was indicated that as part of the proposals being considered to make savings, Community Assemblies

would cease to exist as part of the City Council's formal decision making structures. These it was suggested would be replaced by a Ward based structure to support partnership working and delivery of some City Council services and, would aid local Councillors in their community leadership role to work closely with their communities. It is proposed that the new structure would receive £580,000 per year, with £280,000 allocated to staffing costs and £300,000 allocated to discretionary grants. The proposals for a Ward based structure would generate £2 million savings per year.

8.2 Vince referred to the consultation process being undertaken on the proposal to introduce a Ward based structure in place of Community Assemblies and asked the public to give their views online, through a feedback form, or by telephoning to give their opinions by 28th January, 2013. Information on how people could give feedback was made available at the meeting.

8.3 Public Questions

8.3.1 Strong concern was raised over the short consultation period which ended on 28th January, 2013 which didn't give sufficient time for people to be notified and respond. A comment was made that the 28 Wards would still need to be supported by officers. In response it was stated that due to time constraints in the budget process, there was only a small amount of time for the consultation to be undertaken. However, the public were reassured that Cabinet Members would receive the responses returned. With regard to support for the Ward structure, it was stated that, whilst Members had a high level of skill and knowledge, discussions were taking place on how Members could be supported to fulfil their role in respect of community engagement. It was further stated that the mechanisms that needed to be in place would be different, as future meetings would not have the same executive decision making functions.

8.3.2 In response to a query regarding the immediate future for Community Assemblies, it was stated that they would continue to be operational until 31 March, 2013, but work with the community would still continue after this date.

8.3.3 Another view received expressed concern over how future meetings would be supported, with organisations competing for fewer grants and that it was feared there would be insufficient support for communities.

8.3.4 Members of the public asked Members to give their views on the proposals for a Ward based structure.

8.3.5 Councillor Andrew Sangar referred to the progress the Council had made in area working since the introduction of Area Panels in 1996, followed by the Community Assemblies in 2009 which saw some areas of corporate decision making decentralised. He stated that he was privileged to have been Chair of the South West Community Assembly and seen the progress made by Community Assemblies in a short space of time. He further stated that, whilst appreciating the Council needed to reduce budgets, he was opposed to the proposed move to a Ward based structure, with a

reduced budget and officer support, which he perceived would require decisions to be taken centrally again.

- 8.3.6 Councillor Geoff Smith, as Cabinet Assistant with the Portfolio for Communities and Inclusion, stated that he was strongly supportive of area working and that the views of local residents would be heard by Councillors. He acknowledged what had been achieved by the Community Assemblies, but that it was his belief that the Ward based structure would be more effective in engaging with local communities. He also referred to the efficiency savings over the last two years and the impact of further reductions on the Council's budget. It was stated the Council's priorities included:

- Keeping the economy growing
- Essential and statutory services
- Supporting Vulnerable People.

It was further stated that, whilst it was proposed £1.9 million pounds would be cut from area working, the Ward based structure would involve partnership working, listening to local people and holding officers to account. In addition, the meeting was informed that it was hoped that the new structure would grow when finances allowed.

- 8.3.7 Councillor Colin Ross stated that he was a big supporter of the Community Assembly structure which allowed, through the devolution of power, issues to be resolved at a local level, which might not have the same importance if dealt with centrally. He referred to the support given to the Friends of the Porter Valley and the Trolley Sports Club and expressed concern that other services such as the South Yorkshire Police Service had organised its boundaries to be coterminous with the Assemblies. He also referred to the good work and support provided by Rebecca Maddox and more recently Tammy Barrass as the Assembly Managers. He further stated that the Assemblies provided an enhanced role for Councillors at a local level and it was urged that area working Executive Powers were not taken out of the Constitution, so that any proposed structure could easily be built up to be more effective in time.

- 8.3.8 Councillor Penny Baker stated she felt strongly over the proposal to move to a Ward based structure and that empowerment given to local Councillors to get work done at a local level would be lost. She referred to the two very different Community Assembly areas she had served in and that in both areas the Assemblies had taken into account local views and needs in such matters as schools, shops and transport. It was stated that the new structure would be a challenge and that it was perceived without Community Assemblies opportunities would be missed. It was also added that the future funding should be shared fairly over the city area so that all areas see investment. Community Assembly officers and Vince Roberts were thanked for their support and the work they had undertaken for Members and the community.

- 8.3.9 Councillor Sylvia Anginotti supported the comments made over the proposed loss of Community Assemblies and expressed concern that the

Ward structures would not be a constituted part of the City Council's decision making process. It was felt that they would be less effective particularly with the loss of spending power for local issues. Concern was also expressed that it would be difficult for partner services to attend so many Ward meetings and that Wards would be more isolated, with less cross boundary working to that undertaken by Assemblies.

- 8.3.10 Councillor Sue Alston stated that she considered that the consultation time on the proposed changes to Community Assemblies was insufficient and that, if implemented, Cabinet would not have the time to focus on local needs. It was felt that the responsiveness of Community Assemblies to local needs would be lost.
- 8.3.11 Councillor Geoff Smith reiterated that there would be money devolved to be distributed at a local level in the proposed Ward structure and that this could be built-up. He stated that the Ward structure would be more responsive to the needs of local people and that Wards would be able to work jointly if required. He also highlighted that a number of other local councils operated Ward based structures. In addition, it was stated that partner working would still continue using the Assembly boundary areas. He urged people not to be dismissive of the proposed changes, as Councillors would still have influence, be able to respond to local needs and hold officers to account. In conclusion, he acknowledged the hard work undertaken by the local Community Assembly staff.
- 8.3.12 Councillor Andrew Sangar concluded by advising the meeting that the funding proposed to be allocated to the local Ward areas was considered to be a big reduction and he felt that the level of influence a local Councillor would have would be reduced without the existing structure and support of officers. He also advised that, subject to the Council's decision on 1 March 2013, the last Community Assembly meeting would be a celebration of its achievements over the last 3 years and to give further information on the proposed new local Ward structure.
- 8.4 **RESOLVED:** That (a) the Community Assembly officers and link officers be thanked for all their hard work in supporting the Assembly to meet its role and supporting the local Councillors, community groups and residents; and
- (b) this Community Assembly (i) regrets the proposed decision to move from a Community Assembly to a local Ward based structure and the resulting loss of funding and officer support and (ii) subject to the proposed new structure being agreed, requests that the Council's Constitution is not amended in such a manner that Executive Powers were withdrawn from future devolved structures involved with area working, which would prevent them from taking decisions and authorising expenditure at a local level, when and if increased funding became available to the City Council.

(Note: Councillor Geoff Smith voted against paragraph (b) of the above resolution and asked for this to be recorded).