

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

East Community Assembly

Meeting held 21 March 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Pat Midgley (Chair), Terry Fox, Martin Lawton, Mary Lea, Lynn Rooney and Jack Scott.

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jenny Armstrong, John Campbell, Julie Dore, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal and John Robson.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 The following personal interests were declared in item 5 (East Community Assembly Discretionary Budget Spend 2012/13):

Councillor Pat Midgley - Director of the Manor Castle Development Trust Ltd.

Councillor Martin Lawton - Director of the Manor Castle Development Trust Ltd.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

4.1 Petitions

4.1.1 There were no petitions submitted to the meeting.

4.2 Public Questions

(a) Mr Kirk asked about progress with the new pedestrian bridge at Park Hill for which he understood that funding was available.

Andy McKie (Major Schemes Manager, Development Services) stated that the Department for Transport (DFT) were providing funding for the scheme and Network Rail was the scheme sponsor. Network Rail had not provided an outline of the scheme to be signed off by the DFT. When this had taken place it would be followed by the formal scheme design.

(b) Barbara Morris referred to funding that had been obtained for activities for young people in the Easter holiday but had been informed that Activity Sheffield was unable to deliver the activities due to a shortage of staff.

In response, Councillor Pat Midgley, Chair of the Assembly, stated that remaining monies in the Assembly's budget of approximately £6,000 would be used to fund activities for young people during the Easter Holidays. Of the 26 bids that had been submitted, 19 had been successful. However, she was aware that there was a shortage of staff to deliver some activities and asked anyone else in a similar position to contact her and she would respond to the groups affected. Angela Greenwood (Assembly Manager) stated she would also seek to resolve this issue.

- (c) Beryl Crapper referred to an article in a newspaper and asked why the Council had refused financial help with the 'bedroom tax'.

In response, Maxine Stavrianakos indicated that the Council had not refused any funding that had been offered by the Government. The government had not offered funding to help with under-occupancy but had offered funding to help with reduction of council tax support to be given to tenants.

Councillor Pat Midgley indicated that the 'bedroom tax' related to over occupancy and was a national scheme and did not relate to the Council refusing any government funding.

- (d) Beryl Crapper referred to the length of the Council waiting list and considered that Darnall used to be a good place to live. She also referred to the street cleaner for the area that was now in Tinsley.

In response, Councillor Mary Lea indicated that there were a significant number of people on the housing waiting list and a large number wanted to live in Darnall. The economic downturn and Government cuts imposed on the Council were affecting all residents and deprived communities.

- (e) Brian Coldwin referred to the problems with litter in the area. He made reference to the fact that there were a lot of good people living in the area and that everyone needed to take more pride in the area.

Councillor Mary Lea referred to the investment that had taken place in the area, including the Decent Homes Programme, the Facelift project on Main Road, the regeneration of local parks, a road safety scheme on Staniforth Road and the new Children's Centre. There was a need to educate people on litter and fly tipping.

- (f) A member of the public referred to the problem that potholes

were causing for cars in Tinsley.

Andrew Staniforth (Amey) stated Tinsley was scheduled for the Streets Ahead work shortly and this would involve improving the street lighting and pavements in May and resurfacing the roads in July 2013. Members of the public were asked to report potholes to StreetsAhead by telephone on 0114 2734567 or via email at streetsahead@sheffield.go.uk

- (g) A member of the public highlighted the need for a youth club in the area for 12 to 13 year olds.

Councillor Mary Lea reported on activities for young people that would be taking place in Tinsley, including the hire of the community rooms on Ingfield Avenue for 2 nights per week for young people of all ages. From April 2013, a small funding pot of £500 was available for new youth activities new youth activities in Tinsley and this would be funded from the Darnall small grants budget. There would be meetings with parents every couple of months to review progress and plan further activities.

- (h) Bob Weighell referred to the improvements that had been made in the Manor area and commented that if people in Darnall worked together they could make a difference.

- (i) A member of the public stated that he had highlighted to Councillor Mary Lea 3 years ago a number of areas with litter problems in Darnall but 3 areas had not been addressed. He referred to parking problems on cul-de-sacs and that residents were seeking to have the grass verges tarmaced to create extra parking spaces. He also referred to a new build property on Halsall Avenue with a driveway, although other residents in that area had been told that they could not have a driveway.

Councillor Lea asked the questioner to provide her with details of the 3 areas with litter problems that had not been addressed. In respect of the property on Halsall Avenue, she commented that the owner may have paid for the driveway to be installed.

Councillor Jack Scott stated that grass verges were the second best defence against flooding. Concreting grass verges had not been ruled out but this would require other areas to be regrassed.

- (j) Craig Judson highlighted the need for activities for 5 to 13 year olds in the area.

Councillor Pat Midgley indicated that it would be easier to consider what was possible in areas when the new ward arrangements were in place.

- (k) Taha Saleh raised concern at the lack of investment and state of the art facilities in Darnall and that businesses were closing.

Councillor Mary Lea stated that the aim was to improve the area and increase the number of jobs. There was a significant amount of activity taking place in the area.

- (l) A member of the public requested additional litter bins on York Road. She also asked why a single parent with 1 child had been allocated a 3 bedroomed house.

Councillor Mary Lea indicated that the cost of a litter bin was over £400 but the cost of the waste collection would be a significant additional cost. The matter would be referred to the public realm. She stated that she was unable to comment on individual housing cases.

- (m) Rozinah asked what was action was being taken to deal with the problem of rats in Tinsley that had been reported to the Council.

Councillor Pat Midgley asked the questioner to provide her address at the end of the meeting and she would pursue the matter.

- (n) Mr. Gul referred to problems in Darnall with litter and that he had reported to the Council that a number of street lights were not working. He asked whether action could be taken against residents to ensure that their gardens/backyards were kept clean.

Councillor Mary Lea asked Mr Gul to provide her with further details and she would pursue the issues raised.

- (o) A member of the public asked if the work to deal with the potholes would be done properly.

Andrew Staniforth (Amey) reported that the potholes would be made safe and this would be followed by a proper repair.

- (p) A member of the public asked why Tinsley Library was being closed, particularly as it was used by young people.

Councillor Mary Lea referred to the Government's £50m reduction in funding to the Council for 2013/14 which required savings to be made. One of the budget proposals was a reduction in the libraries' budget and this may require 14 libraries to close. A call for action had been sent to communities on whether they could run any of the libraries and a number of groups had come forward. No decisions had been taken on the

future of any particular library.

- (q) A member of the public raised concern at the poor bus service in Tinsley. Although it was a 10 minute service, there was often a 30 minute wait for a bus. Also there was only the service 69 to the City Centre.

Councillor Mary Lea indicated that, although the Council was not responsible for running the bus services in the city, it worked closely with the bus companies. She referred to a recent meeting arranged by the Tinsley Forum with the bus companies. Councillor Lea offered to speak to the questioner after the meeting and raise her concerns with the Tinsley Forum.

5. EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET SPEND 2012/13

- 5.1 The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report on the activity that had been funded by the Assembly's discretionary budget allocation of £336,958 during 2012/13 and changes made to funding agreements post decision.

- 5.2 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly notes the contents of the report.

5.3 Reasons for Decision

- 5.3.1 The report is for information only and the Assembly is asked to note its contents.

5.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 5.4.1 As the discretionary budget for 2012/13 has been fully allocated there are now no alternative options to consider.

5.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

- 5.5.1 Councillor Pat Midgley declared a personal interest as a Director of the Manor Castle Development Trust Ltd.

- 5.5.2 Councillor Martin Lawton declared a personal interest as a Director of the Manor Castle Development Trust Ltd.

5.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

- 5.6.1 None.

5.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

- 5.7.1 Richard Webb, Executive Director, Place.

5.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

5.8.1 Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

6.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 13 December 2013 were approved as a correct record.