

CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Meeting held 22nd March 2012 at the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street

PRESENT: Councillors Ben Curran (Chair), Janet Bragg, Jillian Creasy, Bob Johnson, Diane Leek, Mohammad Maroof, Shaffaq Mohammed, Robert Murphy, Joe Taylor and Stuart Wattam.

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1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Scriven and Nikki Sharpe.

RESOLVED: That the sincere condolences of the Community Assembly be conveyed to Councillor Paul Scriven following the recent death of his mother.

3. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 Public Questions

Members of the public asked questions and responses were given as follows:-

(a) Alan Wellings, on behalf of the Broomhill Forum, and relating to:-

(i) the Highways PFI Project:-

(A) Questioned whether, in the absence from the publicly accessible documents of any reference to safeguarding the streetscape in the Broomhill Conservation Area, the Community Assembly could seek agreement now and at future stages of negotiation and operation of the contract about how the distinctive features of the Conservation

Area would be safeguarded and how its character could be enhanced;

- (B) questioned whether, as the work was planned and specified, it should conform to and be guided by the Broomhill Conservation Area Management Plan, adopted by the City Council in December 2007, and referring to particularly vulnerable elements of the streetscape such as stone kerbs, stone setts, stone paving, stone steps, cast iron drains, traditional gas streetlights and cast street signs/nameplates; and
- (C) questioned whether clear arrangements could be made and published, whereby anyone wishing to raise issues about what is taking place or how work was being undertaken, was able to contact an officer who had the relevant authority to take action and not simply to pass on messages.

It was understood that, as part of the specification for the Project, it was not likely that there would be any enhancements to the street scene, and that any replacement works would be carried out on a 'like for like' basis. When the preferred bidder was chosen, a dialogue would commence in terms of the detail of the works and it was hoped that, at this stage, there would be consultation with the Community Assembly and the wider public. It was also important to ensure that there was as much flexibility as possible in the contract; and

(ii) the Broomhill Library:-

- (A) raised concerns with regard to the lack of consultation with the Forum on the suitability of the proposed new location for the Broomhill Library in Willis House. He stated that the Forum's Library Sub-Group had been assured that prior to any decision being made, its members would be invited to inspect the property and make their own judgements about its suitability. This had not happened and the Forum had discovered that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 21st March 2012, had agreed to initiate a process of negotiation for the acquisition of the premises. The Forum had therefore requested, as a matter of urgency, that the Library Sub-Group be invited to inspect the premises and that proper account should be taken of any comments following such inspection. In addition to this, the Forum requested that the Library staff at the existing library had an opportunity to inspect the proposed site and provide the Forum with their views on its suitability; and
- (B) Indicated that the Forum was concerned about the consequences of a possible 'swap' of the current library building and the other properties in Broomhill and that if such a swap deal was completed, Members should urge that clear restrictions were put on the future use of the current library building, perhaps in a form of covenant, so that it may revert to family use.

Dave Hempshall, Head of Asset Management, Property and Facilities Management, stated that a developer had recently approached the Council, asking if it was willing to accept a swap deal. He had met with Andrew Milroy, Head of Libraries, Archives and Information, and had both viewed the property and considered it suitable. An instruction had then been given to officers to pursue a possible deal with the developer and a report on this proposal had been submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 21st March 2012. The developer had since indicated that he would not be interested in a swap deal in terms of the existing library building, therefore the Council would be looking to sell the property. It was the intention to sell the property as a residential property or similar, and the Council had the powers to place whatever planning restrictions it wanted to in terms of its future development.

It was reported that arrangements would be made for a visit to Willis House by interested parties, and for a report on the visit to be made at the next Community Assembly Members' briefing or Community Assembly meeting. It was also requested that the Community Assembly Manager should facilitate consultation with Members of the Crookes and Fulwood Wards.

- (b) Richard Attwood questioned, whilst not being in agreement with the piecemeal 20 mph speed limits roll out strategy for the City, if the Community Assembly could clarify how it proposed to involve the public and interest groups, such as 20's Plenty for Sheffield, in the selection of an area and also, how it proposed to provide information regarding the value of such an initiative, given the Council's stated intent to adopt it City-wide in due course.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that a report on a proposed implementation strategy for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in residential areas of the City had been submitted to the Cabinet Highways Committee at its meeting on 8th March 2012. It was planned that a report on the proposals would be submitted to the next Community Assembly briefing meeting at which Members would look at the proposals, together with the comments and suggestions from members of the public. They would also look at how further consultation could be held with the public. Members reported that whilst there had been success in terms of vehicle speed reduction on smaller roads within those 20 mph zones already established, speeds had not been reduced on the main roads within the zones, and it was acknowledged that there was a need for better enforcement. Ian Wheeldon, Community Assembly Highways Link Officer, confirmed it was national policy not to include A and B roads within 20 mph zones and there was flexibility as to whether C roads could be included.

The Community Assembly Manager referred to six zones, as suggested by the public, and which included Hanover, Winn Gardens, Taptonville, Harcourt Road/Crookesmoor Road, Endcliffe Vale, Burnaby Crescent

and Sharrow Vale.

- (c) Grenville Wilkinson questioned why the Council won't implement 20 mph zones on bus routes and queried the overall cost of introducing a 20 mph limit on one road.

Ian Wheeldon stated that there were a number of 20 mph zones on bus routes and that, in terms of the costs, the implementation of a scheme with several features was considerably more expensive than a sign-only scheme. He stated that whilst the Community Assembly could fund a number of small schemes from its Small Highway Schemes Budget, there were plans to implement a larger scheme within the Community Assembly boundary comprising up to six roads.

- (d) Bernard Little questioned whether it was too late to include proposals for the implementation of 20 mph schemes as part of the Highways PFI Project.

It was stated that agreement on what was to be included in the contract for the Project had been concluded two years ago.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 6.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Community Assembly held on 26th January 2012, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, it was reported that:-

- (a) the Director of Culture and Environment had agreed to consider changing the sign in Ruskin Park, from referring to a proposed 'MUGA' (Multi-Use Games Area), to a proposed 'Games Area' to avoid any confusion for members of the public;
- (b) a report on the results of the Central Walkley Traffic Survey would be submitted to the Community Assembly briefing meeting on 19th April 2012, and to the next meeting of this Community Assembly, for consideration;
- (c) the owners of the Dam House Restaurant had made an application to licence the premises as a pub/restaurant, and the application would be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee at its meeting to be held on 3rd April 2012. Several objections had been made to the application, focusing mainly on the potential for noise nuisance due to the late night opening hours proposed on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays;
- (d) the request made by Damian Davis for funding to assist him in the organisation of an event known as 'Fun in the Sun' had been included on the Community Assembly's database, and would be determined once the budgets had been set. Details of the request had also been forwarded to the East Community Assembly Team, as the actual event was due to take place in that Assembly's area;

- (e) the request for a 20 mph sign on Exeter Drive had been included on the Assembly's list of Small Highways Schemes, which would be considered during the 2012/13 financial year; and
- (f) whilst it was unlikely that regular meetings of the Cabinet would be held within communities across the City, the 'Meet the Cabinet' sessions held recently prior to the Community Assembly meetings had been viewed as a success and would be held on an annual basis.

7. CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY PLAN 2011/12 - UPDATE

- 7.1 The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing an update on the Central Community Assembly Plan 2011/12, including information on whether elements of the Plan had been completed/achieved, were in progress or were struggling to succeed. The report indicated that the majority of projects had either been completed or were in progress.
- 7.2 A member of the public commented that there was not enough in terms of projects for older people in the Plan and that this should be addressed in the Assembly's Plan for 2012/13.
- 7.3 In response to a question from Richard Atwood in terms of the progress regarding the Walkley Active Travel Corridor, the Community Assembly Manager stated that a report on this project would be submitted to the Community Assembly Members' briefing meeting on 19th April 2012.
- 7.4 The Community Assembly:-
 - (a) noted the contents of the report on the Community Assembly Plan 2011/12, together with the comments now made; and
 - (b) welcomed the progress being made in terms of the projects set out in the Plan.

8. CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2012/13

The Central Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing proposed allocations from the Central Community Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13.

8.1 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) regard having been had to the Sheffield City Strategy and to the relevant guidance of the Secretary of State, confirms its belief that the granting of funding as envisaged in this report is likely to achieve the promotion and improvement of the social and environmental wellbeing of residents of the Central Community Assembly area;

- (b) allocates the following sums from the Discretionary Budget 2012/13, subject to the final confirmation of the budget:-

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
Additional Youth Activities	35,000
Environmental Improvement Team	15,000
Events Budget	8,000
Small Grants	30,000
Healthy Communities	15,000
Additional ESOL Provision	7,000
Bring out Your Rubbish Days	4,000
Churches Together in Broomhill and Broomhall	7,000
Outcomes from Broomhill Ward Action Plan	5,000
Additional Street Cleaning - Broomhill Ward	5,000
Community First Emergency Match Funding Pot	4,000
Engagement via ZEST	5,000
Learning Champion - Walkley Ward	6,000
Hillsborough Advice Service Debt Worker	4,271
Learning Champion - Hillsborough Ward	6,000
Broomhall Centre Manager	6,000
City Centre Engagement	3,000
Learning Champion - Sharrow and Broomhall	10,000
Additional Street Cleaning - Central Ward	3,000
Sharrow Ranger Post	10,000
Broomhall Forum	3,000;

- (c) delegates authority to the Central Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly, to work up and agree the details of the proposed allocations and projects set out in this report; 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 some of the priorities as identified in the Central Community Assembly Plan, namely:-

- Things for young people to do
- Education, jobs and incomes
- The environment
- Good shops and local services
- Traffic and parking
- Community support and people getting on together
- Health
- Community Safety.

8.3 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Several alternative projects had been considered, but had not currently been recommended for funding, including:-

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
Continuation of Additional Post for Assembly Team	41,352
Community Safety Budget	10,000
Parks and Open Spaces – Additional Allocation	35,000
Seats in Bus Shelters	1,000
Sheffield General Cemetery – Staff Costs	9,125
Local Engagement via Forums - Sharrow Community Forum	Up to 10,000
Broomhall Study Support	Up to 10,000
Outcomes from Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan	5,000

(NOTE: Prior to the passing of the above resolution, an amendment moved by Councillor Rob Murphy and seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy, recommending that £23,000 be held back, to be taken from other projects, and used, if required, to part-fund an additional post of Safer Neighbourhood Officer, if it is found that there was a need for extra provision in this area following the reorganisation of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, was put to the vote and negated.

The votes on the amendment were requested to be recorded and were as follows:-

For the Amendment (2)	- Councillors Rob Murphy and Jillian Creasy
Against the Amendment (8)	- Councillors Janet Bragg, Ben Curran, Bob Johnson, Diane Leek, Mohammad Maroof, Shaffaq Mohammed, Joe Taylor and Stuart Wattam

9. STAFFING CHANGES

9.1 Ian Wheeldon, Community Assembly Highways Link Officer

The Community Assembly Manager reported that following a re-organisation of duties within Development Services, Ian Wheeldon was attending his last meeting of the Community Assembly in his capacity as the Assembly's Highways Link Officer.

RESOLVED: That the thanks and appreciation of the Community Assembly be conveyed to Ian Wheeldon for the valuable work carried out during the past three years as the Community Assembly's Highways Link Officer.

9.2 Andy Shallice, Community Assembly Planning and Performance Officer

The Community Assembly Manager reported that Andy Shallice, Community Assembly Planning and Performance Officer, would be leaving the Community Assembly Team with effect from the end of March, 2012, to take up a new post of Cohesion, Migration and Safety Officer.

RESOLVED: That the thanks and appreciation of the Community Assembly be conveyed to Andy Shallice for the valuable work carried out during the past three years as the Community Assembly's Planning and Performance Officer.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Assembly would be held on Thursday, 21st June 2012, from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, at the Quaker Meeting House, St James' Street, to be confirmed.