

Agenda Item 7

EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Meeting held Thursday 21st June 2012 at the Arbourthorne Social Centre, East Bank Road

PRESENT: Councillors Pat Midgley (Chair), Julie Dore, Terry Fox, Harry Harpham, Martin Lawton, Mary Lea, John Robson and Jack Scott.

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1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the Community Assembly meeting, and outlined basic housekeeping arrangements.

2. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

3.1 Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Jenny Armstrong, John Campbell, Mazher Iqbal and Lynn Rooney. The Assembly welcomed back Councillor John Robson, as this was his first Assembly meeting since beating cancer.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 Councillors Martin Lawton and Pat Midgley declared prejudicial interests in item 11 on the agenda (Budget Report), as Members of Manor Castle Development Trust, and did not participate in the vote to allocate funding to this organisation.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

5.1 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Martin Lawton be appointed Deputy Chair of the East Community Assembly for the Municipal Year 2012/13.

6. **SANCTUARY HOUSING**

6.1 The Assembly received a presentation from Rob Harbourne, Sanctuary Housing, upon the new housing scheme proposed for the site at Arbourthorne Fields. He reported that Sheffield City Council had commissioned a Masterplan in 2005 for the Arbourthorne neighbourhood, which had identified a need for elderly persons' housing (55 years plus) within the area. Sanctuary Housing Association had been selected as the preferred developer through the competitive tendering process held by Sheffield City Council, and proposals were for 56 one and two bedroom homes for rent for older people. Four of

these homes would be bungalows and the remainder were to be flats.

- 6.2 The homes would all be generous in size, with 50% of the properties suitable for wheelchair usage. All ground floor flats would have private gardens, and there would also be communal gardens, as well as on-site parking spaces.
- 6.3 A highly sustainable development was proposed, by adopting environmental design strategies and by making use of renewable and other energy saving systems, including high performance building fabric, solar panels, systems for rainwater from roofs to be linked to water butts, a green roof for the bungalows, and use of the winter-gardens to conserve energy. It was noted that the winter-garden areas would be subject to a window-cleaning contract, which would be set up as part of the tenancy agreement.
- 6.4 Mr. Harbourne reported that the Arbourthorne Fields Steering Group had been working very closely alongside Sanctuary Housing to develop the scheme, and the Group comprised local tenants and residents and Expert Elders, as well as representatives from Sanctuary Housing and Sheffield City Council Regeneration Team. Monthly meetings of the Group had been held over the past year in order to scrutinise the proposals.
- 6.5 An open day to showcase the proposals had been held in Arbourthorne on 20th October 2011, and there had been approximately 40 attendees. With regard to the allocation of the properties, a Choice Based Lettings system would be operated by Sheffield City Council, working alongside Sanctuary and Sheffield Homes, in order to determine all allocations.
- 6.6 Key dates for the project were as follows:-
- Planning application validated by Sheffield Council: 18th April 2012
 - Planning Approval expected: July 2012
 - Expected Start on Site: Sept 2012
 - Expected Completion: Nov 2013 (Lettings to start from completion date)
- 6.7 Councillor John Robson extended his thanks to all the members of the Steering Group, as they had worked extremely hard over a number of years to get to this stage. Cllr Robson added that he thought the proposals were excellent, and he was delighted to see the progress which had been made with the development. He added that he was extremely pleased to be back at work since recovering from his treatment, and that the new developments which had occurred during his time off, such as the East Bank Road Medical Centre, were very pleasing to see.
- 6.8 Councillor Julie Dore added that the scheme had been in the pipeline for some time now, and it was excellent to see the proposals in full, and to have an expected start date on site of September 2012. She requested that Sanctuary Housing keep in touch with local people and the Assembly for regular updates.
- 6.9 Lyn Brandon from the Sheffield Primary Care Trust commented that she was part of an initiative around community food growing in the East of Sheffield, and that it would be great to have the opportunity to develop sustainable food

production in the communal garden areas of the new homes.

- 6.10 Councillor Jack Scott commented that he was pleased to see that the building proposals were of a high specification, and he hoped that the development would stand the test of time.
- 6.11 Councillor Dore informed the meeting that the City Council had offered the land at Arbourthorne Fields to Sanctuary Housing for the development due to the need for high quality housing in the area, and that its value as a piece of land had been forfeited in the best interests of the local community.
- 6.12 It was noted that Sanctuary Housing would not be allowed to benefit financially from the solar power gathered in any way, and that any surplus energy created would allow a certain amount of money to be deducted from tenants' monthly service charges. It was also noted that the development would not be warden-controlled, as this would incur significant service charges on the properties.
- 6.13 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly:
- (a) notes the contents of the presentation now submitted;
 - (b) requests that a representative from Sanctuary Housing liaise with a representative from the Sheffield PCT to develop a potential community food growing initiative at the site, and
 - (c) requests that an update on the project be brought back to a meeting of the Assembly to be held in 12 months' time.

7. **PARKS PROJECTS**

- 7.1 The Assembly received an update from James Barnes, Projects Team Manager, Sheffield City Council, upon Parks initiatives and schemes in the local area, including a progress report upon the playground at Arbourthorne Recreation Ground. It was noted that several key pieces of playground equipment had been vandalised at Arbourthorne Recreation Ground, and there had not been sufficient funds to replace them. A new playground site was now proposed for the area, and Mr. Barnes showed the Assembly several presentation boards containing images of the new proposals, as well as details of the consultation which had already taken place within the local community. It was hoped that the new site would be more 'self-policing' as it would have better surveillance from local residents. £80,000 was allocated to the project, and it was expected that the new site would be completed by the end of 2013.
- 7.2 Mr. Barnes outlined several other key developments in the Assembly area, including improvements to the topography and contouring at Richmond Park, the re-naming of the site at Deep Pitts (now called Manor Fields), and improvements to the tennis courts and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Hollinsend Park. A European funding bid was awaiting approval for Sheaf Valley Park, and another external funding bid had already been acquired for the creation of the Sheaf Valley 'Green Link'.

- 7.3 Barbara Morris from the Friends of Richmond Park stated that she was extremely disappointed that the Friends Group had been obliged to pay VAT (to the value of £1200) for a Masterplan from Neil Black of Breeze Architects for work at the Park. In response, Mr. Barnes explained that, unfortunately, this was always the case when work was not commissioned directly by the City Council.
- 7.4 Mrs. Morris also stated that she was disappointed that the new playground equipment for Richmond Park would not be installed in time for the six weeks' holiday. Mr. Barnes explained that there was always a considerable 'lead-in' time before new equipment could be used, as there were a number of essential approvals to complete, namely to ensure the new equipment was safe to use for members of the public.
- 7.5 Concerns were expressed that there was no sustainability for the new parks and playgrounds mentioned, but Mr. Barnes clarified that it was now a stipulation of any new development that five years' site maintenance must be built into the contract.
- 7.6 A member of the public commented that the green open space at Skye Edge had great potential to be developed, but this potential had so far not been realised.
- 7.7 Mr. Barnes concluded by commenting that a Masterplan for Jaunty Park was being drawn up, at a cost of £20,000. There was still the need to develop a 'Friends of' Group for the site, but this was problematic, as the Park fell between two Community Assembly areas.
- 7.8 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly;
- (a) thanks the Projects Team Manager, Parks and Countryside, for the update, and
- (b) conveys its thanks to Parks and Countryside staff for the effective work carried out in the East Community Assembly area.

8. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 8.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Assembly held on 29th March and 16th May 2012 were approved as a correct record, and there were no matters arising.

9. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

Petitions

- 9.1 No petitions were submitted to the Assembly.

Public Questions

9.2 Answers were provided as follows to public questions submitted to the meeting-

1. Marge Allen from the Friends of Norfolk Heritage Park stated that the Stafford Road/ Granville Road junction was now a major hazard due to an increase in the number of parked cars, which obstructed the vision for oncoming traffic in both directions. She wondered whether this problem had occurred due to cars belonging to students living at the Student Village being parked on the road, as the entrance to the student complex at the top of Norfolk Park Road was permanently locked.
2. With regard to the increase in the number of student residencies at Norfolk Park and concerns over tree loss, due to these developments. Councillor John Robson reassured Marge Allen that any trees removed due to the development would be replaced elsewhere on the site. Councillor Robson added that the number of dwellings in the proposal had actually been reduced from the original plans, which is why there had been a slight delay in granting planning approval.
3. With regard to the railings on Bernard Road, Marge Allen reported that these had still not been painted and repaired, and that they were now dangerous.
4. A written question from Jenny Hobson, Chair of Norfolk Park Tenants and Residents Association, was submitted concerning the discontinuation of the number seven bus service.
5. It was requested that any further closures of the steps at Sheaf Valley Park for plays and performances be displayed clearly at the site, to inform members of the public that the thoroughfare route would be closed for a certain duration.

9.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly requests the following actions to deal with the questions now submitted;

(a) the East Community Assembly Highways Link Officer be requested to meet with Marge Allen from the Friends of Norfolk Heritage Park to discuss the locked gate at the top entrance to the Norfolk Park Student Village and the impact on parking in the area;

(b) the Assembly Manager to request the painting and repair of the railings on Bernard Road as part of the Community Service/ Payback Plan for the East area;

(c) Councillor John Robson to take up the issue of the discontinuation of the number seven bus service with the First Bus Group, and arrange a meeting between Ward Councillors and residents to discuss the issue, and

(d) the East Area Officer, Parks and Countryside, to inform the Friends of Sheaf Valley Park Group of any future dates for performances in the Sheaf

Valley Park amphitheatre which would necessitate a closure of the Park steps.

10. **SHEFFIELD HOMES BOARD NOMINATIONS**

10.1 The Chair reported on the proposed nomination of Councillors from the Community Assembly to the Sheffield Homes Central and East Area Boards.

10.2 **Decision Taken**

10.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly;

(a) having regard to the positive views expressed by the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods about the proposal to nominate Councillor Mazher Iqbal to Sheffield Homes East Area Board and Councillor John Robson to the Sheffield Homes Central Area Board, nominates those two Members of the Assembly to these positions,

(b) requests the Director of Modern Governance to report these nominations to full Council at the earliest opportunity; and

(c) subject to Council approval, requests the Community Assembly Manager to complete the necessary paperwork to effect these appointments, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.

10.4 **Reasons For The Decision**

10.5 The East Community Assembly has been requested to nominate two Sheffield City Council appointees, one to the Central Area Board and one to the East Area Board, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods.

10.6 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.7 The Community Assembly could consider alternative appointees to the Councillors who are proposed.

11. **EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY LOCAL HIGHWAY SCHEMES**

11.1 The East Community Assembly has an overall budget of £110,799 available for 'local highway schemes' in 2012/13, as part of devolving decisions and priorities on local issues and improving the responsiveness of the Council to meeting local requests. The East Community Assembly has already agreed a list of schemes for implementation in 2011/12, and it is intended to continue and complete schemes in the current financial year. The report now submitted contains an update on the actual progress of the limited number of schemes that can be afforded within the current budget.

11.2 **Decision Taken**

11.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly;

(a) notes the current budgetary position regarding funding availability (£110,779);

(b) notes and approves the cost of the feasibility study at Duke Street (estimated cost £2,000);

(c) notes the progress being made with the scheme on East Bank Road and approves the officer recommendation that the budget for the full scheme is allocated from the 2012/13 funds (Total £92,000);

(d) notes and approves the further rotation of the Speed Indication Devices in 2012/13 (Total £3,494);

(e) confirms that a sum of £5,000 per Ward be allocated for small highway schemes to be constructed in 2012/13;

(f) agrees to note and later review the over-programming of commitments in the 2012/13 financial year. (£110,799 v £117,494);

(g) notes Members' frustrations that the bus gate at Duke Street was still not open 24 hours a day, and requests that this be made a priority for the 2012 work programme;

(h) thanks John Bann for his many years' excellent service as Highways Link Officer for the East Community Assembly, and

(i) welcomes Andrew McKie as the new Highways Link Officer for the East Community Assembly.

11.4 **Reasons For The Decision**

11.5 The East Community Assembly supports and funds highways schemes at the locations of the highest number of child accidents. The Community Assembly and Transport and Highways teams, in discussion with Ward Members, have analysed the requests from local residents and undertaken some preliminary feasibility work on a provisional list of potential projects. This work has enabled the identification of a list of schemes, which were largely delivered in 2011/12, and, with the budget now identified, can be implemented in 2012/13.

11.6 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.7 The programme of local highway schemes can be updated and added to as the year progresses, reflecting new priorities identified by local people. The full list of requests for local highway schemes in the East Community Assembly can be found in a new Register, now available on the Council's website. This register will act as the central source of all requests for projects which will be assessed by Transport and Highways staff for feasibility and then provides the basis for selecting future schemes in partnership with the local community and reflecting the Assembly's Community Plan. Consultation with local residents on

individual schemes will continue to be an important way of looking at specific problems within approved schemes. Each of the schemes now submitted for approval will be the subject of a separate detailed public consultation process, as part of the normal design process, to ensure local people are comfortable with the proposals and to address anything else that arises.

12. EAST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2012/13

12.1 The discretionary budget allocation for the East Community Assembly for 2012/13 is £336,958. This allocation is based on an allocation of £1 per head of population and an additional allocation based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data at Ward level. An initial round of allocations from the East Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 was agreed at the Assembly Meeting on 29th March 2012. This report makes proposals for funding of additional projects from the remaining funds in the 2012/13 allocation. Further allocations of funding will be presented at the Assembly meetings in September and December 2012 until all funding is allocated.

12.2 Decision Taken

12.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Community Assembly;

(a) allocates the sums stated in section four of the report now submitted from the East Community Assembly Discretionary budget 2012/13 to new projects, with the exception of the Richmond Ward allocations on page nine of the report now submitted, which are to be amended as follows: Project 5- Community Centres works: increased from £2000 to £6000, and Project 6- Community Development Worker: postponed until the September 2012 meeting of the Assembly,

(b) approves the approach taken set out in section 11 of the report now submitted;

(c) delegates authority to the East Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to work up and agree the details of the proposed allocations and projects set out in the report now submitted, 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 the report now submitted 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 s/he considers appropriate.

12.4 Reasons for the Decision

12.5 The purpose of the Discretionary Budget is to help fulfil the priorities of the East Assembly Community Plan. These priorities were identified through consultation with local residents, groups and partners during 2011.

The East Assembly Community Plan priorities currently are:

- Tackling unemployment and increasing skills
- Tackling poverty
- Stronger communities
- Safer communities
- Improving the environment
- Transport and Highways
- Better health

Educational attainment is seen as the overarching priority that all projects and activity funded by the Assembly should be tackling in 2012/13.

All the projects proposed for funding contribute to one or more of these priorities.

12.6 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

12.7 The priorities of the Assembly were agreed in September 2011. The Assembly Manager has regular discussions with partners and the community about ideas for possible projects. Those that meet the priorities of the Assembly are worked up into a project proposal. All the current proposals are being recommended for funding. Other projects may be considered in the future if funds permit and they meet the priorities of the Assembly.

13. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

13.1 It was noted that future meetings of the East Community Assembly were as follows;

27th September 2012 - Basegreen Social Centre, Frith Close, S12 2ES

13th December 2012 - Victoria Centre, Stafford Road, S2 2SE

21st March 2013- Church of Christ, Station Road, S9 4JU

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