

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Meeting held on Thursday 19th July 2012 **at Abbeydale Sports Club, Abbeydale Road South**

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

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1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

- 1.1 The Chair, Councillor Andrew Sangar, welcomed members of the public to the meeting. Members of the Assembly attending the meeting introduced themselves and the basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements were outlined by the Chair.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 2.1 There were no items 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 received from Councillors Sylvia Anginotti and Janice Sidebottom.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 Councillors Andrew Sangar, Keith Hill, Sue Alston, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross and Geoff Smith declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) in item 10 on the agenda (South West Community Assembly Area 20 mph Nomination), as the areas proposed for 20 mph zones included areas where they lived. A dispensation was granted from the Director of Legal Services, for these Members of the Assembly to be present during, and vote upon, this item, to ensure that a quorum was maintained and that business could be conducted.

- 4.2 Councillor Joe Otten declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 9 on the agenda (South West Community Assembly Transport and Highways Programme) as the proposed highway scheme in respect of double yellow lines at the Westwood Road/Oakbrook Road junction was in an area where he regularly parked his car, near to his home. Therefore, he did not speak or vote upon this item, and left the room prior to its consideration.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS

- 5.1 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.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

6.1 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Keith Hill be appointed as Deputy Chair of the South West Community Assembly for the Municipal Year 2012/13.

7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

7.1 **Petitions**

(1) Carr Bank Lane Parking Issues

A petition containing 28 signatures was received from the residents of Carr Bank Lane, regarding parking issues in the area.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director, Place, be requested to carry out further consultation with local residents in the area, and provide confirmation that a site visit had taken place.

(2) Dobcroft School

A petition containing 231 signatures was received regarding the zig-zag lines outside Dobcroft School.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director, Place, be requested to add this to the list of requests for highways issues for the Assembly area.

(3) Number 83 Bus Service

A petition containing 63 signatures was received regarding changes to the 83 bus service at Millhouses Lane and Button Hill, stating that the new diverted route was unlikely to attract new passengers, and that it involved a very dangerous acute turn on Springfield Road.

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly Manager be requested to refer the issue to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

7.2 **Public Questions**

(1) Question regarding Carr Bank Lane Petition

A resident of Carr Bank Close wished to clarify that she had not seen the petition that had been submitted earlier in the meeting regarding parking arrangements on Carr Bank Lane, and that she did not know about its existence. She believed that the petition, therefore, did not reflect the views of all residents in the area.

(2) Operation of Businesses from Private Homes

A question was asked regarding the operation of businesses from private

homes (i.e. dog walking businesses) and whether using a property in this manner meant that a special licence should be applied for by the homeowner.

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly Manager be requested to follow up this issue and provide a report back at the next meeting.

(3) Ringinglow Road Parking Arrangements

A question was received regarding the proposed changes to parking arrangements at the special school on Ringinglow Road.

RESOLVED: That the issue be referred to the Head of Transport and Highways for further investigation.

(4) Ringinglow Road Visibility (A-Boards)

A question was received regarding the placement of an A-Board on Ringinglow Road, and its potentially dangerous effects on driver visibility when reversing out of driveways.

RESOLVED: The Chair and Community Assembly Manager to liaise with the owner of the A-Board around its placement and position.

(5) Hallam Grange Junior School: traffic issues

A question was received regarding the traffic situation at Hallam Grange Junior School, which had become even worse in recent months due to restrictions in new traffic arrangements around entering the school, with traffic jams forming in the area every morning during term time.

RESOLVED: That the Chair (a) acknowledged that this was a major issue for the area, and one which had been raised recently at the local Neighbourhood Action Group, and was a number one priority for the Fulwood area, and (b) requested a full report back to the Assembly upon this topic for the next meeting.

(6) Boarding of dogs in Private Houses

A question was received regarding the number of dogs that could legally be boarded in a private house overnight.

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly Manager be requested to follow up this issue and provide a report back at the next meeting.

8. REPRESENTATION ON SHEFFIELD HOMES SOUTH WEST BOARD

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report on the proposed nomination of a Councillor from the Community Assembly to serve on the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board.

8.1 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) having had regard to any views expressed by the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, nominates Councillor Keith Hill to serve on the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board;
- (b) requests the Director of Modern Governance to refer the nomination 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 this appointment, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.

8.2 **Reasons for the Decision**

The South West Community Assembly has been requested to nominate a Sheffield City Council appointee to the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods.

8.3 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

The Community Assembly could consider an alternative appointee to the Councillor who has been proposed.

8.4 **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None.

9. **SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY LOCAL HIGHWAYS PROGRAMME 2012/13**

- 9.1 The Director of Development Services submitted a report (a) on the progress of highways schemes sponsored by the Community Assembly in 2011/12 and (b) containing proposals with regard to priority highways schemes within the Community Assembly area in 2012/13.

9.1 **DECISION TAKEN**

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the 2012/13 allocation of £40,000 for new small highway schemes, and approves the process for determining the future programme, as outlined in the report now submitted;
- (b) allocates a sum of £8,310 from the South West Assembly Highways Budget 2012/13 for Speed Indication Device maintenance/ installation;
- (c) delegates authority to the South West Community Assembly Manager, in conjunction with the Community Assembly Chair, to agree on

schemes to be funded using the remaining 2012/13 Highways Budget;
and

- (d) requests an update report at the next meeting of the Community Assembly scheduled to take place on 18th October 2012.

9.2 **Reasons for the Decision**

The South West Community Assembly has funding in 2012/13 for a further programme of local highway schemes. Members are asked to confirm their priorities for inclusion in this programme.

9.3 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

The options available at present are of necessity very limited until further decisions on funding have been made.

9.4 **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

Councillor Joe Otten declared an interest in the proposed highway scheme in respect of Westwood Road/Oakbrook Road junction as he parked on the road and did not speak or vote thereon and left the room prior to consideration of the item.

10. **PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON HILLFOOT ROAD**

The Director of Development Services submitted a report on his investigation into a petition referred to the Assembly by the Cabinet Highways Committee, containing 136 signatures requesting traffic calming measures on Hillfoot Road, Totley.

10.1 **DECISION TAKEN**

RESOLVED: That:

- (a) the petitioners be thanked for bringing their concerns to the attention of the Council;
- (b) the Director of Development Services be requested to give consideration to the potential use, in accordance with Council policy, of mirrors on Hillfoot Road, measures to address car parking issues which impact on the visibility issues being experienced on the Road, and concealed entrance signage; and
- (c) in the event that none of the above suggestions are feasible, no further action be taken and the petitioner's request for the provision of traffic calming measures be declined.

10.2 **Reasons for the Decision**

- 10.2.1 A traffic calming scheme may have the effect of reducing vehicle speeds by degree but it would be of no direct assistance to pedestrians crossing Hillfoot Road at the Butts Hill junction. Overall the risks of vehicle/pedestrian collision are judged to be low. Average vehicle speed is 21 mph and the narrow road width and the bends have the effect on suppressing the use of inappropriate speeds. Although visibility is restricted near the Butts Hill junction opportunities for pedestrians, to cross Hillfoot Road, in reasonable safety, are plentiful and frequent because overall traffic volumes are low. In addition almost all students attending Totley All Saints School have adult accompaniment on the school journey and this is a significant factor in the safety of primary school children. An additional safety factor is that the major crossing movement is covered by a school crossing patrol warden. Hillfoot Road is a relatively narrow road and this, in turn, has an effect on reducing risk as pedestrians are spending little time in the live carriageway when crossing the road. Numbers of pedestrians crossing near the school entrance is relatively low.
- 10.2.2 Taking everything into account the road safety risks in relation to this location are judged to be low. A traffic calming scheme is feasible but such measures will have little effect on actual vehicle speeds. Traffic calming measures will be of no direct assistance to pedestrians crossing Hillfoot Road and such a scheme will not alleviate any of the visibility issues outside the school gate.
- 10.2.3 Regrettably, smaller scale opportunities, for *significant* road safety improvements, are not available. Provision of a pedestrian build out is not feasible at the mouth of a junction.
- 10.2.4 However, Members of the Assembly believed that other measures could be explored to improve road safety, including the use of mirrors and addressing the car parking problems, and asked officers to consider these.

10.3 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.3.1 A traffic calming scheme for Hillfoot Road is feasible but the appropriateness and effectiveness of such a scheme, on a road characterised by low speeds and low traffic volumes, is questionable. A traffic calming scheme will have no risk reducing effect for the many pedestrians crossing at the south end of Hillfoot Road as no feature could be provided so close to the junction and, in any case, southbound drivers are slowing near the give way lines. Whatever effect traffic calming would have on vehicle speeds, provision of speed humps and cushions will be of no *direct* help to any pedestrian crossing the road.
- 10.3.2 A more precise estimate of costs of such a scheme would follow the detailed design phase. An initial estimate may be in excess of sixty thousand pounds.
- 10.3.3 Doing nothing is an option. The situation will remain as it is.

10.3.4 A school entrance scheme (e.g. build out or refuge) is not feasible for a location directly opposite a junction (Butts Hill). Absence of a footway, on the eastern side of Hillfoot Road, compounds the feasibility issue.

10.3.5 Hillfoot Road would not meet the criteria for provision of a speed camera.

10.3.6 The Hillfoot Road/Butts Hill junction would not meet the criteria for provision of a School Crossing Patrol Warden in terms of pedestrian and vehicle numbers. In addition there would be safety concerns related to a Warden operating within the mouth of a junction. At this location there is no footway on the eastern side of Hillfoot Road. The footway width on Butts Hill is minimal

10.3.7 The Community Assembly could elect to deploy a Speed Indication Device but there would be doubts as to the effectiveness of such a measure at a location with low speeds and low volumes of traffic where a great many of the road users will be familiar with the location.

10.3.8 Appropriate warning signage, indicating children crossing, is in place. Both of these signs are supplemented with a SLOW road marking highlighted by a red surface treatment. Additions to the signage are unlikely to induce changes in driver behaviour. This is especially the case on a road where generally speeds are low and most drivers are familiar with the layout. No configuration of signage will improve the range of visibility for road users.

10.4 **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None.

11. **SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY AREA 20 MPH NOMINATION**

11.1 The Community Assembly Manager reported that, in line with a growing number of local authorities, Sheffield City Council had decided that in the interests of road safety, health and social cohesion, roads within suitable residential areas should be subject to a 20 mph speed limit, with the first seven 20 mph schemes to be delivered during 2012/13 and 2013/14; one in each Community Assembly area.

11.2 The report now submitted identified potential 20 mph areas within the South West Community Assembly area, with the Steel Bank Scheme selected as the Assembly's preferred option to be recommended to the Cabinet Highways Committee for approval.

11.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Assembly;

(a) nominates the Steel Bank scheme as the South West Community Assembly first choice priority for implementation of a 20 mph area;

(b) agrees that, should the Steel Bank Scheme not be feasible for delivery, the Dore scheme be nominated as the second priority area, and the Greystones scheme (East and West Combined) be nominated as the third priority area, and

(c) agrees that details of this decision are to be forwarded to the Council's Cabinet Highways Committee for inclusion in a future report.

11.4 **(NOTE:** An alternative resolution was proposed by Councillor Colin Ross and seconded by Councillor Joe Otten to prioritise the potential 20 mph areas as follows;

- (1) Dore
- (2) Steel Bank
- (3) Greystones

Results of this vote were as follows:-

In favour of the amendment: Councillors Joe Otten and Colin Ross

Against the amendment:- Councillors Andrew Sangar, Sue Alston, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Rob Frost, Geoff Smith and Diana Stimely.

Abstentions:- Councillor Keith Hill

Therefore, the proposed amendment fell.)

12. **2012/13 ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**

12.1 Kelly Riley, South West Area Manager for Activity Sheffield, provided an update upon activities available in the local area. She reported that activity planners had been distributed to children and young people across the area to inform them about what was going on. She reported that provision across the area had been doubled, and that an extensive programme was now available.

12.2 Robert Pullin, a member of the public with background and expertise in fairground management, asked a question about the safety of the inflatable football pitches used at Millhouses Park, stating that he believed there may be safety issues regarding the use of the generators. Ms. Riley stated that she would obtain advice upon this and follow up the concerns raised, as a priority issue.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13.1 It was noted that the next meeting of Assembly would be held on Thursday 18th October 2012 at 7 pm at Banner Cross Methodist Church. A 'Meet the Cabinet'; session would precede the meeting, starting at 5 pm, and all were welcome to attend.