

South East Local Area Committee

Meeting held 6 October 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillors Karen McGowan (Chair), Denise Fox (Deputy Chair), Tony Downing, Bryan Lodge, Bob McCann, Kevin Oxley, Mick Rooney and Jackie Satur

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kurtis Crossland, Gail Smith, Paul Wood and Ann Woolhouse.

**2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

2.1 No items were 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. GOOD PARKING SCHEME**

4.1 Due to illness, a teacher from Birley Spa School was unable to attend the meeting to receive the certificates for Birley Spa School's participation in the "Good Parking Scheme", so this item was postponed to a future date.

**5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022, were approved as a correct record.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

6.1 The Chair, Councillor Karen McGowan read out two questions and their responses from Glynis Chapman as follows:-

6.1.1 ***Q.1 What are the plans for the empty building on Streetfields Halfway. The old Knowle Hill nursing home. In the past year it has had a fire and cement lorries discharging wastewater down the drive flooding the basement (I reported that myself) There are lots of worries locally regarding this.***

Response from Dermot Reader, Project Manager, Housing Growth Delivery Service.

You will recall from the briefing note dated 01/07/2022 that following feasibility investigations we have recommended the demolition of the existing building to enable a new build Temporary Accommodation facility of 25 units plus ancillary office space. The City-Wide Housing Service has committed to this being a women's only site which will provide suitable and secure accommodation for its customers, in particular those fleeing domestic abuse. The site will have a 24/7 staff/security presence once in operation.

A Business Case has been submitted to secure capital approval to proceed with the demolition, but we must still complete the appropriation from the People to Place portfolio. The demolition works will need to be tendered in line with the council's procurement guidelines. Therefore, the current timetable for demolition is May-July 2023.

In the meantime, I have been liaising with colleagues in Property Services and Property & Facilities Management to improve the security measures in place for the vacant building. Despite the screening, anti-climb measures, and security cameras already in place, there are individuals clearly intent on entering the building or climbing on the roof. Therefore, the next step will be to consider a manned security presence on-site.

- 6.1.2 ***Q.2 As the current infant school is in the old building at the bottom of station road and the junior school is on Streetfields we have lots of problems with parents having to use cars to collect children from both schools. It is a problem if you have a child in one school and another in the other school. Any thoughts on joining the schools which share a headteacher.***

Response from Dermot Reader, Project Manager, Housing Growth Delivery Service.

I have spoken to Cathie Tandy (Strategic Commissioning Manager in the People Portfolio) regarding relocation of the infant school. Cathie has advised that there are currently no plans to relocate Halfway NI school next to the Junior school.

The situation is that there is great pressure on limited capital funds available which are being used to:

- a) support expansion proposals in areas of the city where we have a deficit of places,
- b) support any rebuilding of schools in the city which will need to focus on condition first.

I have also enquired with colleagues in Housing Strategy and Property Services, and there are no other accommodation proposals for this site. This is why it was previously declared surplus and was being considered for disposal.

- 6.1.3 Regarding the old Knowle Hill Nursing Home, Councillor Tony Downing said that

he, along with Councillors Gail Smith and Kevin Oxley, and Clive Betts, MP, had been in negotiations with the relevant Council Departments dealing with this matter. He said that due to vandalism, people getting onto the roof and throwing things off the roof, he was seeking to make the building more secure.

- 6.1.4 Councillor Mick Rooney said that to make the building more secure would cost an enormous amount of money, he asked why the building could not be demolished immediately as it was going to be demolished anyway, and why there was a need to transfer the appropriation of the building from one Council Department to another.
- 6.1.5 Councillor Karen McGowan said that she would take the suggestion forward and ask why the building could not be demolished before it was transferred between Departments.
- 6.1.6 With regard to the question relating to Halfway Infant and Junior Schools, Councillor Tony Downing said that he had contacted the school Governors and read out a statement which said that currently the Headteacher was acting as Head of both schools, it was hoped that this would help to standardise arrangements between the two sites but this had been set up as a temporary arrangement, as neither site had the capacity for both schools to be housed together. He said the solution would be for both schools to be rebuilt as one, but funding was not available at present, however it was hoped that it would be possible in the future.
- 6.2 Michael Meredith said that he had circulated two complex questions relating to his suggestions to help reduce energy and planning matters to all Members of the Committee and awaited their written responses to him. Councillor Karen McGowan said she would ensure that he received such responses.

**6.3 Question from Claire Baker and Sandra Smith**

- 6.3.1 Claire Baker spoke on behalf of them both and said that they would like to say thank you to Members of the LAC for passing on the data they had presented to the last LAC meeting. They said that a couple of weeks after the meeting, they had received from email from the Chief Executive, Kate Josephs which stated that the Local Wildlife Site Panel were meeting and that the designating of Owlthorpe Fields was on the agenda. Following that meeting, and the issuing of the minutes a few weeks later, they found out that the remaining areas had been granted Local Wildlife Site status and as the LAC could imagine, they were absolutely chuffed to bits. Now they are waiting to hear if their green space application was successful and were keeping everything crossed that the housing allocation will have been removed in the new Local Plan.

So, there is only one question and that is, do you know when the draft plan will be issued? and once again, thank you.

- 6.3.2 In response, Councillor Bryan Lodge stated that the Local Plan was going through the consultation process, which will take some time before being adopted, and he was unsure whether the green space application was to be included within the Plan,

if it was not, it would be unlikely that this would be included.

6.3.3 Councillor Karen McGowan said that it was hoped that the Local Plan would be brought to the next meeting of the LAC to be held in January, 2023.

6.3.4 Councillor Tony Downing stated that he had attended an onsite meeting with the Friends Groups along the Waterthorpe Corridor and said that everything at the site looked very positive. He said that a student from Hull University was leading on the project.

#### 6.4 **Question from James Walker**

6.4.1 Were there any plans to improve Active Travel in the southeast of the city to reduce congestion. He suggested some ways to deal with this would be to introduce school streets, improve bus services and cycle lanes, better bike paths, etc. He felt that a reduction in waiting times at pedestrian crossings would be helpful and that there needed to be an improvement for cycle safety along the tram tracks and there had recently been another two accidents along the tracks.

6.4.2 Jayne Foulds said that Active Travel was included within Community Plan and extended cycle paths were being considered to link up with other areas of the city. She said that meetings regarding the Plan were to be held and the suggestions would be fed into the meeting.

6.4.3 Matt Reynolds, Transport Planning and Infrastructure Manager, said that Local Transport Plan (LTP) improvements to crossings etc. He considered the Supertram to be an asset to the area and as such was going through the process of making it better, how do we encourage more to use it. There were plans to improve the “park and ride” at Halfway and the Station Road crossing which was a connection into the Supertram network as well as the Infant School. It was hoped that some of the Government funding there was a programme in the budget. He said that other issues to be considered for Active Travel were Mosborough, School Streets Programmes, safer parking programme to promote walking to schools.

6.4.4 Councillor Tony Downing said that a petition was to be submitted to the Government. He said that 30% of bus services were going to be cut across the South Yorkshire region. He said there used to be a first-class bus service in Sheffield pre-1986 and it was taken out of local authority hands and put in the hands of private operators. He said that the bus companies were now at the point where they could no longer afford to run services, so he urged members of the public to sign the petition. He said that the bus services were out of the control of the Council, but the Bus Partnership, of which Councillor Terry Fox was a member, was meeting with the bus operators pressing for better services.

6.4.5 In response to a question of where the petition was available to sign, Councillor McGowan said that the petition could be signed online and would share details with anyone wishing to sign the petition at the end of the meeting.

6.4.6 Councillor Mick Rooney said that the only area throughout the whole country not to have buses deregulated, was London. He said the cross-rail system recently

completed in London had overspent by approximately £3bn and felt that some of that money could have been used in the north when talk about levelling up was used in Westminster.

**6.5 Question from Michael Meredith**

6.5.1 Is the Committee aware if any development offers have been received by the Peel Group, current owners of Doncaster Sheffield Airport? He said that recently, the Prime Minister Liz Truss had said that she would support the airport to remain open, is anyone chasing this?

6.5.2 Councillor Karen McGowan said that the Mayor of South Yorkshire, Oliver Coppard, along with the Combined Authorities had been in discussions with the Peel Group to keep the airport open. She said that Doncaster Council were to put planning restrictions in place.

6.5.3 Councillor Bryan Lodge said that the airport fell within the remit of Doncaster City Council and the Combined Authority of which Oliver Coppard was leading on. He believed the land was protected for a number of years for aviation purposes. He said the airport did not fall within the remit of Sheffield.

**6.6 Question from Helen Harrison**

6.6.1 She referred to a letter she was received regarding the Rother Valley Traffic Scheme. She said that she had been advised to attend the meeting as it was to be included within the agenda.

6.6.2 Councillor Karen McGowan asked Ms. Harrison who the letter was from and said that an officer from that Department was at the meeting and that she, along with anyone else, with an interest in this matter, could meet with him.

**6.7 Question from Richard Teasdale**

6.7.1 What are the City Council going to do to stop the Government attack on nature through its intended changes to the planning and infrastructure law and proposed investment zones. Many sites are under threat from the bulldozers and concrete, as the Government threatens to retained EU law bill where the Government threatens to tear up basic wildlife protection. There is a need to ensure that Sheffield does not trample over our wildlife, which might already be in danger from the so-called with investment plans.

6.7.2 Councillor Karen McGowan said that she would provide a written answer to this.

6.7.3 Councillor Bryan Lodge referred to proposed Enterprise Zones and Planning, stating that Councillors had expressed their concerns that the legislation would remove some of the planning controls that local authorities currently have which would take away local control. He said that since the announcement had been made, the legislation was still in the early stages, there were no details about it and nothing further on the matter. Councillor Lodge said he had made enquiries of officers and had asked for a response and will forward such response to

*Richard* when it was received.

- 6.7.4 Councillor Bob McCann said that he was a member of the Planning Committee and the control that that Committee had over planning matters were diminishing. He said that the decision regarding the Owlthorpe Fields was made by the Planning Inspectorate and undermined the decision previously made by Members of the Planning Committee. The Planning Inspectorate ignored the Council's recommendation on the application.

## **7. COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

### **7.1 Cost of Living Crisis**

- 7.1.1 Carl Mullooly, Head of Community Services, gave an update and presentation on how the cost-of-living crisis was beginning to have a significant impact on people in every part of the city, stating that the city needed to come together, with partners and communities, to focus its efforts on the steps which would need to be taken to alleviate the effects of the crisis, particularly the impact that it was having on routine day-to-day income and expenditure decisions for households. He said the Council was creating a package of support to provide available guidance for anyone facing hardship, with statutory and non-statutory provision to anyone in need. He referred to the City Council's "Neighbourgood" Welcome Places, which was a network of Welcome Places badged as 'NeighbourGood' aimed at providing convenient spaces for people to access help or just call in to get 'warm', have a cup of tea and a chat, within their local communities. Carl Mullooly stated that a Welcome Spaces toolkit, in partnership with Voluntary Action Sheffield and the voluntary, community and faith organisations, had been produced, both digitally and in print, to provide support to frontline workers, who in turn offer support to people in their communities. He said the 'NeighbourGood' sticker would be used to identify venues participating in the Welcome Spaces scheme at any time. He said NeighbourGood" postcards were already being distributed to frontline workers which contained referral details for the public to access help via a number of different websites or the Community Support Helpline phone number.

### **7.2 Food Works**

- 7.2.1 Renee Meijer gave a presentation on the Food Works Projects outlining grassroots resilience in practice. He said that the current food system was destroying our planet and did not feed everyone, due to consumers taking what they wanted and giving very little in return. He said that Food Works nourished the planet, would feed everyone and communities would only take what it needed and give back what it could. He said that Food Works collected surplus food, grew its own produce on allotments and gardens and then distributed food every month to cafes, provided ready meals and put together boxes of shopping. He said that the budget needed for Food Works was 90% customer contributions and 10% coming from grants. Currently there were three main hubs, 11 partner hubs with 15 staff, plus around 500 volunteers, all working to deliver food to thousands of customers per year, with the aim of cutting CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and save 50,000 trees.

7.2.2 The Chair thanked Carl Mullooly and Renee Meijer for their presentations and said that more detail on these could be found on the Council services and partner stands at the end of the formal business of the meeting.

## **8. SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PLAN 2022-23**

8.1 Jayne Foulds, South East Local Area Manager, gave a verbal update on the Community Plan for the south east area.

8.2 She referred to the workshop sessions that had been held and the three main concerns identified at those sessions being transport and highways, community safety and crime. She said that six local schools were involved in the good parking schemes, working with pupils. A speed review had been carried out in an attempt to tackle speeding vehicles and Active Travel was included within the Community Plan. She said that work was ongoing regarding urban accessibility onto estates and community facilities that were available. Jayne Foulds said that there was a need to tackle social isolation which had increased during covid and had resulted in some people being afraid to leave their homes, particularly if they saw young people hanging around on street corners. Work was ongoing with the Woodhouse Forum and each Ward should see an increase in ??? She reported that the police were tackling offroad biking and have set up a poster campaign. Finally, work was being carried out to try to engage more with those under the age of 30 to be become more involved within their community.

8.3 Councillor Tony Downing gave an update on the Mosborough Speeding Review, stating that a meeting had been held with the Residents Panel in June, 2022. He said the meeting had been attended by local Councillors, Clive Betts, MP, Alan Billings, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Highways officers. He said it had been agreed that highways officers would undertake a speed survey in the locations identified and work on this was currently being undertaken. Councillor Downing said that another Residents Panel was due to be held at the end of October/early November to provide an update on the actions agreed at the previous meeting and to discuss option identified by highways officers from the speeding review, Finally, speed reviews for the Birley, Woodhouse and Beighton Wards were to be launched in November.

8.4 Councillor Tony Downing said that a speed gun and officers were in the process of setting up sessions at locations identified with local Councillors in each Ward. He said these sessions had started in all Wards and the police had issued warning letters and offenders had been reported to the Safer Camera Partnership. Councillor Downing said that each Ward had been allocated a new Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS). He said each Councillor had been asked to identify hotspot areas for the VAS to be placed and the VAS would be rotated round each Ward every six to eight weeks. Data would be collected from the VAS to identify times, numbers of vehicles etc., which would allow work to be carried out with other agencies to target areas at relevant times.

8.5 Finally, Councillor Downing said that Ward Councillors were looking to see where they could encourage and develop of active travel and had set up a meeting with

the Transport, Planning and Infrastructure Team to progress this further.

- 8.6 Councillor Karen McGowan gave an update on environmental matters stating that she had attended a walkabout regard the Waterthorpe Green Corridor and some action from this were to set up a Friends of Ochre Dyke Group for the corridor project, which included the installation of benches, notice boards, signage, pond excavation and increase community engagement, as well as the installation of a memorial plaque/bench for “Jacksons Meadow” in memory of Phil Jackson. She said the first meeting of the Environment Group had been held after interested parties had wanted to discuss ideas. Action from this was that each Ward would identify an area for wildflowers, fruit trees etc. Councillor McGowan said that a second meeting had been held which had received on an update on this and discussion was held around the Beighton Orchard Day, allotment sites, tree planting etc.
- 8.7 Councillor McGowan said that the LAC had worked with the Beighton Village Development Trust, Crystal Peaks Church and officers and members of Beighton Orchard to deliver the Beighton Orchard Apple Day, which had been attended by over 500 people. She said the LAC would continue to work with local groups to revive the Beighton Environmental Group and continue to support Beighton Orchard.
- 8.8 Councillor McGowan was to have an initial meeting with officers on 12<sup>th</sup> October at Shirebrook Valley with the aim of providing more dog fouling signage, bins, poo bags etc. With regard to Owlthorpe Orchard, Councillor McGowan said that the LAC was working with Council partners regarding the clearance to the entrance of fruit trees which had become overgrown. She hoped that the fruit could be used by foodbanks and cost of living initiatives to help struggling families. Finally, she said that officers were developing a “sponsor a street initiative” and were looking at pilot areas which were willing to become part of the scheme.
- 8.9 Councillor Mick Rooney gave an update regarding the Youth Parliament. He stated that the first half away day had taken place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and there had been some really good discussions around what issues young people felt were pertinent to them. He said there were two issues he would take forward the Children, Young People and Families Policy Committee, of which he was Chair, these being the 6<sup>th</sup> form options for young people in the South East area. He said that currently there were no schools within the area with 6<sup>th</sup> form facilities, pupils had to travel to Taptan School. The second issue to be taken forward to the Policy Committee was the disruption to their studies during covid. Councillor Rooney said that a second half away day was to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> October.
- 8.10 Councillor Denise Fox gave an update on youth activities. She said that Birley Ward Councillors had used some money from the Ward Pot to deliver youth activities during the summer holidays and she had worked with Uriah Rennie to deliver two sessions per week, for six weeks at the Hackenthorpe Skatepark, where youth workers had interacted with all ages at playing football, cricket and many more games. She said she was looking to extend the provision with Crystal Peaks that had been available during the six weeks school holidays for “dark nights”. Councillor Fox said that the South East LAC had received an additional



£10,000 funding from the Youth Services Team which was to be spent on youth provision within the area. Officers and members were looking at how this money could be used to aid and increase youth provision within the area.

- 8.11 Councillor Karen McGowan said that the formal items of business had now concluded and thanked everyone for their attendance.

(NOTE: That, at the close of the meeting, Members of the Committee and members of the public had the opportunity of speaking to representatives of various Council Services and Council partners, at stands set up in the venue.)

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