

South West Community Assembly

Meeting held 18 October 2012

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

.....

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest made by Members of the Assembly.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012, were approved as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word "Primary" for the words "Grange Junior" (Page 3, Item 5) and arising therefrom:-

4.1.1 Number 83 Bus Service (Page 2, Paragraph 7.1 (3))

The meeting was informed that, in response to a petition regarding changes to the no. 83 bus service, a detailed written response, dated 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, had been received from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE). It was stated that copies of the information were available in the meeting room for people to view.

It was explained that the changes to bus routes and fares across the City would commence on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. Gilly Greensitt, SYPTTE External Relation Manager thanked the public for their responses to the consultation that had been carried out on the proposed changes. It was indicated that over 5000 people had been involved in providing feedback to assist the Bus Partnership in determining the bus routes that people wanted to see and that it involved 17 changes to routes. Members of the public were encouraged to continue to give feedback on bus services within the City.

4.1.2 Hillfoot Road (Page 5 Item 10.1)

With regard to a decision of the Committee concerning Traffic Calming Measures on Hillfoot Road, it was indicated that the scheme design

drawings for the road would be available three weeks from the date of this meeting.

## **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

### **5.1 Petitions**

Further to a petition, containing 500 signatures, objecting to the proposed closure of Whirlowbrook Hall Café, which had been reported to Council at its meeting held on 5 September, 2012, Kevin Bradley informed the Assembly that the number of people signing the petition had now increased to 2000. He expressed concern over the closure of the café, as it provided refreshments and toilets for people visiting the grounds. He also asked that the contract agreed with any company to manage the Hall in the future, should require them to maintain the café facility for visitors to the grounds.

### **5.2 Public Questions**

#### **5.2.1 High Storrs School Playing Fields**

Clarification was sought by a member of the public over public access to the playing fields at High Storrs School, once the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project involving the School was complete. He referred to information he had received from the School's Management Team and the City Council's Premises Team, which did not give clarity over whether the public would have full or restricted access to the playing fields. He also referred to the previous loss of access to playing fields in the Ecclesall and Bents Green area and raised concern that the same may happen at High Storrs School

It was acknowledged by the Assembly Members that the BSF programme aimed to extend community use of the facilities and that schools needed to work in partnership with their communities. It was also recognised though that the use of playing fields by the public was a security issue for them and that the responsibility of Governors was also to raise funds for the school by charging for the use of its facilities.

**RESOLVED:** That it be noted that the Chair would investigate the matter, now raised, further to ascertain future public access to High Storrs School playing fields.

#### **5.2.2 The Boarding and Dog Walking Businesses In Residential Areas**

Further to the Assembly's consideration of the boarding and dog walking businesses in residential areas at its meeting held on 19 July, 2012, a member of the public raised further concerns in respect of this matter, in particular, the problems for neighbouring families to such businesses and the need for controls to be in place and enforcement undertaken. In response, Mark Parry, Environmental Enforcement Team Manager, advised the meeting that the boarding of dogs in a residential property would require a licence under Environmental and Animal Control

Legislation. Sarah Smith, Planning Services, also advised that if it was considered that there had been a change in use in respect of activities over and above what would be expected for a family dwelling it may be necessary to apply for planning permission with regard to a change of use of the premises.

RESOLVED: That officers from Environmental Health and Planning Services be requested to investigate the dog boarding business now mentioned, to ensure the business is complying with the relevant legislation.

5.2.3 *Bus Partnership*

Concern was raised that the public was not aware of the changes taking place to bus services on 28 October, 2012, in particular, a query was raised over who from the City Council was represented at the Bus Partnership Meetings. In response, it was stated that Dick Proctor, Highway and Transport Services and Councillor Leigh Bramall, Cabinet Member with responsibility for transport were two of the Council representatives at the Bus Partnership meetings. Gilly Greensitt informed the meeting that the Council had been well represented at the Partnership meetings. She reminded the meeting of the changes to bus routes, ticketing, which included the introduction of a tram and bus ticket and a reduction in fares to 35% of the bus passengers in the city. It was also stated that, in some cases, the bus operators' own individual fare prices were being reduced. The meeting was further informed that, the amount of publicity on the changes being introduced, would increase week commencing 22 October, 2012, through posters and the use of the local media.

5.2.4 *Bus Partnership Comments*

A number of comments were received from members of the public at the meeting on the bus partnership changes being introduced which included, that extensive consultation had been carried out on the changes to routes and fares. The bus route change to provide a service along Springfield Road and Button Hill was welcomed, but the Assembly acknowledged this had to be balanced against the objections that had been received by the SYPTE, from local residents opposed to the route change. A further comment was received over the proposed position of a bus stop on Brooklands Avenue, Fulwood. Assurances were also sought that if particular changes to routes were not working such as the 83A route, that after 12 months, consideration would be given to implementing route amendments. Responses were given where appropriate to the comments received, which included an explanation on how information from the consultation process for major changes is used to inform decisions on smaller changes to service provision where it is not a requirement for consultation to be undertaken. In the case of the proposed location of the bus stop on Brooklands Avenue, which was now subject to an appeal, it was accepted that lessons had been learnt in respect of this matter. The meeting was reminded to continue to give further feedback on the route changes after they had been implemented.

5.2.5 No. 30 Bus Service

Concerned was raised over the reliability of buses used by the bus operator on the No. 30 route. In response, it was stated that the Bus Partnership would encourage bus operators to improve the quality of buses on all routes and not just on the City's primary bus routes .

5.2.6 Centenary of the First Suburban Bus Service

A member of the public enquired into plans to celebrate the centenary of the first omnibus service to run to Crosspool, the first suburb in Sheffield to be served by a bus service. In response, it was explained that arrangements to mark the occasion were being planned and that further information would be provided to the person enquiring in to the matter.

5.2.7 No. 87 Bus Route

With regard to the route change to the No. 87 bus service which would now serve Archer Road instead of passing along the shops on Abbeydale Road South at Millhouses, a request was made for it to alternate its route between Archer Road and Abbeydale Road South to support the shops. Gilly Greensitt stated that she would look into the matter and provide a response to the person raising the issue.

5.2.8 No. 123 Bus Service

A member of the public with a sight disability, requested assistance following the change of the route for the No. 123 bus service, as it would no longer pass in front of her house. The person was informed that it was a commercial decision of the bus operator to make the change.

RESOLVED: That, in respect of the circumstances now mentioned, Gilly Greensitt (SYPT) and Tammy Barrass (Community Assembly Manager) be requested to provide assistance in this particular case.

5.2.9 HGV Routes

In respect of a request over when a report on the HGV routes review would be available, it was explained the matter would be raised with the Highways Service

(Note: In respect of the South West Community Assembly Highways Update Report, a resolution was agreed on this matter under Paragraph 6.3,(b),(v) of the minutes.)

5.2.1 Streets Ahead Project

0

Moira Coad, (Amey) and Tammy Barrass (Community Assembly Manager) gave information on the public roadshows being undertaken between 22 and 31 October, 2012 on the Streets Ahead Project which involved improvements to the City's roads, pavements, bridges and street scene over a 5 year programme. It was explained that information on the roadshows were available at the meeting and also on the Assembly's web page and weblog. People were encouraged to attend the meetings to receive information on the programme of improvements in the south west

area, understand how the work will be undertaken and to give their views.

## **6. SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

6.1 The Director of Development Services submitted a report giving an update on the progress on various schemes and requests for highways work within the Assembly area. He reported orally that in connection with paragraph 4.2 of the report now submitted, a meeting would be held with the petition organiser to look at the extent of the waiting restrictions that were being requested and that with regard to paragraph 4.9, the Highways Co-ordinator for the South West would be commencing work on 24th October, 2012.

### **6.2 Public Questions**

#### **6.2.1 Dobcroft School Petition**

A member of Ecclesall Forum welcomed the information contained within Paragraph 4.6 of the report which stated that the request for waiting restrictions in the vicinity of Dobcroft School had been agreed as a priority for the Ecclesall Ward.

#### **6.2.2 Millhouses Traders**

In response to a request for the former Abbeydale Grange school site being used as a shopping car park in the period leading up to Christmas, to assist business in the Millhouses area (Paragraph 4.8 of the report), it was stated that the site was one of several sites being investigated for development by the City Council. It was further stated that there were a number of issues with the site being used for such purposes which included, the likelihood that site investigations would be required during December 2012, safety of the surface as it was a demolished site, insurance liability, health and safety, lighting and the potential to attract crime to the location. In acknowledging a suggestion that consideration be given to the inclusion of a shopping car park in a development brief for the site, it was indicated that this would be considered for the former school site, but that car parking for sports users only was being considered for the nearby Bannerdale site.

#### **6.2.3 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)**

With regard to questions over why speed indicator devices had not been rotated between sites in the South West area and whether the Assembly would be entitled to a refund as the work which had been paid for had not been carried out, it was indicated that where SIDs had not been rotated a refund would be applicable. It was further stated that the SIDs would be rotated in two weeks from the date of this meeting.

#### **6.2.4 Highway Sight Mirrors**

In response to a question over why a highway convex sight mirror was still positioned on Twentywell Lane, the meeting was informed the mirror on Twentywell Lane should have been removed and that arrangements would now be made in respect of this matter.

### **6.3 DECISION TAKEN**

RESOLVED: That: (a) the contents of the report now submitted, relating to the progress made with the various highway schemes and requests within the Community Assembly area, be noted;

(b) it be noted a report would be submitted to the next Assembly meeting with regard to:

- (i) progress with the Speed Indicator Device Programme including speed data;
- (ii) progress with all agreed carry over schemes from 2011/12 together with progress with all 2012/13 schemes;
- (iii) the Carr Bank Lane Petition outcome;
- (iv) the Dobcroft School petition report; and
- (v) the outcomes from the HGV Routes Review, but that in the event the Review has not been completed by the next meeting of the Assembly in January 2013, the Director of Development Services be requested to give a further written update report at the meeting; and

(c) this Assembly expresses strong concern over the number of outstanding reports on its highway programmes/schemes for 2011/12 and 2012/13, which has led to a lack of information being available to the people the Assembly represents and that, in view of this matter, Highway officers be asked to give full reports on the aforementioned outstanding matters at the Assembly's meeting to be held in January 2013.

### **6.4 REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To keep Members and the public informed of progress.

### **6.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

No alternative options have been considered as this report only provides an update on the progress on various schemes and requests for highways work within the Assembly area.

### **6.6 ANY INTERESTS DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED**

None

## **7. PETITION REQUESTING WAITING RESTRICTIONS ON HALLAM GRANGE CRESCENT**

- 7.1 The Director of Development Services submitted a report on his investigation into a petition containing 25 signatures which was reported to the Cabinet Highways Committee at its meeting held in March 2012, requesting waiting restrictions around driveways and junctions on Hallam Grange Crescent and Hallam Grange Croft.

## 7.2 Public Questions

### 7.2. Vehicles and Dropped Kerbs

1

In response to questions in respect of the use of vehicles for the school run and dropped kerbs, it was acknowledged that, whilst some parents who lived furthest from the school would need to use their cars, the needs of residents to access their properties was also necessary and that the proposed scheme aimed to get the balance right in respect of this matter. It was also stated that, to ensure value for money, dropped kerbs would not be included in the proposed scheme.

### 7.2. Island Waiting Restrictions and Scheme Implementation

2

It was acknowledged that the double yellow lines around the island at the junction of Hallam Grange Crescent and Croft would, if necessary, be renewed and that the scheme should be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

## 7.3 **DECISION TAKEN**

RESOLVED: That (a) the petitioners be thanked for bringing their concerns to the attention of the City Council;

(b) the scheme for waiting restrictions around the junction of Hallam Grange Crescent and Hallam Grange Croft, be approved and that authority be given for the restrictions to be advertised, as detailed in the report of the Director of Development Services and shown on the plan now exhibited; and

(c) authority be given for a Traffic Regulation Order to be advertised in respect of the school keep clear markings around the entrance to Hallam Primary School on Hallam Grange Crescent.

## 7.4 **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The provision of waiting restrictions around the junction between Hallam Grange Crescent and Hallam Grange Croft would improve safety for pupils on their school journey.

The introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order on the school keep clear markings on Hallam Grange Crescent around the entrance to Hallam Primary School would keep them clear of any displaced vehicles resulting from the provision of waiting restrictions around the junction between Hallam Grange Crescent and Hallam Grange Croft.

## 7.5 **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The introduction of a one-way system on Hallam Grange Crescent has been raised before. This would lead to increased driver speeds past the school

entrance and would not be recommended.

There may be a case to do nothing and the situation would remain as it is. However, the benefits and relatively modest costs associated with the request for waiting restrictions make it a viable solution for consideration as a small highway scheme.

**7.6 ANY INTERESTS DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED**

None.

**8. KING EGBERT UPPER SCHOOL - DRAFT PLANNING BRIEF**

- 8.1 Steve Smith, Property and Facilities Management, with the permission of the Chair, gave information orally to the meeting on the process to be undertaken on developing a planning and design brief for the former King Egbert Upper School site. He stated that a draft Planning and Design brief would go out for public consultation from Monday, 22 October, 2012, with information available at Totley Library, on the City Council web site and that posters would be provided in the area and leaflets circulated to residents. He also advised that there would be drop-in sessions and workshops held for residents and local community groups. It was explained that the Planning and Design brief was intended to be finalised by mid to late December, to allow the City Council to submit a planning application for the site by March/April 2013.
- 8.2 The meeting was informed that the need for car parking on the lower level of the site for the open space provision, would be considered by the Council, as landowner, separately to the Planning Brief consultation process being undertaken. There would also be further consultation opportunities during the pre-application and the planning application stages of the process, on any proposed development of the site.
- 8.3 The Chair thanked Steve Smith for bringing the information item to the Assembly meeting.