



BURNGREAVE COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM

Its your Community Forum!

Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF)
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BCAF Quarterly Forum - September 2008



1. Presentation from Sheffield Homes Investment Team

Staff from Sheffield Homes attended to brief residents about the proposals for the commencement of Sheffield Homes Decent Homes Programme works in Burngreave. This work will involve major improvements to the Council's housing stock in the area.

A copy of the Presentation is attached, or can be obtained on request from the BCAF Office.

If you would like more information about the Decent Homes Programme, contact the Sheffield Homes East Investment Team on (0114) 293 0000.

Questions

Q: How will Sheffield Homes ensure quality of materials that will be used to improve properties as part of the Decent Homes works?

A: We work alongside other local authorities to ensure that the quality of materials fitted in properties is of a high quality and will stand the test of time. We will ensure that the materials can be easily maintained and

repaired at a later date. Windows and doors are manufactured secure by design. The kitchens are installed for life expectancy of around 20 years and bathroom for 30 years.

Q: What works are proposed for the Carwood estate?

A: Carwood estate is included in the decent homes programme for full works to replace windows, doors, kitchens, bathrooms during 2009 / 2010.

Q: Will the Decent Homers programme include work to the external of the properties i.e. fences, gates, boundary treatments etc

A: As part of the decent homes programme we will be delivering some environmental improvements to the area. This is being managed as a separate programme to the general decent homes work to properties. We have established a full list of priorities for the area to include improvements to communal door entries, security lights, fencing and signage.

WE HAVE MOVED....WE HAVE MOVED....

On the 6th of October 2008, BCAF moved to its new premises on 82 Spital Hill (Between Burngreave Ashram and Ozmens Supermarket)

Visit our new website at www.bcaf.org.uk for more information on BCAF and regular news and updates.



2. Presentation from East Sheffield Regeneration Team (ESRT)

Members of East Sheffield Regeneration Team gave an update on the progress of the Burngreave and Fir Vale Master Plan. This project is intended to improve the character and diversity of neighbourhoods in the area, increase the range of choice of households available, and improve housing quality for all tenures. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Questions

Q: Is there any works proposed for the Carwood Estate?

A: The East Sheffield Regeneration Team have no proposals to carry out works in the Carwood area as these are mostly local authority properties and managed by Sheffield Homes. They will be subject to the Decent Homes Programme run by Sheffield Homes. The projects to be delivered by the ESRT were identified in the presentation.

Q: How will the Council ensure there is an adequate supply of affordable homes in the future and as part of the Housing Market Renewal programme in the area?

A: There are a number of development sites in the area and the east regen team will be working with developers and RSL partners to get new housing built, although the current economic climate has slowed progress on these sites. All development sites will be subject to the Council's Affordable Housing policy which means that a certain amount of affordable housing will have to be provided on these sites by the developer.

3. Cllr Paul Scrivens – Leader of Sheffield City Council

If Burngreave isn't successful, Sheffield can't be successful. One of the key roles for this Council will be to listen and empower communities to be involved in developing solutions to local problems and concerns. However, the process will take time but what the Council is committed to is a bottom-up approach, in which every area has equality of

opportunity. The people here today are the experts on what needs to be done in Burngreave.

In the immediate term the Council has four key priorities:

- **Education** – raising aspirations and attainment, whatever the backgrounds of people - it is not just about League tables. We will encourage more partnership working between schools and challenge performance levels.
- **Employment and Enterprise** – creating opportunities, increasing the level of inward investment in Sheffield. Giving people of Sheffield Skills and enterprise opportunities, and increasing the number of small to medium size businesses.
- **Equality of Opportunity** - more effective targeting of resources; an individual focus i.e. people not places. Making sure that the 'starting line' people had doesn't matter. We want to move away from a 'one size fits all' approach. There is no 'acceptable reason' for Poverty and Deprivation in any area of the City.
- **Making the Council more customer focussed** – e.g. community assemblies; devolving budgets based on community targets; commissioning work from Community organisations rather than carrying it out in-house. The council will aim to be person-focussed and work smart.

Cllr Scrivens observations on Burngreave:

More needs to be done for young people in particular young men. There is a need particularly for more engagement with young people/Youth Council, as many do not feel a part of the regeneration efforts that have gone on. Young people know the solutions that they want, we should not try and impose things upon them. Provision should/could include a community gymnasium providing links to employment and skills training. There is also a case for using public sector funding to stimulate community enterprise, for example through contracting out the consultation aspects of the new Community Assemblies. This could create an income stream for and jobs in the voluntary sector.



Questions

• What will the Council do about improving provision for older people? (Sylvia Pennington)

- I have spent time talking to people in Burngreave from all backgrounds and generations – earlier I gave the example of young people. I would be happy to come and listen to any small group such as a residents association that would like me to attend one of their meetings.

• Will there be consultation with local communities about changes in the operation of the Area Panels and the move towards establishing community assemblies? (Lisa Swift)

- There will be discussions happening with the Area Panels very soon – they will be involved in the project plans for the Community Assemblies. The plans for Community Assemblies will go ahead, but the details of how it will be implemented will be subject to consultation. We will be listening, so if people are unhappy with any stage of the process we will investigate why.

• How do we know that Cllr Scrivens is not just making empty promises about what he and a Lib Dem Council will do for the area? (Diane Johnson)



- The fact that I am here listening to you and am sitting on the BNDfC Partnership Board should help show that I am committed to the area. As a Council we have been given a mandate to change the city, and we intend to do just that. If this doesn't happen I will take the blame. Scepticism is understandable given the past, but I ask that you give us two years and judge us then.

• Is Cllr Scrivens aware of the impact of his comments regarding BNDfC and the adverse media reporting this generated in the local press? (Lisa Harrison)

- I apologise if my comments on BNDfC have had any adverse effects on the many worthwhile projects it funds – this was absolutely not my intention. The intention was only to highlight management issues that were raised as issues by residents with council. Understandable people feared the worst, but I can only apologise if my comments were misconstrued.

• As Leader of the Lib Dems Nick Clegg has identified three areas in relation to Refugees and Asylum Seekers where he would wish to see changes in Government Policy – Right to work, treatment of children and removing politics from the issue. What will the Council do locally in terms of support? (Stephen Cooke)

- First of all many of these areas are covered by national policy, which we cannot change. I do agree with Nick's position though, and what I will do is to help local organisations like ASSIST, who I have been in regular contact with and am a keen supporter of. It is important that Sheffield is a City where everyone matters, so I will do everything I can to help people who come to the city, including Asylum Seekers. It is ridiculous that they are treated as they are when they are human beings and have families like everyone else – they also have skills that could be used to the benefit of the city. We need to make sure Sheffield truly is a City of Sanctuary, and will do everything we can within the law.

• Will the Council ensure that there is financial support to Burngreave and BNDfC for mainstreaming of projects? (Amanda Wells)

- First of all I agree that BNDfC has done many good things in the area. However, many people do not feel part of what has been happening, and it is vital that more work is done to change this. Many of the projects that will still be around at the end of BNDfC should have sustainability built in to their plans – for those that don't the Council will have to look at what support it can offer over the next 2,3 and 4 years, but we cannot commit now to which we will support. However, for all of them we will work with BNDfC to try and fill gaps and provide support, but we must look at things at a city-wide perspective and make judgements on where to spend money.

• BCAF hosts a working group on Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Migrant Workers (RASM); how can RASM connect with the Council? (Jeff Kirby)

- In this area as in many others, the best way I can address it is to give the responsibility to one of my cabinet members, Councillor Steve Ayris, who can commit the relevant amount of time to the issue, rather than try and cover it all myself. If you send me contact details I will ensure that he contacts you.

• It is anticipated that the proposed new Community Assemblies will cover a much larger geographical area than the area panels do presently. The current Burngreave Area Panel has been very successful, largely through its partnership work with BCAF, BNDfC and others. It seems the Community Assemblies will actually be moving away from the Community - how can we ensure more neighbourhood working and community engagement when the area will be larger? (Jackie Drayton)

- The Area Panel and the Community Assemblies will have in common that they are Community meetings like this one, it will be down to them to decide how best to approach the task in their particular area.

The key thing is that the Assemblies can change services and be flexible in providing what their communities want. The structure of the Assemblies is not yet finalised – there will be a working group to decide on this including members of Area Panels. When it is decided, its success will be determined by how it works in practice – I accept that. I am committed throughout the process to listening to people's views on the matter.



Above: Nelson Kaggwa (right) Chair of BCAF, and Cllr Paul Scrivens



Your Feedback

BCAF would like to thank everyone who filled in Feedback Forms at the QFM – we take your opinions seriously and will take them into account throughout the planning process of our next Forum Meeting. In particular we would like to stress the following points.

- Apologies for the delay at the beginning of the meeting. In future all equipment will be fully tested and set-up prior to the scheduled start.
- More vegetarian options will be available in the lunch.
- The seating plan will be rethought to prevent overcrowding.
- Hard copies of all presentations will be available.

Please let us know if you have any further comments on how we can improve our Quarterly Forum Meetings.



For more information on BCAF please visit our new website at: www.bcaf.org.uk
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