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BBEST – Broomhill, Broomfield, Endcliffe, Summerfield and Tapton

Report of an open meeting of the BBEST Forum, held on Saturday 14th May 2016 at the Beacon Methodist Church, Broomhill

Attendance

There were 30 members present. Two newly elected Councillors, Michelle Cooke and Keiran Harpham were welcomed to the Forum.

Apologies were received from 7 members.

1. Progress - Report from the Chair

Neighbourhood Planning is now a substantial activity in England, with around 1000 NPF overall, and 150 in the final stages.

Important dates to note are:

- September 2016 – the first draft of the plan will be made available for widespread BBEST consultation.
- Late 2017 Referendum vote – pending Sheffield City Council review process

Questions regarding recent progress:

- Will new housing be improved in the plan?
 - Yes – space standards & lifetime homes standards will be introduced as well as a design guide
- Could we work in partnership with Sheffield Housing Corporation to develop affordable housing?
 - Michelle Cook, new councilor for the area, can link BBEST to the Housing Equality Group
- HMO licensing & rogue landlords
 - landlord licensing and the SNUG* scheme were mentioned. BBEST will continue to partner with the Council in getting these schemes more widely used.

***SNUG scheme.** More information is available at: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/housing-services/private-sector-housing/private-landlords/snug.html>

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Volunteers needed to help with a pedestrian survey.

There are roughly the same numbers of pedestrians as cars moving through the BBEST area every day. We would like to improve conditions for pedestrians and need a pedestrian survey to provide evidence for this important part of the plan. An email will be sent asking for volunteers. BBEST will provide all training required.

The Forum meeting had been advertised through the delivery of a BBEST leaflet to all households in the BBEST area, and the delivery volunteers were thanked for their efforts.

The BBEST Lecture *Green Spaces: Oriel House Garden and Weston Park* would take place in Oriel House at 15.00 June 11th as part of the Broomhill Festival.

2. Boulevard Project: Improving the local experience of using the main travel corridors within the BBEST area.

Small impacts through the introduction of planters and flower baskets as well as large impacts like reducing the amount of lorries on the route are all being considered for the plan.

Questions:

- Has there been any progress with encouraging the University to remove the conifers along the railings at the playing fields on Witham Rd.?
- University representative, Kath Harding, said she would take this information back to the University. The railings were mentioned as an asset to the appearance and history of the area (the railings are a gift to the people of Sheffield) and the University is encouraged to provide some restoration/maintenance to the finish to improve their appearance.

3. Oriel House

Ideas for potential uses of the basement floor of Oriel House were discussed.

The group paired up into 2-3 people to generate ideas and suggested the following:

- Café in proximity to the library (4 groups suggested this)
- Play area for kids (3 groups suggested this)
- Computer training
- Provide sound insulation to the basement so that its uses would not disturb the library
- Rehearsal space for teens
- Pre-school play space
- Bicycle mending shop & workshop (2 groups suggested this)
- Councillor surgery
- Art gallery (2 groups suggested this)
- A lift to provide access to all floors for wheelchairs and buggies
- Parent meeting / social space to use while kids are in library
- Temporary storage space for students
- Craft cafes – like paint-a-pot (note craft business network is growing trend)

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- Ensure any facilities do not take away from the local retail and cafes already in Broomhill
- Support for elderly / lonely people
- Food co-op with storage area for distribution of a box veg scheme
- Multi-use space for gallery / films / etc. – like the Nichols building
- Creative co-op like the Roco building (next to the Harley on Glossop Road)
- Pop-up shop space to support start-up businesses
- Access is critical to draw in parents with buggies
- The owner of *Inherited* would be good to speak to about viable business trends in the area.

4. Retail Centre

Ruth Gunay, co-owner of Lokanta and soon to be opening Med Food Co, talked about ways to improve the Retail Centre.

Lokanta supports the idea of a neighbourhood plan and would like to encourage businesses to get involved to enhance the area and improve potential customer bases.

They carried out a post-code survey and found that people do come to Broomhill restaurants from other areas of the city, so parking is important. However, the number of people walking is a vast potential customer resource for local businesses. They encourage people to walk or take public transport wherever possible.

The cohesion of Broomhill business owners is hampered by the division of the area by roads and traffic. The BBEST plan to improve pedestrian links in the area is key in the long term.

In the short term, Ruth suggested improving the brand of 'Destination Broomhill' by seeing if business owners may be willing to pool money together to form a website to advertise all that Broomhill has to offer. For a small investment each, a website and logo could be made to support 'destination Broomhill.'

Questions & Comments:

- One person suggested a map of the local shops next to the community notice board outside Morrisons would also be helpful.
- Being able to walk to restaurants is a real plus for local residents and makes the area desirable to live in.
- There is a clash between residential parking and business / commuter parking – particularly on Ashdell Rd. It appears that the resident permit parking is not enforced well in the mornings. There has been a recent change (last 2-3 years) in increased parking in the evenings.
- There is no taxi rank in Broomhill
- To help people park considerately, the length of each parking bay could be marked on the pavement so that one car doesn't accidentally take up more than one space.
- Lokanta will advise customers to try to park on Glossop Road rather than Ashdell Road.

BBEST commissioned a survey from environmental consultants ECUS to look at greening options for the retail centre and the illustrations were shown. Suggestions

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for small-scale, low maintenance plantings in the retail centre were made to improve the visual and ecological balance of the area.

5. Key Community Facilities

The group was invited to mark on the BBEST area map any facilities or buildings they thought were key assets to the area. This follows on from other work, for example at Broomhill Festival to identify these. At the meeting the following were noted:

- Broomhill Infant School & Garden
- King Edwards Swimming Pool
- Open space and 'lovely planting' surrounding the green oval area on Endcliffe Crescent Road
- Beacon Methodist Church
- Scout Hut
- Library
- St. Mark's Church & Open Space
- Weston Park war memorial and walkway
- Crookes Valley Park playground
- Oriel House

***SNUG scheme.** More information is available at: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/housing-services/private-sector-housing/private-landlords/snug.html>