



# BBEST Annual Report 2015

A brief report on Neighbourhood Planning Forum work in 2015.

## Finance

2015 Income:

1. BBEST was privileged to be nominated and accepted as one of the official organisations supported by the Broomhill Festival
2. BBEST were also the grateful beneficiary of the local Ward Pot Grant of £600.

2015 Expenditure:

In 2015 BBEST has, again, been very frugal, spending funds only when absolutely necessary. The Broomhill festival expenditure amounted to just £29 with the majority of the stall's equipment being generously loaned by Anne and Ed Daw. One company, which traded on Marlborough Road from the 1930s up until 2011, kindly donated two runs of 2500 leaflets. Such local assistance is vital in ensuring the success of the BBEST neighbourhood plan.

The time of volunteers, including significant student projects, has this year kept professional staff costs to virtually zero.

The total expenditure for 2015 is estimated at £650, including insurance, web hosting, design guide literature and room hire.

In 2016 there will be significant extra costs, including professional planning advice, other professional advice, for example on environmental issues, and professional design work and printing costs. Some of this is part of the Ward money, some can be paid for by the Festival support, and we are applying to Locality for a second grant. Charging membership fees for 2016 would be a way to raise income, but at present we do not want to do this, and we are encouraging voluntary donations.

## Co-ordination

The work during the year on the five themes and projects was carried out via development groups, and with engagement of Forum members in a series of events.

The work was co-ordinated by a Steering Group as follows:

Peter Marsh (Chair), Anne Daw (Vice-Chair), Chris Topliss (Treasurer), Kath O'Donovan (Secretary), Alan Wellings, Emily Pieters, Laure Astill, University of Sheffield Union of Students President's representative, and Brian Webster (Cllr). Steering Group welcomed the attendance of several different members during the year, some of whom attended meetings on a regular basis.

## Membership

BBEST membership currently stands at 232, an increase of 100 from 2014, and there are a further 39 'associate members' who have expressed interest in receiving information about BBEST activities.

## **Task Groups**

In line with BBEST consultation in 2014, five task groups were active in 2015 gathering evidence and information. A Housing Survey was completed covering a significant part of the area.

The Task Groups covered each of the key themes

**Environment and Green and Open spaces:** To maintain & enhance the BBEST area green heritage & ecology

**Sustained and balanced community:** To maintain diversity in our community, reflecting our past, engaging with our present, and fulfilling our future potential

**The Retail Centre:** To make Broomhill retail centre a destination - an interesting hub of specialist and local shops and eating places in a pleasant environment

**Active Travel:** To enhance the experience of walking and cycling and outdoor city life, and reduce the impact of traffic on the area

**Development and Conservation:** To preserve and enhance the existing character of the BBEST area & to encourage high quality new development where appropriate.

## **Projects**

A number of key projects were considered during the year, and five were given top priority in engagement events. Each one incorporates one or more of the main objectives in the five Plan themes. The projects are:

1. **COMMUNITY HUB (Oriel House)**

This has been a particularly active area, and BBEST has sponsored a student architectural project to consider future development of the building

2. **COMMUNITY GARDENING & COMMUNITY GARDENER**

The Oriel House garden project will be promoting community gardening in a number of key areas

3. **GUIDES AND INFORMATION** eg listed buildings, running, walking, viewing

Work on a gazetteer of listed buildings has begun.

4. **BIN STORAGE** (development of better storage options)

A task group meeting explored a range of imaginative proposals for this.

5. **BOULEVARD PROJECT** (Partnership project) University to Fulwood Corridor

Initial ideas for the project (to give this corridor a real sense of place, and make it a better environment for walking, cycling and enjoying outdoor life) have been developed.

## **Key events**

Two major leaflet deliveries have been undertaken, with around 2,500 leaflets delivered at two points in the year and all homes in the BBEST area covered, in order to raise awareness of the plan, and to engage those who live and work in the area in the development of plan policies and the Projects. The Broomhill Festival is a key event in our year, and a session on Broomhill, and a Garden Party drop in event (with the major themes presented in an accessible way) were both very active occasions. We were very pleased to be nominated as a recipient charity from the Festival. The website has continued to be an important way to communicate developments, it should be further developed in 2016.

## **The next 12 months**

2016 will see the production of the draft plan, and significant consultation, probably in late summer. There will be further work on the projects, with a likelihood of particular activity on the Oriel House Community Hub development and the Boulevard Project.