



# BBEST Annual Report 2017

AGM report on Neighbourhood Planning Forum work in 2017.

**Key events:** This year has been dominated by work with the Planning Authority on the more technical details of the plan. An informal consultation, based on work to develop our ambitions into formal planning policies, occupied many months. A workshop at the start of the year, on Houses in Multiple Occupation drew on detailed data about the extent of HMOs in the BBEST area. The Boulevard project, to improve the University to Retail Centre corridor, especially for those on foot, engaged with the Strategic Transport Plan for Sheffield, and with the Hospitals and University regarding possible developments/improvements. The Design Guide has had a major investment of time, and was our major cost, leading to the development of a set of policies which should help our area maintain its rich heritage of buildings, streetscapes, views and green spaces.

**Finance:** The major costs for the year, of £1,800, have been the professional services to develop appraisals for our Design Guide. This is much below commercial rates and we are very grateful to Rob Thompson and Andrew Whitham for their support of our work, as we have been throughout to Susan Crowley for her own, pro bono, superb support of our efforts.. Our running costs have been very frugal, at £115 for IT work and room hire, although this has been achieved at some cost to volunteer time and the 'true' running cost is nearer £400. However we have had no income for the year, and our current bank balance is £1,300. This means we are deeply reliant on voluntary work, and we are likely to be unable to do the printing and publicity work that will be needed in 2019, and there will be no money for continuing the Forum once the plan is enacted and we have a role to monitor its implementation by the Council. If we could raise around £400 per year this would enable us to cover running costs, and we could use our current capital for the development, printing, and publicity costs over the next two years. It is the view of BBEST officers that we should try and raise this money now, and discuss options with the Forum.

**Membership:** BBEST membership has been stable over the year, and currently stands at 225 with a further 30 'associate members' on the mailing list.

**Volunteers:** throughout the year the bulk of the work has fallen on a small number of people, and there is an urgent need for volunteer help with some specific activities, especially fundraising/finance, and plan consultation tasks.

**The next 12 months:** 2018 will see the production of the draft plan, and significant consultation, probably in the Autumn. There will be further work on Community Actions, with a likelihood of particular activity on the Oriel House Community Hub development and the Boulevard Project.