

BROOMHILL ACTION NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th April 2013 at the Broomhill Methodist Church

20 residents attended this meeting.

Beverley Warne opened the meeting by introducing the BANG committee and Topic Area leaders. Each topic leader gave a short introduction to and presentation of the issues they have followed in Broomhill during the past year.

3. Committee Presentations:

Highways and roads: Howard Fry:

Amey have become the public face of Street Force under the PFI contract to improve and maintain all Sheffield roads. Taptonville Road is to be improved first as an example of the work in this locality. Broomhill is divided into zones to complete the work in stages of the 25 year contract. 2014 - Hallamgate area. 2015 – East Broomhill and Glossop Road zone. 2016 – SW Broomhill. These lie within the conservation area and a 'like for like' repair and maintenance is promised along with a reduction in street clutter. There is a pedestrian friendly approach. There will be cash for tree planting after old stock is removed. Responses to suggested improvements are valued. Concerns and complaints should be addressed to Helen Judge. The original plans for improving the junction of Crookes and Witham Road will go ahead in 2015.

Conservation Issues: Paul Sanderson:

Planning applications have been monitored. After a long period of silence recent references to the Tapton and Secret Garden site mention an allocated 'public space', which BANG has long campaigned for. SCC Tree officer and expert is Andrew Conwill and he needs to approve any tree pruning and felling. Broomhill residents who need support for infringements of planning laws including infringements of Article 4 (a and b) can seek BANG and SCC guidance. BANG recently gave help to Harcourt Road residents who were concerned at the possible development of a temporary car-park on the site of the old UoS Glass Institute at a busy junction on Crookesmoor Road, with significant traffic, air pollution and further development implications. Ideas re letters of objection, use of newspaper and leaflet publicity and access to planning websites were all usefully shared. Community action is most successful when based firmly upon the collection of factual evidence in support of arguments.

May 1st 2013 at the Town Hall at 6.30 – Planning and Car-parking Seminar: this gives an opportunity for residents to see how this area is affected by the development plans of the hospitals and the university. The idea is to build in an on-going and non-confrontational dialogue.

Bins litter and environmental issues: Edwin Self:

Edwin monitors regularly and sees particular problems along Glossop, Ashdell and Ashgate Roads. Veolia do not collect bins filled with mixed rubbish. Tracey Rayworth is the officer to contact with these concerns and more information re recycling collections is to follow; Edwin will distribute. The Broomhill online website needs to inform residents repeatedly (especially those like students who are only here temporarily) of how these services operate and how support can be accessed especially where there are complaints. More public litter bins are needed.

Broomhill District Centre: Lee Kenny:

10% of Broomhill shops are empty, below the national average but still a concern. There are too many hairdressers and nail bars and not enough useful shops. Tesco's arrival was controversially 'under the radar' via a third party planning application; objections to illuminated signage were successful; but some traffic / delivery van blockages have arisen. Sainsbury's attempted a more consultative approach before opening in the Williamson's building but the shop is disappointingly poorly stocked. Williamson's Hardware is now on two floors in the old Blackwell's shop.

Feedback on changes is always welcomed and many monitoring tasks remain. The roof top car park is an on-going issue.

It has been a quiet year for previously highly contentious issues re fast food outlets and licensing hours but several continue to trade illegally in the early hours. The licensing and planning departments of SCC are supportive of Broomhill's concerns. Quiet negotiation with licensees proved fruitful when the York applied to extend drinking hours.

The Hallam Tower Hotel site: Peter Horton:

This now near derelict site was left after the hotel closed in 2004 and we are no nearer redevelopment although outline plans were approved in 2009. There is now a working group to express residents' increasing concerns re health and safety issues and the ongoing impasse via publicity and contact with the SCC planners. Recent success has seen some remedial work to secure the site, in response to increasing vandalism and dangerous trespass but SCC is slow to enforce regulations and conditions, and the work undertaken is cheap and shoddy. The Hallam Tower Working Group is now pursuing a stage 2 complaint with the City Council re its apparent inertia. A student journalist is studying the history of this development.

Broomhill Library: Howard Fry:

The library is threatened with closure and there are no expressions of private interest to maintain it. SCC have rejected plans for building a modern and accessible library on the site of the old Police hut at the junction of Fulwood and Manchester Roads.

A decision on the future of the library will be made in May. There is little optimism that Broomhill's interests will be served.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy Phillips

There is £2858 in the current account, with subs bringing in £468 from 37 residents. Using email and hand delivered letters has reduced costs of communication. Major expenses are room hire and accompanying insurance and printing and stationery. The 40 year celebrations will need funding from the reserves.

Question and answer session:

Q. How can the abuse of the Westbourne Road one-way system be prevented?
CCTV, resident monitoring, signage and road markings were discussed.

Action: This issue will be on the agenda at the next BANG meeting.

Q. How will the introduction of the Veolia Green Bin system work and what could be its impact upon the neighbourhood?

The system will operate from May to November as a paid for fortnightly collection, but there has been little advance publicity.

The future for BANG 2013-4?

There are provisions in new statutes for Neighbourhood Planning Forums which a council is required to support following the submission of a plan. There is no deadline nor time restraints.

Action: Discussion at the May 1st seminar and a look at how this might be a way forward for Broomhill. Research is needed.

Volunteers for BANG involvement:

The following people offered their services:

Lee Kenny, Howard Fry, Edwin Self, Ann Watkinson, Alan Wellings, Peter Horton, Beverley Warne, Wendy Phillips, Paul Sanderson, Wendy Jenrick and Peter Marsh can support work on the neighbourhood Planning Forum. Individual roles will be decided at the next meeting.

BANG's 40th Birthday celebrations?

There will need to be an organising group.

Suggestions included: an event at the Rutland Hotel, the use of St Mark's green or KES school field. Possible dates will be in September or July. The website will publicise the event and seek volunteers to help organise.

BANG sought subscriptions at the end of the meeting from those present.

The AGM closed at 8.30 and refreshments were available throughout the meeting.

The next meeting of the **Broomhill Action Neighbourhood Group** will be on

May 14th at 7.30 in the Rainbow Room in the Broomhill Methodist Church