



## Sheffield Street Tree Partnership

### Action notes of meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### Town Hall

<b>Attendees</b>	
Nathan Edwards	Chair of SSTP (NE)
Nik Baker	SSTP Partnership Manager (NBak)
Richard Eyre	Sheffield City Council (RE)
Rebecca Boyd	Sheffield City Council (RB)
Amanda Preston	Sheffield City Council (AJP)
Mohamed Edroos	Sheffield City Council (ME)
David Wain	Sheffield City Council (DW)
Nicky Rivers	Sheffield City Council (NR)
Nicola Dempsey	University of Sheffield (ND)
Camilla Allen	University of Sheffield (CA)
Christine King	Street Tree Action Groups/Street Tree Warden (CK)
Sarah Shorley	Street Tree Warden (SS)
Colleen Eccles	Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust (CE)
Douglas Fraser	Sheffield Hallam University
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	
	None
<b>Apologies</b>	
Richard Ward	Sheffield Action Group (RW)
Kieron King	Amey (KK)
Carl Ellison	Amey (KE)
Mark Lightowler	Amey (ML)
Lisa Welton	Sheffield City Council (LW)

		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Welcome and apologies</u></b>	
	NE welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Notes of last meeting and updates</u></b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b><u>Cricket Inn Road – Tree removal and replacement</u></b> DW informed all that this was progressing with Amey. However, the budget needed further discussion as SCC Parks had not made a full allowance for accruals.	<b>DW</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b><u>Urban Tree Fayre</u></b> NE Thanked all for those involved in setting up and running the fayre. It was well attended and there had been some good feedback from attendees.  NBak Fed back to the group that she was pleased with the range of events, that they had all been free, and that the fayre had been well received. NBak also noted that she felt it had demanded a considerable portion of her time and that the fayre could have been better and less stressful to organise with a little more time if the event was to be run again.  NE / NBak noted funding difficulties due to the Partnerships lack of a constitution and no dedicated pot to place this in. Relied on funding being held and released by third parties. NBak also noted that had the SSTP been able to hold a budget funding could have been sought from the LAC's.  RE Asked RB to liaise with Business Sheffield on opportunities around constitution and Partnership advice.	<b>RB</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b><u>Engagement Working Group</u></b> The conversation moved to the Engagement Working Group which had greatly assisted with the planning for the tree Fayre - NBak gave an update on the composition of the group, which included good representation from delivery partners. NBak noted representation from the Community was needed on the group to balance the membership out. Engagement group will be meeting early next year to develop and set out the engagement and communication plan and will feed back into the strategy group.	

		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
2.4	<p>CK Advised that RW may be able to join the engagement group. NBak confirmed and will contact him for consideration.</p> <p><b><u>Darnall Planting Project (DPP)</u></b> NE reiterated that discussion around the DPP was to be added as a standing agenda item for regular update. NE confirmed that this will commence from January.</p>	<b>NBak</b>
2.5	<p><b><u>Street Tree Wardens Christmas get-together at Darnall tomorrow (18/12/24)</u></b> SS Confirmed that the Street Wardens would be meeting at Olive Grove at 10.00 am and a minibus would be taking them to Darnall. Alternatively, meeting at junction of Shirland Lane. Lunch will be served at 1.00 p.m. and everyone is welcome.</p>	<b>NE / NBak</b>
3.0	<b><u>Annual Report – update</u></b>	
	<p>NBak informed the Partnership Group that the preparation for the report was progressing. She had split the information into sections and placed this on the google drive for all to read/comment and add anything.</p> <p>The draft will be finished by Mid-January for a final version to be published by end of February.</p> <p>If anyone has any photos to add then please add them to the file.</p> <p>NRiv asked if there will be paper versions as well as an on-line version? In previous years we have done both and there have been lots of paper copies wasted. On behalf of the Partnership NE suggested and the Partnership group agreed that we have on-line versions only.</p> <p>NRiv volunteered to proofread the document. NE thanked NRiv for this.</p>	<b>ALL</b>  <b>NBak</b>  <b>ALL</b>  <b>NRiv</b>
4.0	<b><u>Strategic Planting Palette - Working Session</u></b>	
4.1	<p>NE shared and ran through the information from the workshops held earlier in the year, mapping out the processes.</p> <p><u>Comments/suggestions</u></p>	

		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<p>There was a broad conversation about how to allocate planting priorities to different areas within Sheffield. DW suggested looking at Ward Boundaries as these tied in with other council policy etc. The use of ward boundaries vs Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) was debated. Concern expressed by some that Wards were too broad.</p> <p>The potential use of Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) was also discussed - ND noted that Paul Brindley at UOS might be able to help map these. ND to discuss with Paul.</p> <p>RB suggested consideration of linking planting priorities with school sites.</p> <p>SSTP to discuss in more detail at February meeting.</p> <p><u>Species</u>  NDem shared and ran through the draft of a spreadsheet of different species collated from various sources (such as TDAG, AMEY, Henrik Sjoman, Academic sources etc) . This spreadsheet identifies species and defines their attributes for factors such as drought tolerance, canopy density etc. NE stressed that we need to look at a broad list to be able to identify trees that would thrive in Sheffield's streets in the future. ND asked partners to identify any blockers, inconsistencies - i.e. reasons why particular species should be omitted from the spreadsheet.  NDem noted that the spreadsheet still had gaps that needed filling as far as it was possible to do so.</p> <p>NE noted that Vanderberg a nursery based in Holland was interested to join in discussions about the palette on a no obligation basis - i.e. they understood that it would not lead to commercial benefit/</p> <p>Salt tolerance – NDemp agreed to look into this.</p> <p>NE confirmed all the information was on the google drive for all to see mapping out process.</p> <p>NDem agreed to also add the sources of information onto the drive.</p>	<p><b>NDem</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>NDem</b></p> <p><b>NDem</b></p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b><u>Points Raised in Paul's Resignation Letter - Working Session</u></b>	
	NE started by reiterating the SSTPS thanks to Paul for his service, support and guidance since the SSTPs inception.	

		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
	<p>NE circulated Paul's resignation letter for discussion. along with an open letter received by campaigners and NEs subsequent response to that letter on behalf of the SSTP. NE thanked partners for their comments when drafting that response.</p> <p>NE asked Partners how they would like to formally respond to the criticisms Paul had raised.</p> <p>The main comments raised were summarised as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 – Progression of the Partnership was slow</li> <li>2 – Meetings were circular, repetitive and lacked actions</li> <li>3 – Opportunities missed</li> <li>4 - Not feeling valued.</li> </ol> <p>NRiv Asked if a response was going to go back to Paul or whether we would note the discussion in the SSTP notes and move on from this. All agreed that a response be recorded in the notes and be added to the website.</p> <p><i>Progression of the Partnership Group was slow</i> NE confirmed that we have had a slow year. NEs view was that quick wins had been addressed in previous years and that a small number of complex issues/projects had slowed progress. In particular CIP had resulted in a distraction to business as usual.</p> <p>DW Recognised that Paul's letter had resulted in the Partnership reflecting on the points he'd raised which in itself was positive. In his view, the Partnership had made good progress in a number of areas despite staff changes and illness which inevitably slows down progress.</p> <p>ME Noted that he had only joined the Partnership at the beginning of the year and that he realised early on that time was needed to take stock, get to know partners, learn from experiences and re-evaluate the way SCC responds / works with Partners. ME perceived that a year on from his joining that he felt the SSTP was in a better place.</p> <p>CK shared some of Paul's concerns but did feel that the group was moving forward. In her view, a refresh of the strategy next year would help to refocus and prioritise. CK felt that moving CIP into a working group was a sensible approach and would also help Partners focus on broader issues.</p>	

		ACTION WHOM
	<p>DF noted as the most recent member to join the Partnership that his experience of the group was a positive one, and that the Partnership was moving matters forward.</p> <p>Partners all broadly agreed that progress had been slow, that a refocus was necessary but that progress was still being made.</p> <p>All agreed that the working groups remained a good division and that these needed to be supported with additional recruitment. The engagement group was a good example of progress being made. NE also noted that we would need to find a new lead for the Community Planting group that Paul was responsible for leading.</p> <p>NE summed up the conversation by stating that it was ok for Partners to disagree over matters and to take time to debate them so long as we continue to reach a consensus. NE</p> <p><i>Meetings</i> NE agreed with Paul that some meetings had become circular and repetitive. Noted that moving forward meeting agendas would allow space for debate and updates will be kept short. NE reiterated that by moving CIP to a task and finish group that CIP would not take up excessive agenda time.</p> <p>NE also noted that points had been raised by campaigners about accountability and suggested that the SSTP hold an annual public meeting where questions could be put to the SSTP and answered.</p> <p><i>Opportunities missed and not feeling valued.</i> The discussion turned to openness and transparency and all reiterated that every endeavour should be made to provide information even when in draft and to allow sufficient time for discussion within the Partnership.</p> <p>The discussion acknowledged that some matters could have been handled more effectively over the year but all also agreed that each time that had been an issue it had been resolved and lessons were being learnt. It was also acknowledged that the Partnership can only achieve so much and that particularly time restricted opportunities can therefore be challenging when Partner time is limited.</p> <p>ME expressed that he felt valued and would like to believe that others feel the same. Acknowledged that this had not always been the case for the</p>	

		ACTION WHOM
	<p>highways team but that this was not now the case. ME noted that going forward we need to outline documents / plans before making decisions.</p> <p>RE Agreed it's been a challenge, over the last year - noting that lots of things have occurred and we don't always agree which can at times cause issues. RE acknowledged the need to share the responsibilities/risks within the Partnership.</p> <p>ME Acknowledged that we need to consider the mental health of staff, ensuring that their health and well-being is protected. NE noted that this was the case for all Partners.</p> <p>As an original member of the group, CK expressed her concern that at the beginning of the Partnership there had been challenges but also lots of energy and excitement. As the years have gone by, frustrations have crept back in, particularly as more complex challenges arose. CK noted that as a group we are slowly getting better at rising to challenges and would like to see some of the early energy return.</p> <p>The discussion moved to whether Paul specifically had been undervalued. The consensus was that CIP in particular had led to feeling of intransigence or entrenchment between SCC and Paul but that Paul's contribution was broadly recognised and that his questioning over points of detail always led to reflection if not always to change.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED PUBLIC STATEMENT</b></p> <p>The Sheffield Street Tree Partnership (SSTP) would like to thank Paul Selby for his invaluable service, support, and guidance since the Partnership's inception. His dedication to the cause and his thoughtful contributions have been pivotal in shaping our progress.</p> <p>Paul's resignation has prompted reflection within the Partnership on key areas for improvement. We acknowledge and respect the concerns he raised, including the pace of progress, meeting structure, missed opportunities, and ensuring all members feel valued. While progress has at times been slower than hoped, particularly as we've tackled more complex issues, we remain committed to moving forward.</p> <p>The Partnership is taking steps to address these concerns by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refocusing and refreshing our strategy for the coming year.</li> </ul>	

		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Streamlining meeting agendas to ensure productive discussions and actionable outcomes.</li> <li>● Strengthening communication and transparency within the group.</li> <li>● Continuing to prioritise openness, inclusivity, and the well-being of all members.</li> </ul> <p>We recognise Paul’s contributions, especially in leading Community Planting efforts. While there have been challenges, the consensus among members is that the Partnership is steadily making progress, learning from experience, and building a stronger foundation for the future.</p> <p>Once again, we extend our gratitude to Paul and look forward to continuing our mission of collaboration and shared responsibility in enhancing Sheffield’s street tree landscape.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b><u>General updates</u></b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<u>Darnall Strategic Planting Project (5 mins)</u> Discussed earlier on the agenda.	<b>AMEY / Task and Finish GRoup</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<u>Urban Tree Festival</u> Discussed earlier on the agenda.	
<b>6.3</b>	<u>Town Hall Plaque</u> CA reported that 4 challenging meetings had been held and at the last one it was agreed to get external advice on wording. NE thanked the group for all their hard work.	
<b>6.4</b>	<u>LBAP</u> Due to staff shortage/Illness, this will recommence in the New Year. NRiv and CK asked that all correspondence be copied to all members of the task and finish group to avoid duplicate comments or any misunderstandings arising.	
<b>6.5</b>	<u>Cricket Inn Lane - Replanting</u> Discussed earlier on the agenda.	
<b>6.6</b>	<u>CIP Working Group Set up and Timelines</u> ME Updated all that Silver Hill was complete. Kenwood Park Road is	



		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
	<p>progressing, and Kenwood Road will commence in January.</p> <p>Mott Macdonald are on board for the options appraisal and at present are considering / processing all the data in order to get up to speed.</p> <p>Task and Finish Group to be set up in New Year.</p> <p>ME &amp; NE to discuss membership and format.</p> <p>CK asked if the notes would be made public? This is still to be confirmed.</p> <p><b>6.7</b> <u>Paul's Commemorative Tree</u> Not discussed due to time.</p> <p><b>6.8</b> <u>Reminder of events ahead of Christmas</u> Noted.</p>	<p><b>SCC</b></p> <p><b>ME/NE</b></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<p><u>Eon - Darnall Works</u> NBak updated Partners that consultants for EON had reached out to the Partnership around a planning application for an extension to their District Heating Network in the Darnall area, as it involved the removal of a relatively small number of street trees. It was discussed that this could present an opportunity for new planting and or support for the Darnal Planting Project. NBak to arrange meeting in New Year with Partners and EON/their consultant.</p>	<b>NBak</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<p><u>Kieron King</u> On behalf of the Group, NE informed all that KK had stepped down from the Partnership due to ill health. Mark Lightower will be attending in his place until such time as Kieron returns or resigns formally. On behalf of the partnership Group, NE asked that the Partnership's well wishes and thanks for all he has done for the group be passed onto.</p>	<b>NBak</b>
<b>7.3</b>	<p><u>Kenwood Road -Verges</u> CK Asked if she could get an understanding as to why the build outs on this road are so wide.</p>	

		<b>ACTION WHOM</b>
	ME agreed to set a meeting up with CK and S Potts on this.	<b>ME</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Meeting Close and Look Ahead to 2025</b> As Chair of the Partnership Group NE thanked all for contributions to the group over the last year and wished all a Merry Christmas. NE briefly set out a forward look to priorities in 2025.	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – 10.00 – 12.00 p.m. on teams.</b>	