

**Open Meeting-Bullet Points  
St Columba's Church Hall  
Thursday 27th January 2022**

: Ian Hague (Chair), Steve Reynolds (Vice chair), Angela Southward, Nick Duggan, Roger Kite, and 19 Crosspool residents

Apologies: - Gillian and John Drinkwater, Cllr Mohamed Mahroof

Guests; Linda Gooden (Head teacher KES), Cath Jackson (Assistant Head KES), Steve Ellis (St Columba's church), Cllrs. Ruth Milsom and Tim Huggan

Ian Hague welcomed everyone and introduced the top table. He then introduced Linda Gooden Head Teacher and Cath Jackson Deputy Head at KAS.

**KING EDWARDS SCHOOL;** Linda and Cath spoke about the difficulties faced by KES during the pandemic and the reopening of the school. Tribute was paid to staff for their hard work to make sure no student fell behind due to online learning and in adapting to a new way of providing education, also to the excellent support from parents and agencies such as social services to assist with the mammoth task of ensuring that students' education and safeguarding continued. Other success areas were liaising with parents, student bubbles and transition arrangements for feeder school students. The school is now fully open and starting to open up sporting and other activities and potential trips. Current issues involve staff and student absence due to Covid and addressing learning gaps due to students not being in school.

In answer to public questions it was stated that future issues could involve students mental health due to anxiety over the pandemic, and that some had struggled but were gradually readjusting to being back in school, issues of long Covid would be monitored and teacher assessments were proving that positive progress was being made.

Ian and Steve thanked Linda and Cath for their continued close work with the Forum and Crosspool community.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** The bullet points of the 28th October meeting were agreed as a true record and will be made available on the website.

The Local Area Committee (LAC) was held via zoom recently and there was plenty of discussion around the developing local community plan. Information is on the council website under SWLAC. Concern was raised regarding the proposed building of 55,000 new homes on greenfield sites in Sheffield but Cllr Tim Huggan described the process whereby about 44,000 new homes were to be built over 15 years on a hierarchy of sites using brownfield sites first before any greenfield sites.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** The Forum has a reasonably healthy balance despite the lack of community fundraising events due to the pandemic. Tai chi continues to do well but easy exercise classes can only continue due to a grant from the council to help cover costs. The cost of printing the Clarion magazine has risen by a large amount and so it may be necessary to increase advertising costs to cover it. The Forum is grateful to Archer's estate agents for sponsoring the magazine.

**POLICE UPDATE** Steve read out the police report which had been sent. Sadly, there have been several incidents – burglaries and attempted burglaries on Lydgate Lane, Sandygate, Den Bank and Coldwell Lane and is often in order to steal vehicle keys to then steal vehicles. People are reminded not to keep keys on show and if possible to keep car keys in protective wallets or a tin box. There has also been an attempted break in at the scout hut so people are asked to be extra vigilant at the moment.

**ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH VACCINATION HUB UPDATE** Steve Ellis gave a comprehensive review of the vaccination programme at St Columba's church hub, thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers an amazing 50,000 jabs delivered over the year, including support for people with extra needs such as autism. Many thanks due to all involved including volunteers, local businesses for their support and to the community for putting up with disruption to normal church activities. The clinics have now finished apart from ad hoc ones as necessary. The hall floor will need to be replaced as due to

Covid regulations of chlorine bleaching after every session the parquet flooring has become damaged.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT Ian mentioned the Sheffield to Manchester X57 bus service which has sadly stopped running due to becoming financially unsustainable.

**COUNCILLORS' Q&A's** Cllrs Milsom and Huggan talked about the South West LAC and the proposed community plan, details are on the council website under SWLAC. In response to questions it was stated that as well as new housing, infrastructure and bus routes would be considered. It was felt by planning staff that 40,000 houses would be sustainable by Sheffield but needed to be built on brownfield sites first, and it was stated that at least 5000 would be social housing in addition to the 4000 currently being built. In response to questions regarding Clough Field public footpath, a case is currently being prepared to present to the council rights of way officer. The owner of Clough Fields talked about public damage to his property and fields during lockdown but it was felt that this was a police matter and did not affect the current issue of public right of way.

There are funds available in the ward pot for local groups to apply for projects, contact the council or local councillors for details.

**EVENTS:** The 2022 calendar has sold well, only a few copies left at G T News. The Children's Christmas party was enjoyed by everyone, with party food and an entertainer (Barney Baloney) and although Father Christmas could not make it this year each child had a gift to go home with. The Christmas trees looked lovely in the precinct and the tree recycling in early January was a big hit with the community. The Crosspool Summer Festival and Summer Fayre is currently being planned to go ahead as normal, Roger Kite asked the meeting to approve this year's chosen charities which are "Baby Basics" and "The Samaritans". This was approved. Plans are being made for the Queen's platinum jubilee with ideas such as new flags in the precinct, bunting and red, white and blue flowers in the precinct tubs. Anyone with ideas for activities or wishing to help, please contact either Steve, Ian or a Crosspool Forum committee members.

AOB No further items were discussed

Next Open Meeting is Thursday 28th April 2022