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Welcome to your newsletter | Edition 7 | August 2011

# Northern

## Community Assembly

You Say, You Choose

# Orchards for Local School Children

Four schools in the Northern Community Assembly area are benefiting from a pilot project to set up orchards and forest gardens on their premises. This project is funded by the Northern Community Assembly and all the hard work is carried out by the Sheffield City Council Community Forester Team.

The Community Forester team has worked with Angram Bank Primary, Ecclesfield Comprehensive, Nook Lane Primary and Oughtibridge Primary to plant orchards in their grounds. This project will see children growing food and learning about the environment.

The pupils will benefit from better green spaces, and they will also learn an enormous amount from planting and maintaining the orchards. The most fun will come in the summer and autumn though when the fruit is ready to be harvested and the children will be able to eat the fruits of their labour!

It is hoped that these will be the first of many such orchards and forest gardens, as other



Tree Planting Ceremony

schools and local people see the ways in which pupils benefit from them.

The Northern Community Assembly funded the Community Forester Team £2500 for this coming year so that they can continue to do their good work in this area.



# Assembly Meeting Update

At the March Assembly Meeting, the Northern Community Assembly celebrated Jillian Moore - a Grenoside School Governor for 40 years, and the Stocksbridge Community Care Group - who are currently working to help other communities in the Northern area set up Care Groups of their own. The business of the assembly meeting included a report on what the community assembly achieved last year and another report on the plans for next year.

At the June Assembly Meeting, there was a report from Sharon Batty about her Rural Villages Project. Sharon's project is a joint one between the Northern Community Assembly, the East Peak Innovation Partnership and the Peak Park Authority. (For more information on Sharon's work please see page 7). At this meeting the installation of Smiley SID's (Speed Indicator Device) was also discussed, (see page 3 for more information on this.)

The Thriving District and Local Centres Team also came along to tell the Assembly about the work they will be doing in Chapeltown and Stocksbridge in the near future. As Chapeltown and Stocksbridge are key district centres for the area, they will have £50,000 spent on each of them to improve them.

A special meeting of the Assembly in July will focus on highways matters and decisions to be taken on which large highways schemes might be prioritised in the area for the year 2011/12 should a budget be made available to the Assembly.

The next Assembly meeting will be on Wednesday the 28th of September at 6.30pm at Newton Memorial Hall, Cowley Lane, Chapeltown. You can find the papers for previous meetings here - <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/community-assemblies/northern-meetings/agendas>. The papers for the September meeting will be available one week before the meeting.

## Changes in the Northern Community Assembly

### Welcome

We would like to welcome newly elected councillors as part of the Northern Community Assembly. The new councillors are Steve Wilson for the East Ecclesfield Ward, Alf Meade for the West Ecclesfield Ward and Philip Wood for the Stocksbridge and Upper Don Ward. (Please see page 8 for the contact details for all the Northern Community Assembly Councillors and Team.)



Alan Hopper

### Goodbye

The Northern Community Assembly Councillors also would like to say goodbye and thank you to Alan Hooper, Vic Bowden and Martin Brelsford for all their hard work in the first two years of the Assembly. Alan and Vic continue to be Ecclesfield Parish Councillors and Martin is the current Mayor of Stocksbridge Town Council.

# SMILEY SIDs

You may have noticed a few more smiley faces in the Northern Sheffield area recently. This is because to the 2 new Smiley SID interactive highway signs that have been installed thanks to the Northern Community Assembly.

SID stands for Speed Indication Device. One has been installed on Yew Lane on the approach to Ecclesfield, and the other at Langsett Road North in Oughtibridge. These are both areas where people have told us speeding was a big issue for them. They are part of a pilot scheme and will be rotated during the year to other sites in the Northern Community Assembly area.

The Smiley SID cameras flash up with the speed that the passing car is doing. The hope is that this will encourage people to slow down and stick to the speed limit. The devices are called 'smiley' SID's as they smile if you are driving at the correct speed and frown if you are speeding. They also record the speeds of passing cars so they can give the Council better information about speeding problems in that area.

If you know of a site where speeding is a problem, please contact the Community Assembly (see page 8 for contact details) and we will assess the site to see if it is suitable for a SID.

“ The SIDs are a very useful tool. Not only do they alter the driver's habits, they help drivers' actually realise, sometimes to their surprise, the speed they are travelling at. ”

Councillor Jack Clarkson



Councillor Alison Brelsford

# New Facilities for Chapeltown Library

Chapeltown was the first library in the city to have the new Self Service system. This makes it quicker for customers to return and borrow library materials, and allows library staff more time to help customers who have enquiries, or who want to order books.

The library stocks books and DVD's, runs children's activities and the staff members are always available to help people. There is also a Children's Centre at Chapeltown Library. Below is some information about the other services available at the Library and Children's Centre.



New Facilities for Chapeltown

## Weekly sessions for children Under 5 run by library staff – all sessions include stories, crafts and singing

**Baby time:** Mondays, 10.30 - 11.30 am

**Story time:** Thursday, 10.45 - 11.30 am

**Chatterbooks:** monthly sessions for 8 - 12 year olds to read and discuss books.

## Sessions run by Children's Centre staff:

**Tots on Tuesdays:** (play and chat) 12.30 - 1.30 pm

**Breastfeeding Support sessions:** Fridays, 1 - 3 pm

**One Stop Shop:** Thursday mornings, 10 - 12 - session with Health Visitors, Parent Outreach worker, Speech therapist, Breastfeeding Support, Help and Advice for all parents of children under 5 years old.

The community room at Chapeltown is available for hire to any local group – for example, currently there is a Writing Group, Art group, Family History group, and Craft group amongst others. Two monthly reading groups are also held in the room. Also, the library has 6 computers for the public to use free of charge. Prints are charged at 10p per copy, or 50p for colour prints.

# Better play for Loxley

For many years the play facilities in Loxley have been sadly lacking but this is all starting to change. Thanks to the work of the Parks and Countryside Service and funding from Bradfield Parish Council (£30,000) and the Northern Community Assembly (£24,626), there are new play facilities for the area.

New pieces of play equipment have gone in to Archer Gate and to Loxley Recreation Ground and even more equipment will be on both play areas by the end of the summer.

Stannington Ward Councillor David Baker said, "For years Loxley has missed out on bids funding for parks and play areas. Now thanks to a generous grant from Bradfield Parish Council and help from the Northern Community Assembly, we have equipment installed in two local play areas. Local people have been particularly supportive contributing ideas and forming two new Friends Groups to support the playgrounds into the future."

"We local Councillors will continue to work with and support the groups if ever they need our assistance."

Councillor Karen Southwood, the Chair of Bradfield Parish Council said "I am so pleased that following many years of neglect, the play facilities at Loxley have been improved and that Bradfield Parish Council has been able to contribute £30,000 to the project. We now have two areas of good quality play equipment that can be enjoyed by the local community for many years to come. We also have two new Friends of Groups that will continue the good work and raise funds for future development in the areas. Bradfield Parish Council look forward to working with and supporting these groups moving forward."

There are now two Friends of the Park Groups for the area: the Friends of Archer Gate and the Friends of Loxley Rec. The work that these groups are doing is really helping to improve these areas and they have both already raised funds to improve their sites. Pennine Homes have worked very closely with the Friends of Archer Gate to support their work for that park.

**If you would like to know more about these projects, please contact the Parks and Countryside Service on 0114 250 0500.**



Councillor Vickie Priestley and Councillor David Baker



Loxley Rec

# Ecclesfield Road Puffin Crossing

Thanks to a new crossing, road safety at Ecclesfield School entrance will be improving dramatically. Outside the main entrance to Ecclesfield School is a 40mph zone and for many years there has been no way for the young people who attend the school to cross the road safely.

Thanks to funding from the Northern Community Assembly there is now a puffin crossing right outside the entrance to the school. It was decided that a puffin crossing was necessary as a result of child accidents and numerous requests from the community and from the school.



Ecclesfield Road Puffin Crossing

**The new crossing was installed in March and April 2011.**

## Future Plans for Thorncliffe Recreation Ground

A joint project between Ecclesfield Parish Council, the Parks and Countryside Department and the Northern Community Assembly has made vital improvements to Thorncliffe Recreation Ground a real possibility for the future of sport and recreation in the north of our city.

In recent months, design consultants have been developing options for improving Thorncliffe Recreation Ground and Mortomley Park with the Sports Clubs that regularly use the grounds. Through workshops with the Clubs, different layouts were looked at.

The Parks and Countryside Department are currently assessing the possible options for the ongoing maintenance of the site as this will affect getting future funding and the future success of the grounds.



Thorncliffe Recreation Ground

# Photography competition

The winner of the Winter Photo Competition is Keith Willmott of Stannington. The photo was taken in Stannington in December 2010. The next Photo Competition will be for the best photo of the Northern Sheffield area in summer. To enter our competition please send your photo along with your contact details to [communityassemblynorthern@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:communityassemblynorthern@sheffield.gov.uk) or by post to Photography Competition, Northern Community Assembly, 230 Lane End, Chapeltown, Sheffield, S35 2UZ. The best entries will then be shown in the next edition of the newsletter. **All entries must be received by 30th September 2011.**



Winter Competition Winner

## A day in the life

Sharon Batty is the Rural Village Officer for this area. The Rural Village Officer role is a joint project between the Northern Community Assembly, the Peak Park and the East Peak Innovation Project.

### What time do you start work?

That depends where I am working or what I am doing. If I am working later into the evening then I may start later. I might be heading over to Bakewell to the Peak Park head office so I'll leave early.

### What might a typical day involve?

There is no such thing as a typical day! I am rarely in the office these days. Often I will go straight to a meeting with a local community group; I could then be delivering posters and fliers to advertise an event and then end up in a meeting with Council officers, either at the Town Hall or at the Northern Community Assembly office.

### What do you most look forward to at work?

Meeting enthusiastic people who have great ideas and the energy to see them through.

### What's the biggest challenge you face each day?

Time management – there are so many different project ideas and people to meet as

well as the day to day management of the project, looking after the budget and writing reports.

### What makes you smile?

When someone genuinely just wants to share their knowledge and experience to help others – networking at its best!

### What are your hopes for the future?

That rural Sheffield remains in the minds of policymakers and that those communities continue to strengthen their voice.

You can read more about Sharon's work by following this link -

<http://northernassembly.wordpress.com/2011/07/07/our-rural-village-officer/>



Sharon Batty (Rural Village Officer)

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