

July 2009

# **Darnall Community Street Audit Training**

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Community Street Audit Training  
Darnall, Sheffield

Sheffield PCT/Gary Kelly/Julia Crear

## **Introduction**

This short document is intended as a means to capture intelligence and distribute as widely as possible to appropriate agencies that can make a difference in Darnall. The information was disclosed at a session ran by Living Streets on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## **Assets**

The participants highlighted some of the key assets in the area:

- Residents Group
- Good people generally
- Lots of green space
- A variety of community rooms
- Air Quality has improved
- New heating system being installed

## **Challenges**

The participants then went on to highlight some of the challenges they are facing:

- Lots of drugs
- Getting the council to do things
- Losing shops and amenities
- Graffiti
- Burning bins to get high
- The area doesn't feel safe generally
- Not enough lighting
- Lighting out and not repaired/replaced in a timely fashion
- Gangs of people congregating at exits/stairwells
- Wardens patrol sporadically at night
- The area has changed
- Mugging in the early evening
- Drive up drug deals/street dealing

## **Intelligence**

On two short audits a broad range of intelligence was disclosed by the participants:

Darnall Neighbourhood Park:

- Desire line straight across the grass to the park
- Youths congregate
- Street drinking
- A lot of smashed glass
- The council aren't sure what is underneath the surface
- A friends of the park group has been set up
- The residents say they don't want a youth shelter here
- Bottles are taken from the recycling bin and smashed by youths
- Flytipping next to the recycling bins
- 5 a side football tournament unable to take place due to broken glass

The area generally:

- Youths congregate under the stairwells
- Fencing could be created for children to have green space for themselves
- Broken glass
- Potholes
- Dropped kerbs on one side but not the other
- Greenland Close rush hour rat run
- Youths congregate on the logs at the cemetery entrance
- Drugs paraphernalia
- Prostitution issue possibly linked to the drugs issue
- Loose stones/debris on footways
- Loose stones/debris on cycle ways
- Phone box in bad state (no door)
- Racist graffiti in phone box (swastika and phone number for BNP)
- Wheelie bins put out on a Tuesday when collection is on a Wednesday
- Dog bin moved from snicket (Basford Street) to a place which people do not pass as frequently
- Size of trees seen as an issue: blocking light/ wet areas unable to dry
- Garden rubbish dumped
- Fresh fires lit on grass (not remnants of Guy Fawkes)
- Not a regular maintenance schedule
- Nothing for young people to do

## Feelings

It came across loud and clear that the residents have a level of consultation fatigue. The frustration was palpable and understandable. It's clear that while this project has a finite lifespan it is an opportunity to initiate some quick wins and with everyone on board some longer term interventions.

An obvious statement is that young people should have a voice in this process at the earliest possible opportunity, as the main users of the outdoor space in Darnall for good or for bad. While there were some strong opinions expressed it is my belief that given the right approach namely 'using what's already there' in terms of residents and agencies in the development of a realistic long term strategy real improvements can be realised.

## Recommendations

Short term:

- Signage to improve walking/access/Darnalls Identity
- Community clean up followed by the involvement of Green estates to plant wildflowers
- Young peoples Audit/ Young Spaceshaper
- An event to engage new people into the process
- Develop a joined up multi-agency strategy as a matter of urgency
- Embed accountability and clear communication within the multi agency strategy
- Set a date for a full Audit as a matter of urgency involving multiple agencies (particularly youth services), young people and led by resident

- When the audit is done tap into existing or set up a multi agency taskforce to target key issues
- Hold each other accountable/ set realistic goals
- Wipe the slate clean, the past is the past.
- Book a timeslot with the Mobile CCTV unit (intelligence gathering)
- Cutting hedges and trees
- Enforcement on a range of issues

#### Long Term:

- Resurfacing the park
- A crossing for Darnall Road
- Meaningful youth led provision
- A masterplan for the area that is realistic and achievable in terms of tangible results

#### **Distribution**

The residents would like these key individuals to be involved in a joined up strategy alongside agencies already present:

Inspector Tony Dobson

Cheryl Oldfield (Sheffield Homes)

Bridget Cowan (Streetforce)

Clyde Betts MP to be informed.