

April 2010

Norfolk Park Community Street Audit Report

A report of a Community Street Audit, 2 March 2010



Community Street Audit Participants

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.



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Living Streets

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.

We have been the national voice for pedestrians throughout our 80 year history. In the early years, our campaigning led to the introduction of the driving test, pedestrian crossings and 30mph speed limits. Since then our ambition has grown. Today we influence decision makers nationally and locally, run successful projects to encourage people to walk, and provide specialist consultancy services to help reduce congestion and carbon emissions, improve public health, and make sure every community can enjoy vibrant streets and public spaces.

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Introduction

Living Streets is training local people to undertake Community Street Audits for the Living Neighbourhoods Project which is part of Sheffield City Council and NHS Sheffield's Let's Change for Life project.

Community Street Audits are a way to evaluate the quality of streets and spaces from the viewpoint of the people who use them, rather than those who manage them. This involves small groups of local residents, traders, councillors and officers to assess a route on foot, following which a report is produced with recommendations for improvements.



Jervis Lum Footbridge

Norfolk Park

Living Streets delivered a community street audit training session for local people in Norfolk Park on 3 March 2010. This report presents the findings of the audits undertaken as part of the day. It is intended that this report will be shared within the community and with the council and other agencies. It is hoped that participants will share their learning by organising audits with other members of the community.

General Observations

As part of the initial discussion participants highlighted some of the key assets in the area:

- Community
- Accessible (Tram and bus stops, dropped kerbs)
- Amenities (School, shop, garage, Foyer)
- Green Space



The participants highlighted some opportunities for improvement, such as provision for the community including young people, such as a football pitch opposite the foyer, different youth shelters, green gym and trim trail, improved access to Norfolk Park Primary School and a floodlit pitch. It was also suggested that the allotments need improving to encourage use. It was noted that the Foyer has developed a garden in its own grounds.

Audit around Sheffield Foyer, St Aidan's Place and City Road

The first audit circuit began at Sheffield Foyer on Spring Lane and went across Park Grange Road and via the path from St Aidan's Place up to the filling station on City Road and back via the Spring Lane Tram Stop.

The detailed observations and recommendations are included in a table at the end of this report.

The key problems highlighted by the audit are

- Environmental Maintenance (Litter, graffiti, overgrown vegetation)
- Access (Poor lighting, need for steps, dropped kerbs)
- Desire Lines (Lack of official route from Spring Lane through school playing field)
- Crossings (no pedestrian phase on City Road Traffic Lights)

The key recommendations of the audit are

- Council and housing association to undertake clean up and environmental improvements
- Council to review crossing of City Road
- Council and primary school to consider formal route and public access to playing fields



Overgrown Path on Spring Lane



Graffiti behind Spring Lane Tram Stop



Waste ground behind City Road Texaco Filling Station in need of clean up

This photo shows an example of a desire line on St Aidan's Place which is used by residents and could be improved by providing steps and a handrail.



Desire Line on St Aidan's Place

This photo an important pedestrian link from St Aidan's Place to City Road which is used by residents to access the bus stop and shop at the garage. This path is in need of a deep clean to remove the large amounts of litter that has accumulated. Also the overgrown hedge needs to be cut back the house owner.



Litter on path from St Aidan's Place to City Road (Autotronix)

This photo shows a resident trying to cross the road by the traffic signals at the junction of City Road and Park Grange Road.



Crossing City Road at junction with Park Grange Road

Audit of routes from Spring Lane to Park Grange

The second audit route went from Sheffield Foyer, Spring Lane down the east side of Park Grange Road, then down Guildford Avenue and via the path down the west side of Jervis Lum to the Bluestone School site and shopping parade and along Park Grange Drive to Park Grange Tram Stop.

The detailed observations and recommendations are included in a table at the end of this report.

The key problems highlighted by the audit are

- Environmental maintenance (Graffiti, flytipping, litter, green space)
- Access to Park Grange Tram Stop (Lack of steps, maintenance, handrails)
- Seating (Lack of seating despite steep gradients)

The key recommendations of the audit are

- Council to improve maintenance of path along west side of Jervis Lum, including pedestrian bridge
- Improve maintenance and facilities at St Aidan's Playing Fields
- SYPTTE and Council to improve access routes to Park Grange Tram Stop



Graffiti at St Aidan's Playing Fields



Lack of barrier on bridge on Park Grange Road



Litter in Jervis Lum

This photo illustrates the impact of poor maintenance of gardens on the walking environment. As well as the trip hazard caused by the rubble, the visual impact reduces the appeal of this walking route. This is a matter for enforcement via the housing association or planning enforcement.



Graffiti at St Aidan's Playing Fields

This path illustrates the problems caused by poor maintenance the path and boundaries, which creates a hazard for path users from the overhanging fence and slippery surface. The dilapidated state of the Park Grange shopping parade is also a deterrent to use of this path.



This photo illustrates a well used desire line to the Park Grange tram stop which is in need of improvement, such as by steps and a handrail. In addition the existing paths to the tram stop need better maintenance such as clearing leaf litter and painting handrails. Also the path to Park Grange Rise is in need of a handrail.

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