

SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ACTION

Growing grassroots influence

In the early 1970s the Action Groups wrote detailed reports to build campaigns and obtain funding. In several areas church-funded community workers were important in

organising communities.

In Sharrow, under the influence of John Peaden, a local methodist minister, they sought to influence plans and began to provide advice on housing.



Source SSCCP June 1981

Sheffield University Student Community Action, 1971

Community pressure

Community pressure compelled the Council to take demands for public participation in planning seriously. Officers attending local meetings were "told not to speak unless they were spoken to". New participatory approaches like Planning for Real were trialled.

Soon the local authority appointed its own community workers who often organised tenants and residents to take on the council.



Pearl Street Adventure Playground

Photo: Tony Tigwell

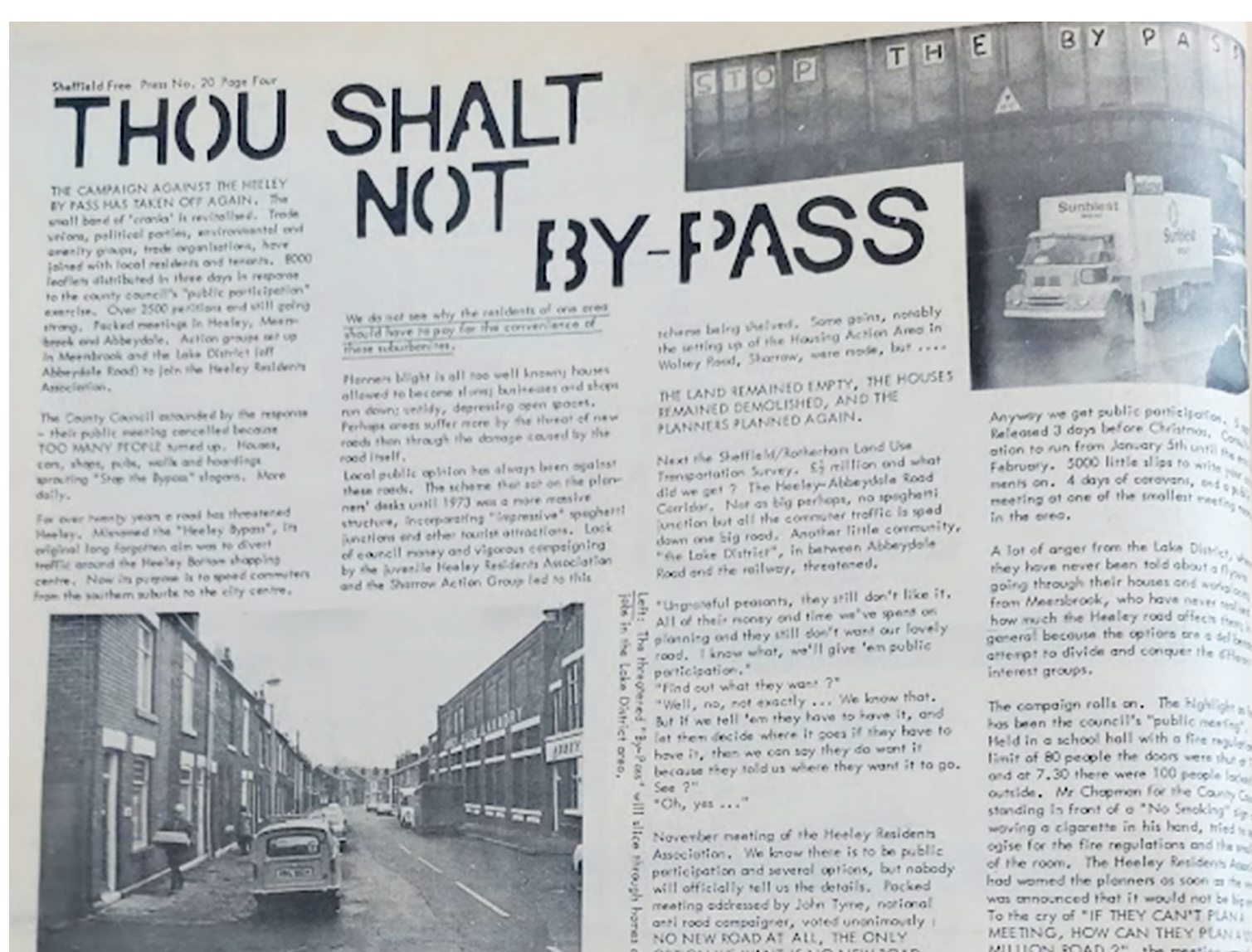


Photo: Tony Tigwell



Photo from July page, Broomhall Calendar, 1983

Notable successes

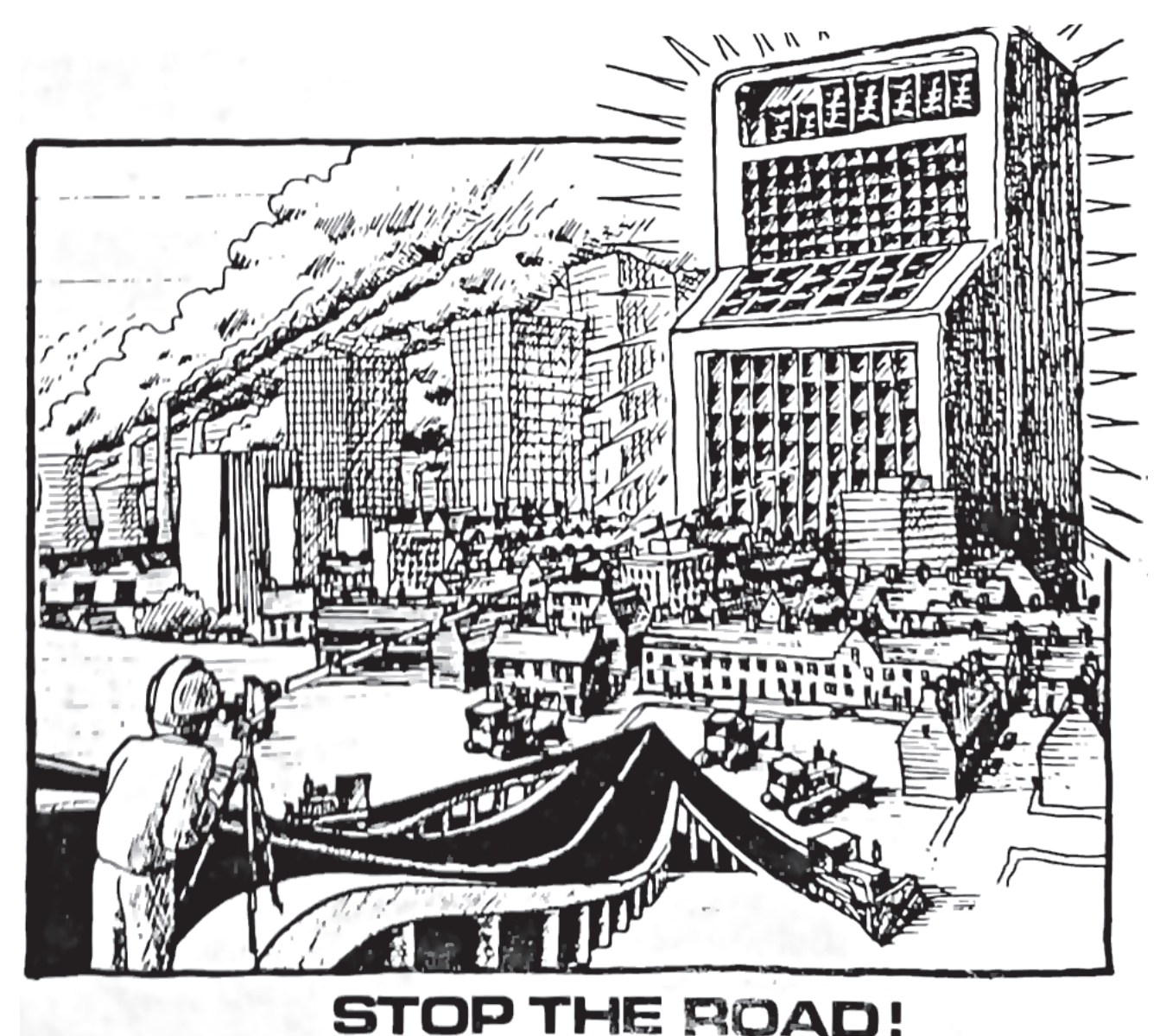
There were some notable successes as slum clearance was abandoned in favour of improvement programmes, saving areas like Havelock Street in Broomhall in 1979. New community spaces were created, including adventure playgrounds.

Bypass plan dropped

In 1978, plans to build the Heeley Bypass were dropped following vigorous campaigning and leaving four acres of derelict land. One member of the anti-road campaign, John Le Corney, recalls: "We went

to the council and said "we've got this plot of land – we want to decide what happens to it".

The idea of Heeley City Farm was hatched, opening in 1981.



Sheffield Free Press, courtesy of Sheffield Local Studies Library

