

# SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ACTION

## Into the Eighties

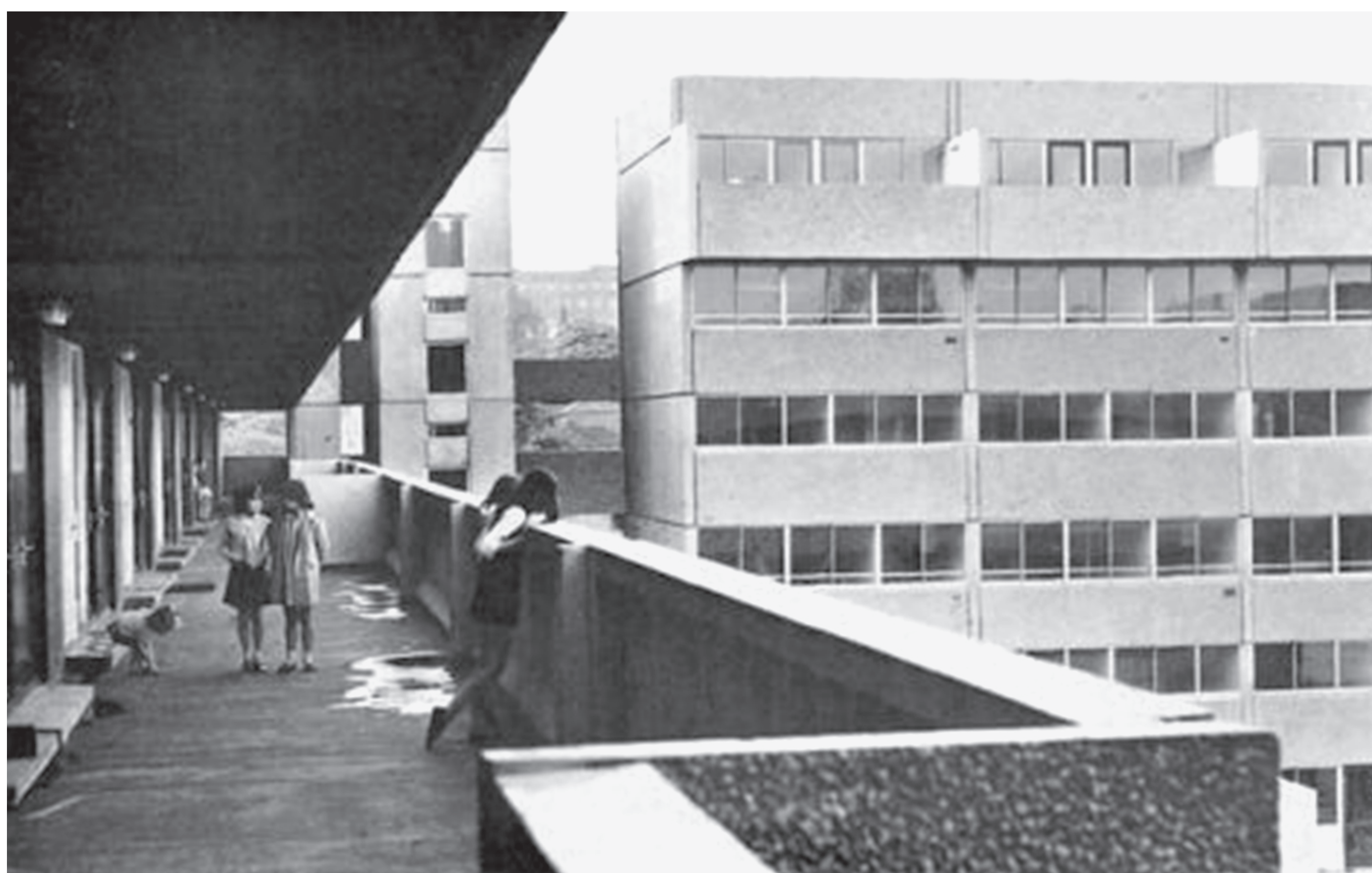
By the early 1980s the Council under the leadership of David Blunkett was pursuing a new form of community politics

and encouraging alternative economic development strategies. In 1981, the Red Flag was flown above City Hall.

### A fight for better conditions

While unemployment soared, local communities continued to fight for better conditions. Broomhall Tenants Association launched a successful campaign demanding improvements to their estate and eventually, its demolition.

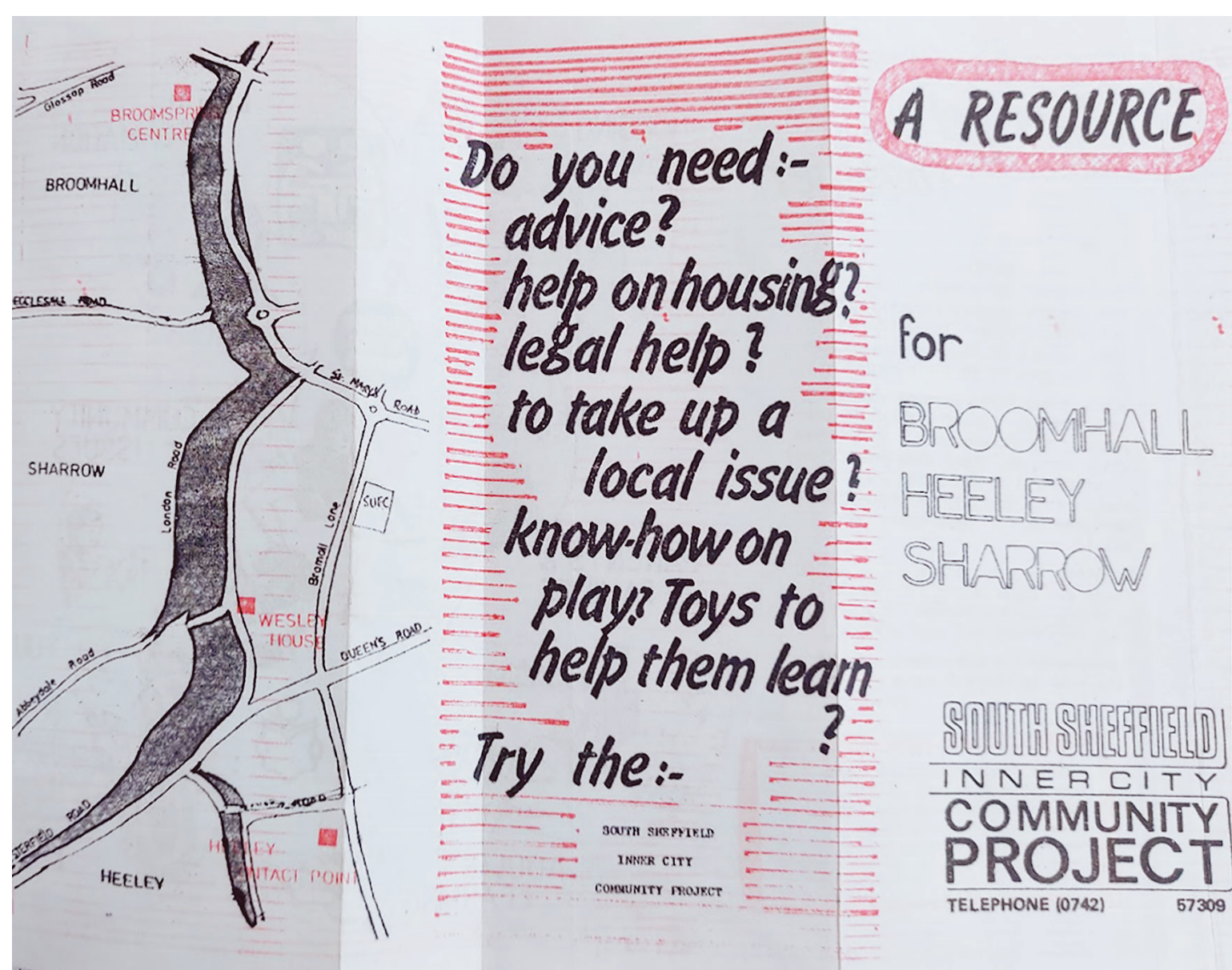
Several of those involved in community action and planning in South Sheffield were drawn into local politics, including Dave Skinner, Alan Billings, Veronica Hardstaff, Jean Cromar, Roy Darke and Tony Tigwell who all became local councillors.



Broomhall Flats. Source SSICCP, with thanks to Sheffield Local Studies Library

### The South Sheffield Inner-City Community Project

The South Sheffield Inner-City Community Project employed community workers in Sharrow and Broomhall from its base in Wesley House. They supported community action to fight poverty and built links with between different racial and ethnic groups in the area, including the Asian Welfare Association.



Source SSICCP, with thanks to Sheffield Local Studies Library

### End of an era

But Sheffield was on a collision course with the government. In 1985, "Rate Capping" was introduced. Initially, Sheffield Council refused to comply with government spending restrictions, but in May 1985, set a rate in accordance with the law, signalling a new phase in municipal politics and – with the loss of project funding - the end of an era for community-led planning.



Source: Geoff Green

