

SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ACTION

Summing Up

The heyday of community-led planning in Sheffield was short, but significant. Coalitions of working class communities, faith groups and community workers came together to challenge the establishment – and sometimes won!

A new approach to campaigning supplemented Sheffield's tradition of labour activism, building networks of organisations and helping shape the radical municipal politics of the 1980s. But reliance on external funding and key individuals made groups vulnerable.

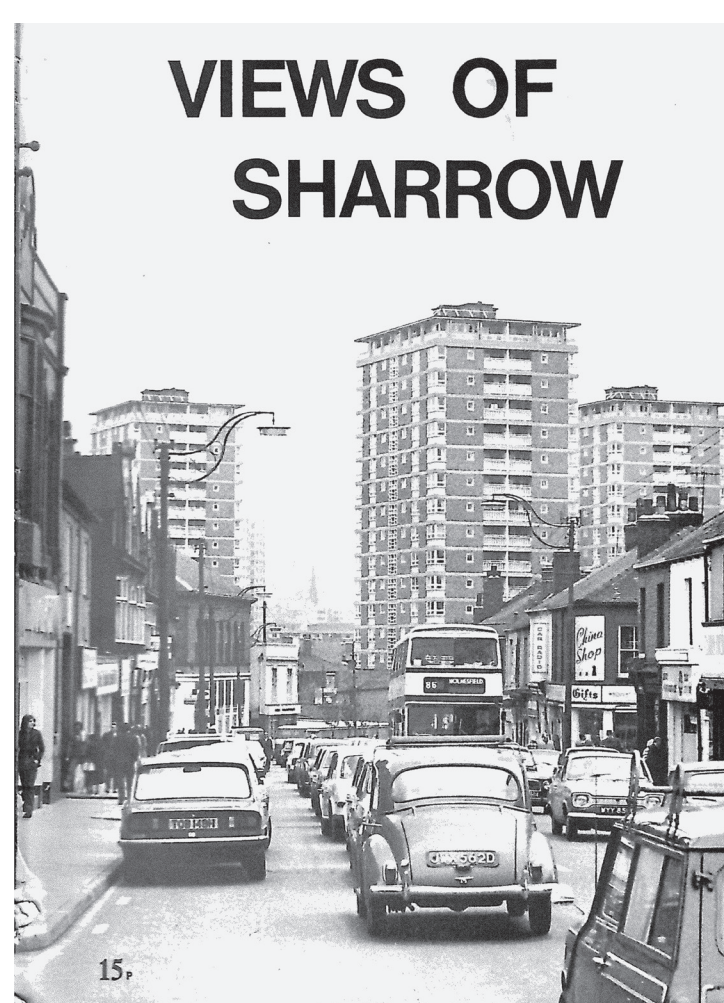
Representation

Not everyone was equally represented. Black and minority communities had lived in inner-areas of Sheffield for decades. Some got involved in planning issues, but building and maintaining relations between groups proved difficult

Won and lost

Community action in Sheffield showed it was possible to act inside and outside the local State, but it's tricky. Things won in one period can be lost in another.

Photo: Andy Inch



Sharrow Action Group 1972



Photo: Glyn Robbins

Images clockwise from top: Photo of Sharrow today, photo of Heeley City Farm today, Views of Sharrow produced by Sharrow Action Group 1972.

Photo: Wesley House today, Glyn Robbins



Veteran community activists

In March 2023, veteran community activists came to a reunion, with a strong sense of pride in what they achieved, a recognition that times have changed, but determination that the hope of earlier years can be revived.

