

SHEFFIELD COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ACTION

The emergence of community action

courtesy of Geoff Green

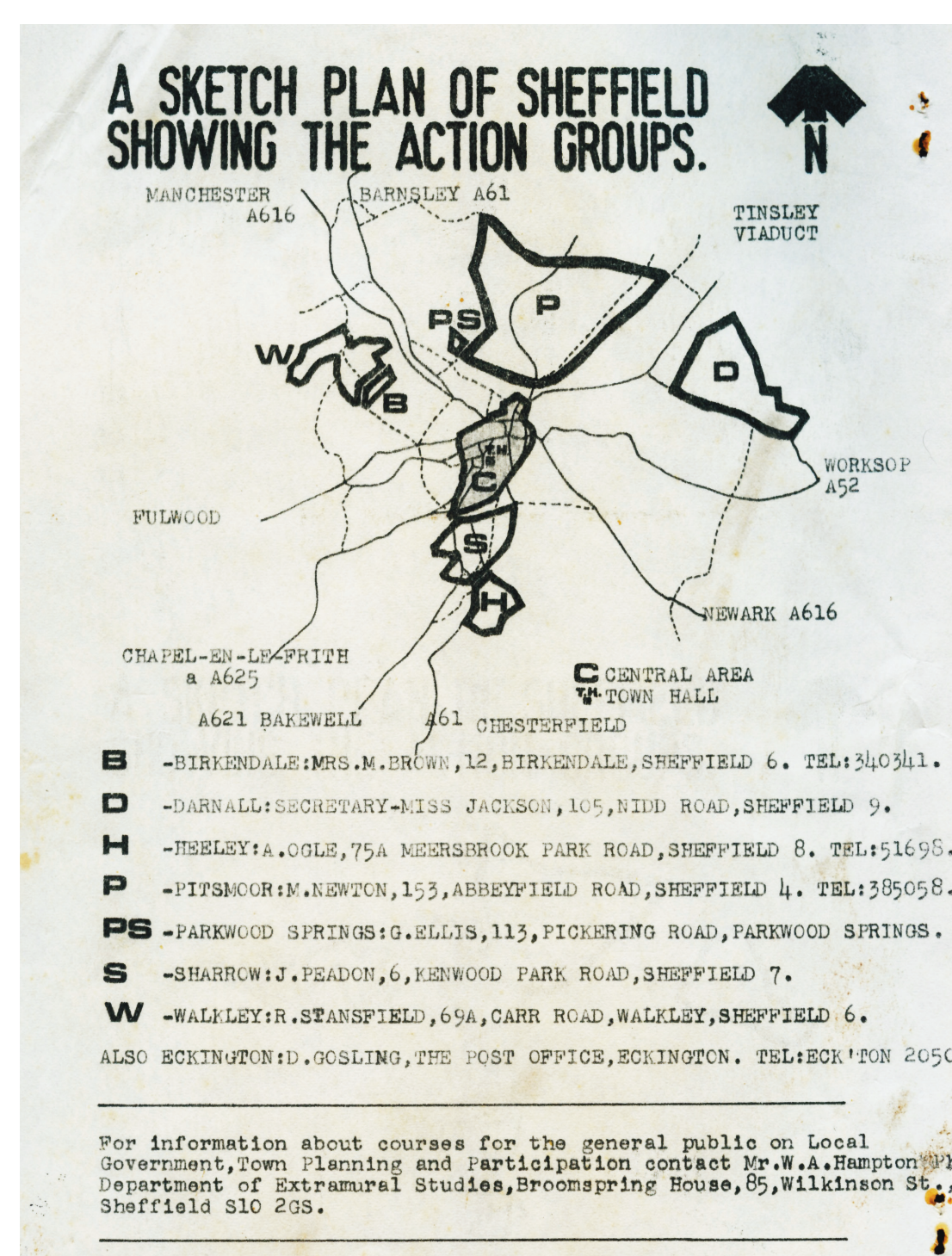


In 1968, the first Action Group formed in Walkley. Organised by Geoff Green, a politics student from Sheffield University, residents came together to challenge the local authority's secretive slum clearance programme.

The same year the Town and Country Planning Act required councils to consult residents on big projects and the Labour Party lost control of the City Council for the first time since 1932 (regaining it a year later).

The Skeffington Report

The Skeffington Report (1969), had made the case for more community participation in planning. Soon, there were groups in Sharrow, Darnall, Pitsmoor, Heeley, Parkwood Springs, Birkendale, supported by students at Sheffield University.

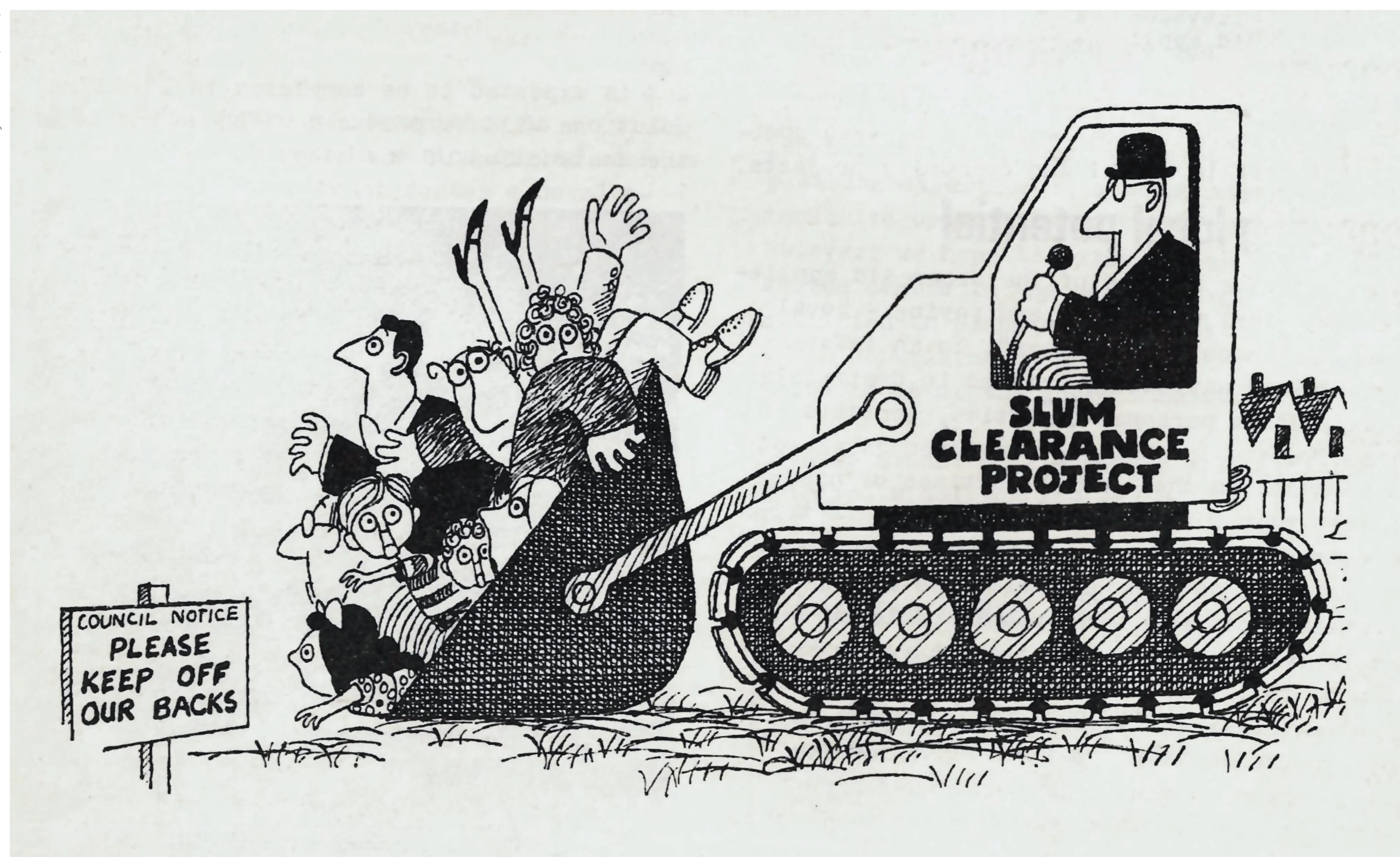


Sheffield Grassroots

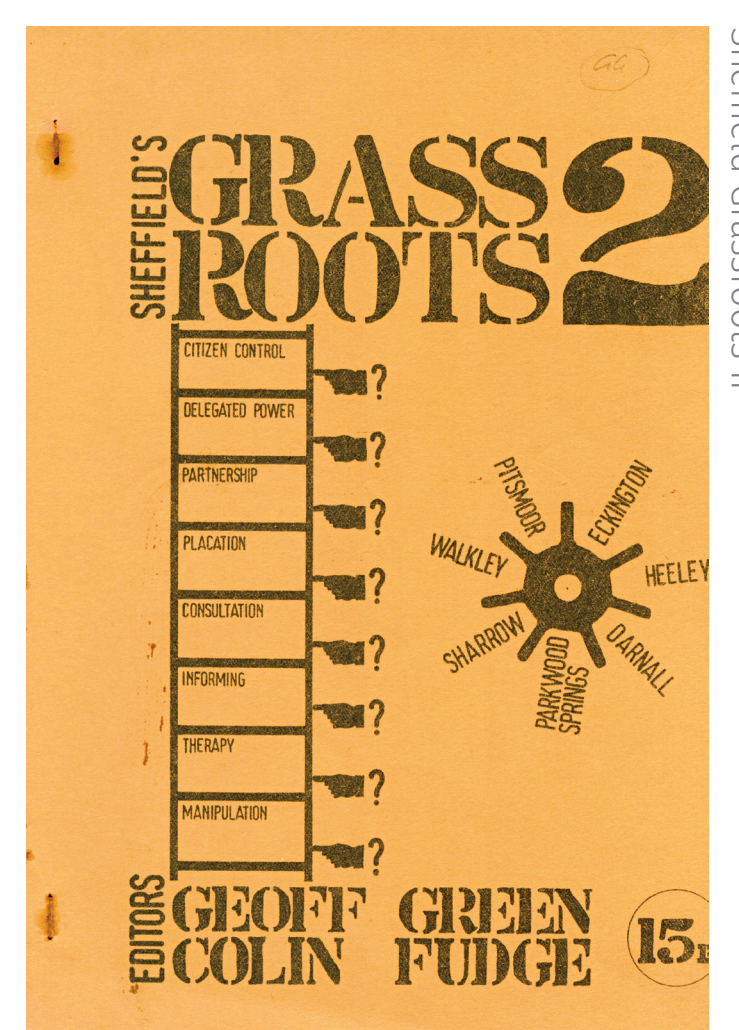
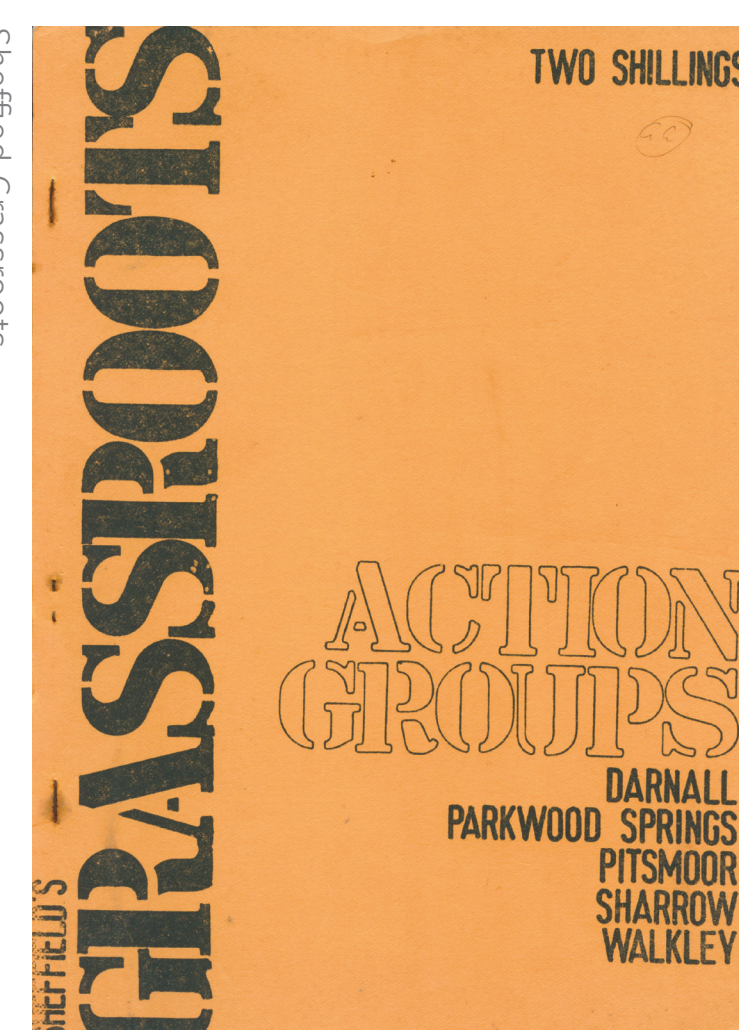
The Action Groups were building influence. One activist in Walkley, Veronica Hardstaff recalls:

“Housing was a very big issue. There were still thousands of unfit homes in the area. We demanded they were brought up to standard - not demolished. We helped transform housing conditions in Walkley.”

Community Action (1972)



Sheffield Grassroots



Sheffield Grassroots II

Grassroots

Sharing information and knowledge was vital. From 1970, two issues of “Grassroots”, a local magazine of community activism, were published.

