

Engagement plan for proposed demolition of John O’Gaunt building

1. Introduction and Overview

1.1 Background of the John O’Gaunt building and proposed demolition: The John O’Gaunt (JOG) is a vacant, two-storey brick building in the Gaunt shopping precinct, acquired by the Council in 2022 to support the Gleadless Valley Regeneration Programme goals. Since purchase it has fallen into serious disrepair, suffering vandalism, decay and, most recently, an arson attack on 7 November 2023 that caused extensive smoke and water damage. Assessments by engineers and insurers have confirmed that refurbishment would require significant investment with no confirmed future use, and ongoing safety and reputational risks for the Council. To remove liabilities, address public safety concerns, and prepare the site for future development, demolition is recommended

1.2 Purpose of the engagement plan: The purpose of this engagement plan is to ensure that residents, local businesses, and stakeholders are informed, listened to, and involved in the proposed demolition of the John O’Gaunt (JOG) building.

This plan outlines how the Council will:

- Share clear and timely information about the reasons for demolition and next steps.
- Provide opportunities for local people to ask questions, raise concerns, and influence how the demolition is managed and communicated.
- Reassure the community that their views will be considered, especially around safety, disruption, and future use of the site.
- Build trust by demonstrating openness and transparency in decision-making, while maintaining clear lines of accountability.

This engagement plan supports the wider regeneration work in Gleadless Valley by showing that the Council is committed to working *with* the community throughout every stage of the process.

1.3 Overview of the project: The demolition of the John O’Gaunt building is a pivotal early step in regenerating the Gaunt precinct. Left vacant and damaged by fire, the building now:

- Presents safety risks
- Attracts anti-social behaviour
- Detracts from the look and confidence of the area

The demolition will:

- Remove a dangerous, deteriorating structure
- Improve the visual environment and sense of safety for residents and businesses
- Clear the site for future redevelopment in line with the Gleadless Valley Regeneration Programme

Short-term community concerns may include:

- Disruption from demolition works (noise, dust, traffic)
- Uncertainty about the site's future use
- Worry that community views won't shape what comes next

How this engagement plan will help:

- Provide accurate, timely information about demolition timing and process
- Offer clear, accessible routes for questions and feedback
- Report back on community input using a "You Said, We Did / We Couldn't Because" format

2. Objectives of Engagement**2.1 Ensuring local residents are informed about the proposal:**

The engagement process will ensure that residents have clear, timely, and accessible information about the proposed demolition of the John O'Gaunt building. This includes the reasons behind the proposal, the current condition of the building, the timeline for decision-making, and what the demolition process would involve. Multiple communication channels will be used to reach as many people as possible, including printed materials, social media, drop-in sessions, and community events

2.2 Gathering feedback and addressing concerns from the community:

Residents and stakeholders will be given opportunities to share their views, questions, and concerns about the proposed demolition. Feedback will be gathered through both formal and informal methods — such as surveys, comment boxes, face-to-face conversations, and online

engagement tools. The aim is to understand community priorities, hear any worries around safety, disruption or future use, and to respond to these openly and respectfully

2.3 Ensuring transparency and fostering trust in the process:

Transparency is central to this engagement process. The Council will be clear about the reasons for the proposal, the options considered, and how decisions are being made. Regular updates will be shared, including summaries of what people have said and how their views are being considered. This open approach is designed to build trust between residents and the Council, especially in light of wider regeneration plans in Gleadless Valley

2.4 Providing opportunities for residents to shape the outcome:

While the structural issues and safety risks may mean demolition is the only viable option, there are still areas where local voices can and should shape the outcomes. This includes how the demolition is managed, how disruption is minimised, what temporary uses of the cleared site might be considered, and how future plans for the area are developed. Residents will be invited to contribute ideas and priorities, ensuring that the next steps reflect the needs and aspirations of the community

3. Key Stakeholders and Target Audience

3.1 Table of stakeholders and interest

Stakeholder Group	Who this includes	Role / Interest
Local Residents	Households surrounding Gaunt precinct (within 100 to 250M radius	Directly affected by the demolition; concerns around safety, noise, disruption, future plans
Local Businesses	Shops, services, and businesses in the precinct	Impact on footfall, safety, and future development opportunities
VCF Organisations	Gleadless Valley Foodbank, Regather, Heeley Trust,	Support residents, provide insight into community needs, trusted engagement channels

Ward Councillors	Local elected representatives and leader/s	Represent resident concerns, support with communications
Council Departments	Housing, Planning, Central Communications Parks and Countryside	Deliver the project, manage communications, and lead on planning
Emergency Services	Police, Fire Service	Safety implications, site monitoring, risk management

3.2 Identification of target audience for engagement (those within 100-250m radius)

INSERT ADDRESSES of residents

List of specific business and organisations with addresses

4. Engagement Methods and Tools

4.1 table of methods and description

Method	Description
Drop-in Sessions	Informal sessions held at Gleadless Valley Foodbank where residents can ask questions, share concerns, and speak directly with staff.

Online Consultation Platform	Digital space (e.g 'Have Your Say' site & Facebook page) for residents to view proposals and submit feedback at their convenience.
Direct Outreach	Letters and emails sent to residents and businesses within the target area to inform them and encourage participation.
Site Visits & Information Boards	Physical signage and display boards placed around the John O'Gaunt site and precinct to explain the proposal and signpost how to get involved.
Collaboration with Local Partners	Work with organisations such as Heeley Trust, the GV Foodbank and Council services to promote engagement and gather feedback through trusted local networks.

5. Communication Channels

5.1 How information will be disseminated:

Information will be shared through direct letters to residents, the Council's 'Have Your Say' platform, the Gleadless Valley Facebook page, and partner networks such as Heeley Trust and the Foodbank. A press release will also be issued to support wider awareness

5.2 Frequency and timing of updates:

Updates will be issued at key stages, such as before demolition begins, when plans progress, or when there is a clear community concern to respond to. Communications will be timed to give residents reasonable notice and clear next step

5.3 Methods for residents to submit feedback:

Residents will be able to provide feedback via short online surveys (hosted on 'Have Your Say'), paper surveys where needed, and one-to-one conversations with trusted local partners. Contact details for submitting comments in writing or by phone will also be included in letters.

6. Timeline of Engagement Activities

6.1 Table of activities **DATES TO BE INSERTED/CONFIRMED INTO TABLE**

Week	Activities	Purpose
------	------------	---------

Week 1–2	- Launch communications: leaflets, social media, posters, door-knocking - Open online and paper feedback channels - Hold a drop-in session/event at GV foodbank	Raise awareness, start gathering feedback, offer face-to-face engagement
Week 3–4	- Continue collecting responses - Promote through VCF partners (e.g., Heeley Trust, GV Foodbank) - Share reminder posts to encourage more participation. Post feedback on Have your say platform and Facebook so others can see	Maintain momentum and reach a wider, more diverse audience
Week 5–6 (optional)	- Fill engagement gaps (e.g. Low-response from residents in identified area) - Final push via Facebook and Have your say platform. Close feedback period and begin analysis	Maximise participation and ensure inclusive input
Post-engagement	- Share findings with stakeholders and Regen Board - Produce a “You said, we heard” summary for residents	Demonstrate transparency and build trust for future engagement

7. Key Messages and Information to be Shared

7.1 Details of the proposed demolition and any potential developments:

Messages through social media and letters to residents and stakeholders in the affected area will be contacted with confirmed dates and information of who to contact if they need any further information. The messages and correspondence will also detail potential impacts on local community, traffic, services, etc.

- The John O’Gaunt building is due to be demolished – this is to ensure safety and support future improvements in the area.
- Demolition is planned to start on **DATE** and will last approximately **XXXX**
- Local residents and stakeholders will be kept informed before, during, and after the demolition.
- All works will follow health and safety regulations and best practice.
- Some disruption is expected (noise, dust, road access), and we will do our best to minimise this.
- For any concerns, questions or further information please contact: enquireleadlessvalley@sheffield.gov.uk alternatively you can call us on 0114 273 6369
- The long-term use of the site has not yet been decided – there will be opportunities for residents to share ideas and help shape what comes next.

- This is your neighbourhood – we want to work together with you throughout this process

8. Feedback and Response Mechanisms

8.1 Methods for collecting feedback from residents:

Feedback will be gathered through face-to-face conversations, drop-in sessions, short surveys (online and paper), and feedback forms at resident events.

8.2 Plans for addressing concerns and issues raised:

While the decision to demolish the John O'Gaunt building is confirmed (upon board approval) all feedback will be reviewed to identify concerns around timing, safety, disruption, or future use of the site. Where possible, we will take action to minimise negative impacts and ensure residents feel heard and supported.

8.3 How feedback will be shared back with the community:

We will use a clear 'You Said, We Did / We Couldn't Because' approach, and provide updates by writing directly to affected residents and through the Council's 'Have Your Say' platform

9. Monitoring and Reporting

9.1 How engagement progress will be tracked:

Engagement activities will be logged by Heeley Trust and Council staff, including dates, locations, number of residents spoken to, and key themes raised. Attendance and response rates from surveys or communications will also be monitored

9.2 Methods for evaluating the success of engagement efforts:

Success will be measured by the level of resident participation, the diversity of voices heard, and how well feedback has helped shape the approach to delivery, such as timing, communication, minimising disruption, and addressing community concerns. While the planning outcome (e.g. demolition) is fixed, resident input will still inform how the process is managed and communicated. Qualitative insights and case studies may also be used to assess impact.

9.3 Reporting and sharing outcomes with the community:

Outcomes will be shared with residents via direct letters, the Council's 'Have Your Say' platform, and community noticeboards where appropriate.

10. Risk Management and Contingencies

Risk/Challenge	Description	Contingency Plan
Resident apathy or disengagement	Low interest or participation due to lack of trust or perceived lack of influence	Use trusted local partners (e.g. Heeley Trust and GV Foodbank) for outreach, keep messaging clear and honest about what is and isn't changeable, and follow up with written updates to build trust over time.
Misinformation or rumours	False or misleading information spreading within the community	Respond quickly with factual updates via letters, trusted contacts, and the 'Have Your Say' platform. Use a consistent message across all channels.
Anger or distress about demolition	Some residents may feel upset or unheard about the decision to demolish the JOG	Acknowledge concerns sensitively, offer one-to-one conversations, and explain the reasons clearly while reinforcing how feedback is still shaping the process.
Digital exclusion	Some residents may not access online surveys or platforms	Provide paper surveys, offer phone contact options, and use in-person or partner-led outreach where possible.
Low feedback return rate	Limited responses to surveys or requests for input	Keep questions short and targeted, offer simple ways to respond (e.g. return slips, drop boxes), and follow up through trusted community networks.
SCC reputation risk	Residents may feel decisions are being imposed or that engagement is tokenistic	Be transparent about which decisions are fixed and which are open. Share feedback honestly using 'You Said, We Did / We Couldn't Because' to show accountability. Work through local partners to build trust and credibility.

11. Conclusion

11.1 We are committed to ensuring residents are kept informed and have opportunities to influence how the demolition and future development of the John O’Gaunt building site is managed. While the decision to demolish has already been made, resident feedback will play a key role in shaping how we minimise disruption, communicate clearly, and plan for what comes next.

Engagement will be delivered in partnership with trusted local organisations, using accessible and honest communication. We will listen carefully to all feedback and respond through a clear ‘You Said, We Did / We Couldn’t Because’ approach.

We will also complete an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) as part of our commitment to inclusive and responsible decision-making.

We encourage residents to stay involved and share their views throughout the project, so we can continue to build trust, respond to concerns, and deliver positive outcomes for the community.

Appendix 1

Draft leaflet/flyer for residents/stakeholders (see overleaf)



We want to talk about a change happening near your home

We want to let you know that we (Sheffield City Council) are progressing with plans to demolish the former John O'Gaunt Pub building at 151 Blackstock Road.

The Council and the Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board (including local community members, councillors and the MP) carefully explored bringing the existing building back into use, but concluded demolition is the only viable financial option.

The building has been empty since 2022 and is now in poor condition. Taking it down could help improve the area — but we know people live nearby, and your views are valuable as we plan the next steps. **We'd like to know:**



How do you feel about knocking the building down?



Do you have any questions or worries?



What would you like the space to be used for in future?



Is there anything else we should know?

Over the next few weeks, we'll be in the area to talk to local people and hear your views. If you'd prefer to contact us, please use the details below. Then, we'll share what we've heard and let you know what happens next. Thank you.

Telephone: 0114 273 6369

Email: enquiregleadlessvalley@sheffield.gov.uk

Facebook: bit.ly/GVregenFB

Website : www.sheffield.gov.uk/gleadlessvalley



DRAFT