

The Voices of Hallam

Vulcan stands proudly above the town hall clock
A symbol of Sheffield's strength and pride
While, unseen below, callous plans are unlocked
Which breed much confusion, and citizens divide

Sheffield's attractions are many and green
Europe's biggest village, they say,
With leafy suburbs which trees help to clean
And parks which are verdant and places to play

Sheffield has waterways between seven hills
Loxley, Porter, Rivelin and Sheaf
Arterial clearways of long history and mills
They flow into the Don, their chief

Sheffield's heritage is under great threat
From those with no soul or sense of connect
The reason for outrage the leaders don't get
They're happy to see what's valuable wrecked

Sheffield the emerging city of the sixties
Has become lately the site of a battle
Citizens who care have taken steps risky
To react to council bluster and prattle

It's not just the trees, it's the parks and the history
The old town hall and the castle the same
Birley Spa, its sale is to locals a mystery,
The old things of value, to sell them's the aim

The Vernon Oak and the Chelsea Elm
Silent predecessors of urban sprawl
Innocent targets of council stupidity
False accountancy, clear to all

But the conscience of Hallam can now be heard
Enough is enough, say the gathering voices
Heroic defenders have recently stirred
And made clear more viable choices

It's more than trees now, it's how things are run
It's how do we tell what's false and what's true,
The key facts are hidden from the light of the sun
Denied to the many and locked away by the few.

Thanks to the grass roots, heroic and few,
The thoughts of the many have stirred
We're now more informed of what's really true
And how our leaders have erred

Thanks to those who started the fight
And pointed out what was worth saving
And how our leaders must guard Sheffield's rights
And at last stop their crass misbehaving