

**ROTHER VALLEY EAST AREA ASSEMBLY**  
**held at Charles Foster Community Centre**  
**on 13th October, 2003**

Present:-

Councillor Georgina Boyes	Ward No. 21 (Thurcroft and Whiston)
John Clephan	Integrated Development Programme, RMBC
Tom Cray	Executive Director, Housing and Environmental Services
Ann Dickinson	Highfield Park, Maltby
Susan Green	Democratic Services Officer, RMBC
Jeanette Hamilton	Young People's Services, RMBC
Russell Howes	Maltby Environmental Group
Martin Hughes	Area Officer, RMBC
David Morton	Maltby Town Council
Councillor Glyn Robinson	Ward No. 14 (Maltby) – IN THE CHAIR
Sam Rowley	Area Co-ordinator, Rother Valley East (Streetpride)
Councillor Amy Rushforth	Ward No. 14 (Maltby)
Jean Walling	Highfield Park, Maltby
Steve Wibberley	Area Manager, Rother Valley (Streetpride), RMBC
Andy Wright	Young People's Services, RMBC

**43. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Ron Pearson, Jed Nightingale and Jo Burton, Sue Butler, Ray Sholl, Sue Weatherley, George Skinner, Chris Purvis, Lisa DuValle, Ken Thompson and Lesley Fletcher.

**44. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING AREA ASSEMBLY CHAIR AND RECORDING OF MINUTES**

Councillor Robinson explained that in view of his recent appointment to Cabinet Member for Community Planning and Social Inclusion he had formally resigned as Chairman of this Assembly. Councillor Robinson had enjoyed the role of Chairman since the formation of Area Assemblies in 1999 and therefore the decision was made with a degree of sadness.

Furthermore subsequent meetings of the Assembly would be minuted by the Area Assembly's Support Officer and not the Democratic Services Officer.

Councillor Robinson suggested that for the purpose of this meeting Councillor Amy Rushforth take the chair.

**(Councillor Amy Rushforth assumed the Chair).**

AGREED:- (i) That thanks be extended to Councillor Glyn Robinson for his work and involvement in this Area Assembly and every good wish extended to him in his Cabinet role.

(ii) That thanks be extended to the Democratic Services Officer for her work within this Assembly.

#### **45. FUTURE ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS**

Tom Cray, Executive Director, Housing and Environmental Services was welcomed to the meeting to give a verbal report on his role within Rotherham MBC and this Assembly, following a request from the Management Team to assist in the further development of Area Assemblies.

Tom described the roles he would play: firstly as lead officer to support (not take over) the area assembly – secondly as the Executive Director responsible for developing area assemblies as a vehicle for greater co-ordination and coherence in service delivery – lastly, to ensure that the Housing and Environmental Services activities are consistent with council thinking in relation to the area assembly and community agenda.

Other Executive Directors had been identified as lead officers across the Borough with other Assemblies.

AGREED:- That the Executive Director be thanked for his verbal report and welcomed to the Area Assembly team.

#### **46. YOUNG ROOTS PROJECT**

Andy Wright and Jeanette Hamilton attended the meeting to give a verbal presentation on their work within the community and the nature of the service they provided for 11-21 year olds.

They were a small team based at Maltby Youth and Community Centre, on the school site, operating five evenings and one afternoon each week.

Their role was to raise awareness of the part young people were able to play in the community and of the need to recognise their achievements.

The Young Roots Project had evolved as part of the role young people had played in the development of Maltby's Community Plan which they had greatly contributed to in a positive way. They had been involved on street lighting and road safety issues, together with other aspects highlighted in the Community Plan – motorcycle nuisance and alcohol use. Youths had gone on to form a Participation Group who were working towards the Heritage Project. During the period of this work youths had come across a great deal of information on Maltby's history which they now wanted to utilise for the good of the community.

Other more recent youth work involved work on the local tip field and community house on White City. External funding to allow this work to continue was being pursued.

It was hoped to be able to develop a forum for young people in Maltby who could eventually evolve into a self-supporting Young People's Forum which could feed into the Assembly process.

A successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been granted for £24,800 for the delivery of an eighteen months project about Maltby's heritage, the National Coal Mining Board having been appointed as a partner to aid the project delivery.

The group also practised dance, drama and performing arts and, with the help of visual artists and photographers, it was intended to stage short performances to depict the work.

The initial stage of the work was to consult and research. This entailed scanning the internet and archives, speaking to family members and visiting Clifton Park Museum. A video would be available at the end of the project for use in local schools and it was hoped to present a piece of drama about local heritage to local schools.

It was also hoped to complete a tapestry for the project from within the community. This will include input from all groups, for example centres for learning difficulties, Sure Start, Women's Groups and Community Associations.

The project would also include a visit to a coal mine by local youths.

At the conclusion of the work it was hoped to stage a production at the Civic Theatre in Rotherham by February, 2005.

It was emphasised that this would be a major achievement for the young people involved in the project who did not come from artistic backgrounds.

Any local information and photographs to aid this work would be welcome.

Andy Wright and Jeanette Hamilton could be contacted on Rotherham 819581 and talks could be given to local groups on this matter.

Thanks were extended to the Assembly, local Schools and Maltby Town Council for their help in securing funding and giving youths an opportunity to have an input.

Local residents suggested that previous work on Roche Abbey, Cadets, Navy and St. John's Ambulance be included in this work.

Martin Hughes suggested that it may be useful to link information on to the new web site and the new monthly community newspaper which would be circulated in the New Year.

The meeting went on to discuss a lack of involvement by Maltby youths on the Youth Cabinet.

Andy Wright explained that Maltby youths were involved in the Rotherham Youth Forum and Youth Parliament, the latter being a national initiative for

young people's involvement in politics, in addition to having played a major role in last year's Youth Conference. Further involvement of youths was being pursued through local schools and a recent meeting of UK Parliament had involved people from Maltby.

AGREED:- That Andy Wright and Jeanette Hamilton be thanked for their presentation.

**47. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

AGREED:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th September, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

**48. MATTERS ARISING****(a) New Community Facilities at Thurcroft Junior School**

Councillor Boyes reported that, despite a delay in the completion of media facilities, there had been a good attendance at the opening of the new facilities. A great deal of children had been having fun. It was felt the facility would be of real benefit to the community with every intention to see it well used and supported.

**(b) Proposed Changes to Area Assembly Boundaries**

Martin Hughes read out a letter sent on behalf of the Assembly to the Electoral Commission regarding the Assembly's concern around the change of name for Ward 20 from the proposed 'Hellaby' to 'Wickersley South' following a letter received by the Commission from one resident.

The letter pointed out that the Assembly felt they had ignored the democratic process, despite wide consultation through the 8 Area Assemblies in the Borough. The Rother Valley East Area Assembly had supported Rotherham MBC's proposals, including the naming of Ward 20 as 'Hellaby'.

The letter asked the Commission for an explanation as to why one letter from a resident could supersede the wider consultation process that Rotherham had undertaken, and consequently had asked that the suggested name revert to 'Hellaby'.

A response was awaited.

David Morton confirmed that a similar letter had been sent in support of this request from Maltby Town Council.

**(c) Whiston Parish Council Report**

Inspector Steve Lavin had given an assurance that PC Marriott had contacted George Skinner (Whiston Parish Council) in order to discuss youth nuisance in Whiston.

**(d) Post Boxes in Thurcroft**

Martin Hughes had sent a second letter to Mr. Clarke at Royal Mail regarding a lack of post boxes in Thurcroft.

Martin gave an undertaking to pursue this matter verbally.



**(e) Closure of Sub-Post Offices**

Martin Hughes read out a letter sent to the National Consultation Team of the Post Office regarding concerns expressed over the proposed closure of Whiston Post Office.

An extract from the minutes of the previous meeting had been attached for information.

The letter explained the status of the Area Assembly and referred to the element of the Assembly's work being to support the production of Community Plans for villages within the area, one of the main issues raised by residents being 'mobility' and the difficulty in accessing services outside the village, a difficulty which it was felt the closure of the local Post Office will amplify. Furthermore, that the Community Plan process had identified the local Post Office as one of the 'strengths' within the community.

Martin had received a lengthy reply to this letter which explained why it was proposed to close the branch and what facilities will be on offer if they decide to go ahead. The letter pointed out that it was due to falling customer numbers, increasing running costs and increased customer choice about how their benefits are paid, together with the introduction of Direct Payment into accounts. As such, the sub-postmaster, with their agreement, is seeking to pursue different interests. As part of a complete review of this and other branches in the area, they had concluded that there are several branches nearby and each one is competing to serve fewer and fewer customers.

The letter gave an assurance that all representations received will be taken into account before a final decision is made on this branch and that the Assembly's comments and observations will form part of this process.

Councillor Boyes explained that local Councillors had campaigned for a long time on behalf of local residents and explained the problem for local people in travelling to the nearest post office on Broom Lane. The elderly people in the community had also been widely encouraged to use the post office which they had done.

A copy of the response from the National Consultation Team was made available at the meeting.

**49. CORRESPONDENCE**

Martin Hughes reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:-

Supertram Proposals

(1) Martin had been informed by a Maltby resident that South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive had visited Maltby the first week in October with a mobile roadshow.

Martin had written to Pam Horner and Claire Leventon at SYPTE pointing out that neither the Area Assembly nor Maltby Town Council had been informed of this and that consequently their members had not been informed of the event.

Claire Leventon had replied to apologise for this oversight, explaining that they had been arranged at short notice at the request of Councillor Gerald Smith. They had assumed that adverts in the Rotherham Advertiser and Rotherham, Meadowhall and Dinnington interchanges would have been sufficient in informing the public of its whereabouts.

Claire had given assurances that in future they would ensure that the Area Assembly and Town Council will be informed of any further events and consultation.

Removal of Planters at the Junction of Dunns Dale/Park View and Stone Park Close

(2) Letter to Keith Stringer in response to a request from the Area Housing Panel (E and F) to remove the above planters.

Martin had replied explaining that the Streetpride budget for this financial year has just been agreed and enclosing a copy of the Spending Plan for Ward 14 and Ward 21. The letter explained that the Plan includes the removal of 3 planters, including the planter in the Stone Park Close area. The one opposite 44 Dunns Dale is not.

The letter pointed out that it may be possible to remove other planters on the estate through the devolved Streetpride budget in subsequent years, with a suggestion that if the Housing Panel is keen to contribute to the removal of these planters now or in the future they should contact Sam Rowley, Streetpride.

The correspondence had been passed to Sam Rowley.

Councillor Robinson pointed out that the planters had originally been installed to put an end to “rat-running” through the estate. Therefore if the planters were removed it would be necessary to replace them with another form of barrier.

The meeting felt this was more a highway matter.

Martin agreed to clarify how the Housing Panel budget was intended to be spent and report back to Sam Rowley.

(3) Letter from Mr. Appleyard, Maltby resident requesting up to date information on the Local Transport Plan, the wider concept plan for street traffic calming in the area and the Community Plan.

Martin was to write to Mr. Appleyard regarding progress of the Community Plan. Andy Butler was to write to Mr. Appleyard regarding the Local Transport Plan.

(4) Letter from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive giving details of the quarterly service changes at the beginning of September and enclosing service leaflets for these routes.

The letter explained that the usual quarterly changes will take place at the end of October which will be forwarded once available.

#### (5) Planning Issues

Application No. RB2003/1741 - A recent planning application for the erection of boundary fencing at Maltby Comprehensive School, Braithwell Road, Maltby.

Russell Howes asked exactly which piece of fencing this was as there was a particularly dangerous area where the fence was broken with a sheer drop onto rubble. This area was also where gangs of youths congregated.

Martin Hughes undertook to investigate this matter and report directly to Russell Howes.

The problem area would be reported to Maltby Town Council.

### 50. HANDOUTS

The handout pack available at the meeting included information on the following:-

Today's Agenda

Rotherham Streetpride – Devolved Budget

Rotherham Streetpride – Customer Report Form

Area Assembly Team Report

Area Assembly Newsletter

Maltby's Future Newsletter

Area Assembly Community Chest

Area Assembly Meetings for 2004

Future Agenda Items

Maltby Community Safety Group – Minutes 8th September, 2003

First Responder Scheme

Rotherham Community Safety and Advice Centre

### 51. FEEDBACK FROM MALTBY TOWN COUNCIL

David Morton gave an update on work undertaken by the Town Council since the last Assembly meeting held in Maltby.

David welcomed new initiatives to drive forward the Area Assembly process and hoped both Parish and Town Councils had a supportive role to play, particularly as the new assembly boundaries seemed more realistic and workable.

The Town Council had a good working relationship with Streetpride officers. The Town Council had agreed to provide litter and dog waste bins in Maltby. Liaison would take place with Sam Rowley regarding the siting of those bins. Community and Environmental Groups had been asked their views on this.

The Town Council was now heavily involved in the purchase of the Edward Dunn Memorial Hall, the spin off benefit of which would enable Maltby Sure Start to build its main base on adjacent land. Negotiations were progressing quite well and it was hoped to complete the work in 3-6 months.

The hanging baskets in Maltby had been superb and the Town Council had received a great deal of praise from members of the public. It was now hoped to expand the scheme towards Hellaby.

A community bonfire would take place on Tuesday, 4th November but from next year it would be arranged on the 5th November.

Christmas Illuminations would be switched on by the Chairman of the Town Council.

## **52. STREETPRIDE**

Steve Wibberley had no major issues to report and invited members of the public to refer any Streetpride issues to either himself or Sam Rowley.

Steve explained it was hoped to carry out the clear up work on Birks Holt within the next month. It was also hoped the British Transport Police will be clearing up the embankment.

Both officers would report to the next meeting.

Steve thanked all those involved in the work of the devolved budgets and explained that the initiative would be progressed towards next year's spend. Any ideas for community projects for next year should be sent to either himself, Sam Rowley or Martin Hughes.

Martin Hughes referred to the information contained in the meeting's handout pack on devolved budgets and confirmed that the budget had now been signed off.

It was noted that Whiston Parish Council had made no request for a final meeting with Ward Councillors in order to re-consider the projects put forward for Whiston and Thurcroft.

### **53. INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT**

John Clephan, Integrated Development Plan Manager, gave an update on the current situation relating to the following main projects for Maltby:-

#### **Central Area Framework**

This project pulled together local aspirations and projects identified on other consultations which generally included viable projects to raise the appearance of Maltby High Street, in particular to encourage more shoppers and investment from businesses. A baseline report had recently been produced which would identify all six proposals and issues which had arisen from other consultations, in addition to their own survey work over the last few months.

Atkins Consultants had now arranged a meeting of stakeholders to discuss issues identified and to come up with viable options.

Those involved were Area Assembly and Maltby Town Council members, Friends of Maltby Park and Community Development Trust and the Consultants would be visiting the Town Council to update them on progress.

Martin Hughes and residents of Maltby had already raised issues that a lot of the consultation work and questions asked have been duplicated and determined within the Community Planning work, which had gone against the original remit given to the Consultants which had been to stress that they should work with the people who are already carrying out plans in the area.

John Clephan was to meet with Maltby's representative from RMBC on these issues.

Councillor Boyes referred to a similar problem with Consultants in Thurcroft. This had been raised with Objective I representatives and assurances given that it would not happen again.

The meeting went on to share their concerns about the use of Consultants, the range of groups offering this service, and the fact that members of the community were expected to give up valuable time without an end product. Questions recently being asked along Maltby High Street had been a total duplication of LTP and Concept Plan survey work.

Martin Hughes expressed sheer frustration over the final piece of work. It seemed Consultants had to evidence things for themselves when all the consultation work had already been done once.

John Clephan explained this was not the end of the study which would now go on to develop some options for Maltby to take forward for improving the High Street.

Tom Cray referred to issues about waste of resources and consultation fatigue and explained that a group led by the Chief Executive was looking into the whole issue in terms of value for money. He undertook to look into this and familiarise the group with the problem in Maltby. He felt the other issue was the need to establish a common database of information in submitting bids for external funding.

Martin Hughes pointed out that Maltby had been the first area to complete a Community Plan. It was not only about Consultants understanding the need to deliver, but a matter of Officers within RMBC understanding it. Members of the community now expected to see projects coming to fruition through funding opportunities and advice, which they had worked so hard for and had previously identified.

John Clephan agreed there were issues in terms of contracting, and the need for Consultants to show clear evidence. However, John felt the production of the Community Plan would attract funding and was already doing so.

Business Units – Avon Industrial Estate

Negotiations were underway with the owners of the site (Ashtons) to build twenty-eight business units, part of the process being to encourage larger businesses to expand and allow other startup units to move in.

The next stage was to ensure the community and local area benefitted from the scheme in terms of who was chosen to occupy the units and employment opportunities for Maltby and Thurgroft.  
Integrated Development Plan

The Steering Group was presently commencing their development in terms of the running costs for the year and a half up to the end of 2004, and on proposals to develop the church building.

Debbie Brashaw, the new Partnership Development Officer, will be working with organisations such as Maltby Forum, Area Assembly teams and Town Council, together with similar organisations in Thurgroft and Hellaby in order to set up structures. Sub-groups would then be set up to deal with certain issues.

Sally Birch, Project Officer, will be taking the lead on the projects within the plan at the moment that have not progressed, and to hopefully generate new projects for the next period up to 2005.

#### **54. AREA ASSEMBLY REPORT**

Martin Hughes gave an update on the following aspects of his work:-

##### Area Assembly Boundaries to Change

Ward boundaries in Rotherham are set to change in June 2004. As a result of this the Area Assembly boundaries will also change. The new arrangements will have a major affect on the current Rother Valley East Assembly. From June, Martin will be responsible for Area Assembly 5 (not yet named). This is made up of 3 new wards and includes Maltby, Hellaby, Bramley, Wickersley, Sunnyside and Flanderwell. One of the ward boundaries splits Maltby in two.

The immediate work is centred on:-

- producing an Area Plan focussing on Wealth, Health, Learning and Safe/Inclusive Communities (in line with Rotherham's Community Strategy). This work includes pulling together a team of key workers.
- shadowing areas not presently covered (Bramley, Wickersley, etc.)
- working with Area Officers of other Area Assemblies to transfer responsibilities for Thurgroft and Whiston

##### Maltby Community Plan

Implementation of the plan continues with varying degrees of success. The latest edition of "Maltby's Future" has been distributed throughout

Maltby, the newsletter provides an update on the projects/proposals identified in the Community Plan.

The plan has been entered into two national awards celebrating 'Best Practice in Community Regeneration'. It is through to the final round of one and into the second round of another. It could result in representatives of the Maltby Forum attending the award ceremony at the House of Lords.

The next public meeting which is open to all who live or work in Maltby, is on Saturday, 6th December 2003 at 10.00 a.m. at the Edward Dunn Memorial Hall.

Councillor Boyes stressed the importance of the need to link the Cultural Strategy and Annual Library Plan to this work.

#### Maltby Community Safety Group

The group consists of officers, workers and elected members only, due to the confidential nature of some of the discussions. The priorities of the group are dictated by the community through the estate partnerships, the Maltby Community Plan/Maltby Forum, Area Assembly etc.

These are – Estate Security, Anti-social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol and Fear of Crime.

The group has pulled together action plans for each of these priorities and provides feedback to the local organisations. Latest minutes are included in this meeting's handout pack. The group is currently pulling together a half yearly report, which will shortly be available for the Assembly. The date of the next meeting is Monday, 10th November at 10.00 a.m. at Maltby Police Station.

#### White City/Birks Holt Partnership

Continue to tackle issues around – Partnership Development, Community Facilities, Community Safety, Children and Young People, Housing and Environment.

Each of these issues are tackled through sub-groups, which report to the regular Partnership meetings.

#### Staff Update (RVE/Maltby)

Sue Weatherley – new Area Assembly Support Officer  
Chris Sissons – left; post of Community Planning Officer has been disestablished.  
Fiona Lewis – left; position of Community Development Worker, Thurcroft, remains vacant.

**55. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Martin Hughes referred to the following topics awaiting discussion:-

- South Yorkshire Key Fund
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Emergency Planning
- Annual Library Plan
- Crime on Public Transport
- Work with Adult Offenders

AGREED:- That, in the light of no agenda items from community groups present, topics for the next meeting of the Assembly to be held in Whiston be suitably determined from the above list by the Area Officer and Chairman of the Assembly, following liaison with Whiston community groups.

**56. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday, 10th November, 2003 at the Parish Hall, Whiston at 1.30 p.m.