

ROTHER VALLEY EAST AREA ASSEMBLY
Held at Thurcroft Christian Fellowship Hall
on 8th September, 2003

Present:-

Daniel Bond	Dinnington Guardian
Councillor Jo Burton	Ward No. 14 (Maltby)
Jan Clements	Community Arts Officer, RMBC
Chris Elvidge	Ace Thurcroft, RMBC
Susan Green	Democratic Services Officer, RMBC
Martin Hughes	Area Officer, RMBC
Fiona Humpage	Business Support Officer, RMBC
David Morton	Maltby Town Council
Robert Oakes	Business Development Officer, RMBC
Councillor Ron Pearson	Ward No. 21 (Thurcroft and Whiston)
Chris Purvis	Greystones Action Group
Councillor Glyn Robinson	Ward No. 14 (Maltby) – IN THE CHAIR
Sam Rowley	Area Co-ordinator, Rother Valley East (Streetpride)
Eric Shaw	Liberal Democrats
Ray Sholl	Thurcroft Resident
George Skinner	Whiston Parish Council
Sue Weatherley	Area Assembly Support Officer, RMBC
Steve Wibberley	Area Manager, Rother Valley (Streetpride), RMBC

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted by Andy Wright, Councillor Georgina Boyes, Councillor Jed Nightingale, and Councillor Amy Rushforth.

14. PRESENTATION – NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT THURCROFT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Robert Oakes gave a presentation on the work carried out at Thurcroft Junior and Infant School to develop new community facilities.

Robert explained that, as a result of funding obtained from the National Lottery-funded Space for Sport and Arts programme, £3million pounds had been granted to Rotherham to provide community facilities. In addition to Thurcroft Junior School, sports halls had been developed at Rosehill, Ferham, High Greave and St. Ann's Junior Schools.

The resource offered facilities for the following interests:-

- Community Library
- Drama
- Education
- Music

- Gymnasium/rehearsal space
- School hall/performance space
- Sound recording studio
- Outdoor performance area

A plan showing the location of the facility at Thurcroft was referred to. As the school had been built on the site of a former Comprehensive School, a great deal of space had been utilised.

The need for an arts facility had been recognised, in addition to Thurcroft having been the base for the Schools Music Service.

Work had included adaptation to the existing library, previously being used for special needs teaching, which was now 50% larger with an increased book reserve of 2½ thousand, an increase of 33% on opening hours and computerised cataloguing system. Eight computers were available for community use offering free access to internet and e-mail facilities. It was now possible for anyone to visit the library in Rotherham, enter their e-mail address and use the electronic facility.

Adjacent to the library was an eighteen station computer suite for school and community use. Booking arrangements were via the Head Teacher at a negotiable cost, ranging from £5.75 to £18 for a group of children or adults, depending on the day of the week. Subsidised charging had been made possible through the Borough Council's Space for Sport and Arts Community Access Fund. The space for sport and arts was adjacent to the library and quadrangle and consisted of mini tennis courts and netball area for after-school activities and school use.

An area has been created in the old sports hall with acoustic panels being installed throughout the hall for rehearsal space, adjacent to which was a fully sound-proofed recording studio. Adjacent to the sports hall was another hall used by the Music Service which has been newly decorated and was available for hire. Again, this should be arranged via the Head Teacher. If the function was music-related, David Lever, Head of Music Service should be contacted. Picnic tables had been installed which library users could make use of during the Summer months.

The opening of the library had been delayed but it was hoped this may be open a few days before the official launch by The Mayor and Mayoress, on the 4th October, 2003. Tours around the facility and refreshments would be available on the open day.

The facility would be the venue for this year's Children's Book Festival.

Copies of the leaflets, which had been distributed to all Thurcroft residents, giving details of cost, contact numbers, opening times and Open Day event, were available at the meeting.

Resolved:- That Robert Oakes be thanked for his presentation.

15. PRESENTATION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO AREA ASSEMBLY BOUNDARIES

Martin Hughes reported on proposed changes to Area Assembly boundaries and wards, and how they affected this Area Assembly, as a result of the consultation process carried out by the Boundary Committee for England and following publication of their final recommendation on the 22nd July, 2003.

The new arrangements will have a major affect on the current Rother Valley East Area Assembly by splitting it into three. Some Assemblies had very little change, for example Rother Valley South.

The new scheme comes into effect at the local elections on 10th June, 2004.

Martin referred to the three maps for the New Area Assemblies 4, 5 and 6 (as contained in the meeting's handout pack) which had all been agreed in principle.

Map 1 – New Area Assembly 4

Includes Wards 1 (Boston Castle), 11 (Rotherham East) and 14 (Sitwell – which will include Whiston).

Map 2 – New Area Assembly 5

This assembly area would be co-ordinated by Martin and includes Wards 8 (Maltby Ward), 3 (Wickersley South) and 20 (Wickersley North).

Map 3 – New Area Assembly 6

This assembly area includes Wards 4 (Holderness), 10 (Rother Vale – which will include Thurcroft) and 19 (Brinsworth and Catcliffe).

Martin's specific duties within the new Area Assembly 5 would be to draft an Area Plan, shadow the areas he was not presently involved with, and work with Area Officers of other Area Assemblies to transfer responsibilities for Thurcroft and Whiston. Other work included pulling together a team of workers for the new area. Martin also commented that Council Services are likely to be re-aligned with the new Assemblies.

Any queries over the next 7-8 months should be directed to Martin who would continue to update everyone at Area Assembly meetings regarding ward changes and draft of Area Plan.

The following questions were raised:-

- Given the current three monthly cycle of meetings between Maltby, Thurcroft and Whiston, and the desire for greater attendance by local people at meetings, how could Thurcroft residents be expected to travel to Treeton?

The Chair of that particular Area Assembly would determine choice of venues. For example, It may be decided not to alternate meetings between locations. Discussions were presently taking place on a new system of meetings, including the option of holding meetings in a central location.

- Everyone had been led to believe the object of the exercise was to ensure each ward consisted of equal numbers of constituents, criteria which Thurcroft and Whiston already met. Yet under the new arrangements Thurcroft was joining with Treeton. Rother Vale now had the smallest electorate of all the wards.

The Chair believed the criteria used for calculation purposes must have been based on a plus or minus element of ten per cent.

- The name of "Wickersley South" ward had arisen from a suggestion by a Wickersley resident who had opposed the renaming of Wickersley South ward as Hellaby ward. (A quotation from a report from the Boundary Committee was read out). It was difficult to believe that one letter from one person could over-rule all the work that has been undertaken in Rotherham and by RMBC during the consultation process. However on contacting the Boundary Committee they had confirmed this was the case.

The Chair agreed and had raised the same issue with the Boundary Committee. He had been informed that local people had not contacted the Boundary Committee in favour of naming the ward 'Hellaby'. For example, Maltby Town Council had not formally written to the Boundary Committee, which had since been taken by them as neither agreement nor disagreement. The Cabinet was also aware of the issue.

The Chair also felt that lack of involvement of local people was untrue and explained that the Area Assembly had gone through the whole process of what they thought the boundaries ought to be and what they ought to be called. Numerous suggestions had been incorporated into the final document. He had personally put forward names for wards and, in view of the present confusion with Rawmarsh East and West, had disagreed with wards having the same name. He had therefore

agreed on Maltby for Ward 8, Hellaby for Ward 3 and Wickersley for Ward 20.

The Chair explained that it was still possible to raise issues with the Boundary Committee until the 8th October, 2003. Final recommendations would then be sent to the Electoral Commission.

- Could Whiston continue to stay with Thurcroft and not combine with Treeton?

The majority view of all sixty-six Councillors had been to recommend those changes for Whiston.

- For a number of years Thurcroft Parish Council have had three members from Laughton Common – it seemed to have been a good opportunity to bring them into the Thurcroft ward but they had now moved to the Dinnington ward.

Martin Hughes explained that it had been a difficult process and that each suggestion had had a knock on effect to the adjacent ward.

A further comment was made regarding the impact, which meant that the wards may change but that the boundary of the parishes is not governed by the same legislation. For example, in Maltby, wards will move from 4 to 2 and the actual boundaries of the wards will also change so Maltby will have 13 parish councillors in Maltby and five parish councillors in Wickersley South. The parish ward boundaries will change in 2007, not the parish boundaries.

The Chair commented that very shortly there will also be a review of parliamentary constituencies. At the moment the new Area Assembly 5 is in two different constituencies.

AGREED:- (1) That a copy of these minutes be forwarded to the current Chair of Rother Valley South in view of concerns raised regarding the travelling distance between Thurcroft and Treeton.

(2) That, on behalf of this Area Assembly, a letter be sent to the Boundary Committee for England pointing out that (a) as part of the Government's modernised agenda and in view of all the hard work undertaken on the wider consultation process, as part of a democratic consultation process, could they give an explanation regarding why a letter from a single resident could overrule the majority decision on the naming of wards and (b) pointing out that, as part of the consultation process, the majority had voted for the name of Hellaby.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th July, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

17. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Presentation – History and Tourism in Whiston

As contained in the meeting's handout pack, Steve Wibberley read out responses by Streetpride to issues raised at the previous meeting.

The information was as follows:-

Moorhouse Lane, Whiston – concerns over speeding on this road.

A request was placed with the Traffic Section (Nigel Davey) to locate the Temporary Speed Sign, which flashes the warning to slow down for speeding vehicles. This was undertaken on Moorhouse Lane on 12th August 2003 at 3.00 p.m., for one hour with the average speed recorded at just below 31mph.

Whiston Traffic Calming Schemes - what is the progress?

Stuart Savage (Traffic Section) confirmed that the design on the High Street and Moorhouse Lane schemes was being progressed, but that re-design on these projects was having to take place due to Police concerns regarding certain items which had initially been included in the schemes.

Moorhouse Lane, Whiston - Dog bin is always full.

The bin is presently emptied once a week, if residents are concerned that it is becoming too full they can contact the Council on 336003, to arrange for the bin to be emptied. The situation will be monitored to ascertain whether the cleansing schedules required revising in the future, as the schedules for the entire Borough are presently under review.

Meadowcroft Close, Whiston - parking in the turning circle adjacent No.50 and 52.

Traffic Section has been involved with this complaint in the past and has previously informed those concerned that this is a Police enforcement issue.

Doles Lane, Whiston- Problems with dumping and a request to stop-up the lane.

With regard to the problems associated with the illegal dumping of cars and flytipping, we would appreciate if in future that when this occurs, the details could be forwarded to Streetpride on the new number, 336003, in order that we can deal with them as soon as possible.

The issue of stopping-up of Doles Lane to prevent vehicular access along its length, Richard Pett, the Public Rights of Way Officer for Streetpride has confirmed that Doles Lane is a rural unclassified county road for which there is a strong likelihood of vehicular access for the public. To downgrade the route we would need to prove (at Magistrates' court) that vehicular access is 'unnecessary'. It is known that the Trail Riders Fellowship uses this lane and is certain to object to it being downgraded. Attempts have been made to downgrade a similar type of lane at Thurcroft and we are presently facing a battle in court, which we are far from certain of winning.

Streetpride cannot of course erect any structure on the highway, which will impede legitimate users of the trail.

(b) Local Transport Plan for Maltby

Martin Hughes gave an update from Neil Foster (Design and Engineering, RMBC). Work was progressing on Phase I – Maltby High Street which includes the majority of work not affected by Traffic Orders, e.g. traffic signal improvements, new bus lay bys and refuge. Basically any improvements as per Concept Plan 2 that are not affected by orders will be included in Phase 1. Works will commence in January, 2004. It is hoped Phase 2 will continue immediately after, when orders are approved.

(c) Whiston Parish Council Report

Martin Hughes reported that he had contacted Steve Lavin, South Yorkshire Police regarding youth nuisance in Whiston.

The matter had been referred to Howard Marriott who was to contact Whiston Parish Council.

AGREED:- That Martin Hughes pursue this matter.

(d) Segregated Skips

Martin Hughes had requested a skip for Thurcroft to be sited at Zamor Crescent.

However, in view of a lack of capacity to continue this initiative, he had been informed that the scheme could not continue.

Councillor Pearson emphasised the need for this facility in view of the demand on the present skip allocation in Thurcroft.

In terms of the scheme being available for weekend use, a response had been received from Joanne Guest explaining that it was not the case that Thurcroft Parish Council could not have skips at the

weekends, rather that they are already fully booked throughout the Borough.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (a) Letter from George Sampson, Planning Manager, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive enclosing the Bus Strategy for South Yorkshire. The strategy set out the actions and projects being implemented, which formed part of the Local Transport Plan for South Yorkshire.

Consultation on the issues raised by the Bus Strategy remains active.

Further information and a copy of the full document was available from their web site on www.sypte.co.uk.

Copies of the Bus Strategy were available at the meeting.

- (b) Letter from Martin Hughes sent to Mr. J. Clark, Royal Mail regarding the lack of post boxes in Thurcroft and the surrounding area.

This issue had arisen at a public meeting in Thurcroft.

The resident who had raised the query felt that an appropriate location for a post box would be on Morthern Road.

- (c) Planning Applications

- (1) Erection of seven detached dwellinghouses with associated access road at land at Waverley Avenue, Thurcroft.
- (2) Temporary classroom unit at Whiston Junior and Infant School, Saville Road, Whiston.

19. HANDOUTS

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

Items Relating to Today's Agenda

- Today's Agenda
- Thurcroft Community Multimedia and Arts Centre
- New Area Assemblies (4, 5 and 6)
- Rotherham Streetpride
 - Responses to issues raised at the last meeting
 - Devolved Budget (work in progress)
 - Customer Report Form

- Rotherham Reachout Report
- Area Assembly Team Report
 - Area Assembly Newsletter
 - Thurcroft's Future Newsletter
 - Thurcroft Community Plan Flyer
 - Area Assembly Community Chest
- Area Assembly Meetings for 2004
- Future Agenda Items

Other Publicity

- Thurcroft Community Skips
- Rotherham Drug and Alcohol Action Team Meeting
- Launch of Rotherham Compact
- Y-Fatherhood
- Dance Classes
- Supporting Women into Enterprise and Management Roles
- Holland House Resource Centre
- MOT Your Mind – Small Grants Scheme
- Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy – Small Grants Scheme
- Fair Share for Community Groups in Rotherham – Community Fund
- BBC Radio Sheffield activities
- Northern College – Community Regeneration Programme
- NHS – Public Training Services

20. STREETPRIDE

Steve Wibberley referred to the information contained within the meeting's handout pack regarding the allocation of Rother Valley East Streetpride Budget (2003/2004).

Work was in the final stages of allocating funding to individual groups.

It was uncertain how the change in assembly areas would affect devolved budgets and advice on this was presently awaited.

Whiston Parish Council expressed dissatisfaction with the system by which projects had been agreed and monies divided between Whiston and Thurcroft. It was not an equal split, which had previously been agreed. Also some areas of work identified in Whiston had not been accepted due to them being on Parish Council land. He felt this was unfair due to Whiston parishioners also paying Council Tax to RMBC. For example, why should Cowrakes Playing field and work on Barfield not have been accepted? The only reason the work had not been done on the playing field this year was because it had not been precepted for. Work to the footpath had health and safety implications within the parish. Street lighting should be done by RMBC as a matter of course, not by using devolved monies.

The meeting debated the following aspects:-

- defining the difference between Parish Council and Council land
- why some projects had been approved – for example, due to them being on open public areas
- who has the final say – the Area Assembly or the Ward?
- could Whiston have the money to spend on other projects?
- why was work being carried out to shop fronts?

The Chair explained that in his understanding the money had been provided for Borough Council facilities but not those on private or parish council land, and for the Area Assembly as a whole, and not to be apportioned in any particular way. The issue was about future maintenance of a facility on a piece of land in different ownership. Also, if the formula had been taken literally and apportioned at £1 per constituent, Maltby should have received two-thirds of the budget which Ward Members had decided against. Monies had been apportioned to individual groups not to individual Parish Councils. Elected members had the legal responsibility to sign off the devolved budget and had invited local communities and groups to put forward their ideas.

Martin Hughes explained that work had been decided upon by elected members for Thurcroft, Whiston and Maltby.

One Ward Member explained that members had agreed the projects on merit and had been unaware of costings until today.

Sam Rowley made the point that some projects listed have only just been costed up.

The deadline by which the budget had to be signed off was the end of September, 2003.

AGREED:- That the devolved budget be not signed off until Whiston Parish Council has requested a meeting with Councillors Boyes, Pearson and Nightingale and Streetpride Officers in order to re-consider the projects for Whiston and Thurcroft.

21. THURCROFT LANDFILL LIAISON

Councillor Pearson reported that the last Liaison meeting had taken place on the 7th May, 2003.

A report that lorries were turning left into Thurcroft was denied by Ogdens, any lorries going through Thurcroft were not from the site.

At that time the allotments barrier had not been operational and Waste Recycling were to contact the engineers.

Ogdens reported that 70,000 tonnes of material per week were being excavated with the discard going on the terrace tip.

The newts on site were being fenced off and a full-time security guard was being employed to ensure there was no interference with the fence.

The placement of boulders was reducing the number of motor bikes along the footpaths. Ogdens confirmed they would be on site for a further 12 months, after which time Waste Recycling would take over all operations.

Mr. Sholl had informed the meeting that if the takeover of Waste Recycling went ahead the Public Enquiry would have to re-open. An officer of the Environment Agency said this was not the case and the Environment Agency would still be dealing with Waste Recycling whoever the parent company happened to be.

Waste Recycling confirmed that if work commenced around the Persimmon estate, the residents would be informed on a door to door basis.

Special Meeting – Action on Thurcroft Bikers

Reference was made to information contained in a press release on the outcome of a special meeting held on 25th July, 2003 in response to complaints from residents regarding noise from motorcyclists and quad bike riders who are riding on footpaths and the former pit tip at Thurcroft.

South Yorkshire Police have promised to take action.

Following a public meeting in June, a multi-agency committee has now been formed in the village to tackle the problem.

Inspector Steve Lavin from South Yorkshire Police, who heads the Police Community Safety Section in Rotherham, had stated that dedicated officers are targeting Thurcroft. In a recent police operation, 17 offenders were warned and 2 vehicles seized.

In addition to police operations, the Police are asking for information about offenders to allow warnings to take place at their homes under new police powers.

Councillor Pearson added that the issue regarding footpaths was that large boulders had already been placed at New Orchard Lane to block access. Waste Recycling had also agreed to investigate the placing of barriers at accesses on Sandy Lane, New Orchard Lane and Steadfolds Lane.

Councillor Pearson pointed out that this had not yet been done.

A further meeting would be held this week.

22. THURCROFT PARISH COUNCIL

Ray Sholl gave an update on work undertaken by the Parish Council since the last Assembly meeting held in Thurcroft.

A proposal had been submitted to WREN to raise funding for a Play Area adjacent to the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall.

There was an issue regarding cars driving too fast into Green Arbour Road. At the same time the timing of the traffic lights near the Spar shop was incorrect and did not allow old people and people pushing prams to safely cross. The meeting had debated at length the need for traffic calming.

Other issues discussed had related to the cemetery and a concern that the gates are being left open and a part of the post has been broken.

A Police representative had not been in attendance.

23. INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT

Fiona Humpage reported on her role as Business Support Officer within Maltby, Thurgroft and Hellaby. She explained that she was employed within communities to signpost key information and guide people at the pre-start stage of setting up in business, in addition to working within schools.

Awareness events within the three communities were arranged in order to highlight the provision in the Borough.

Other professionals were invited from such organisations as Business Link, Inland Revenue and Rotherham Enterprise Agency to meet people in the community who otherwise might not consider self-employment as being an option for them.

A Business Club had been established, the first meeting of which had been held in June. Advice such as Health and Safety issues within organisations was addressed.

The next meeting is 23rd September, 2003 at 8.00 a.m. (breakfast meeting) to be held at Hellaby Hall Hotel. A guest speaker was to attend to talk to businesses about how to maintain the health of staff, keep them safe within the working environment and update them on legislation and regulations, information which small firms found difficult to keep up to date.

Work carried out in Schools, in local catchment areas, for example Wickersley, Maltby and Wales Comprehensive Schools, was in partnership with Business and Education South Yorkshire in order to support their activities and raise awareness in schools on entrepreneurial cultures.

Two new staff would be starting on the 1st October – Debbie Brayshaw, Partnership Development Officer and Sally Birch, Project Officer.

In response to questions raised, Fiona explained that (1) they worked independently of Rotherham Chamber – (2) Whiston residents were welcome to attend the next breakfast meeting and (3) advice on IDP grants was given.

Surgeries were also held on Tuesday afternoon and Friday mornings in the Miners Welfare Hall, Thurcroft.

Full details on the initiative were contained within the newsletter enclosed in the meeting's handout pack.

24. ROTHERHAM REACHOUT RESULTS

Martin Hughes referred to the summary of the fifth Rotherham Reachout survey completed in the Summer which highlighted a number of wider policy implications for the Council.

The results of the survey were summarised which referred to the following aspects:-

- added detail to the Recycling Plan
- identified a need for Marketing, Publicity and Communication of the Community Strategy and Rotherham Partnership
- concerns about being a victim of crime in Rotherham
- positive comments about the standard of the Council's fleet of vehicles
- valuable information on the aspirations of Rotherham people for swimming pool provision
- information gained on how the public prefer to access Health information
- issues within RDGH's X-ray Department
- need to maintain the traditional aspects of Rotherham Markets but to develop ideas to appeal to younger shoppers

A full copy of the breakdown and analysis of residents' responses within Rother Valley East, the same percentage and proportion of response rate being that of the Borough-wide response, was made available for inspection at the Assembly meeting.

25. AREA ASSEMBLY TEAM REPORT

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

Community Planning

Steve Morrell (Community Planning Officer for Rother Valley West) is now taking the lead on this work.

Thurcroft's future newsletter has been produced and posted through every door in the village. The newsletter promotes the community planning process (including the Conference on Saturday, 25th October at the Consort Suite), the activities of local groups and the work of the Integrated Development Plan team. A leaflet promoting the development of the Community Plan has also been produced and distributed.

Steve is working with local police to support the Thurcroft Youth Partnership. This is a new group of young people who want to tackle issues that affect their lives. They want to work with the Community Planning Steering Group and other organisations to ensure their concerns are included in the Thurcroft Community Plan.

Community Chest

The Rother Valley East Community Chest will be advertised throughout September. There is £2,000 in the budget and a maximum that can be applied for is £150. Contact Sue Weatherley at the Area Assembly office for an application pack. The deadline for applications is Friday, 31st October, 2003.

Staff Update

Sue Weatherley has been appointed Support Officer for Rother Valley East and will be working 18.5 hours a week until March, 2004.

The Rother Valley East Community Planning Officer post has been disestablished in preparation for the move from 8 Area Assemblies to 7 in June, 2004. In the meantime, Steve Morrell will lead on the community planning activity in Thurcroft, Shahnaz Rashid will do the same in Whiston and the Area Officer will pick up any issues in Maltby.

A new Community Development Worker for Thurcroft, as from 15th September, 2003, had been established (employed through Voluntary Action Rotherham). Tony King will be moving over from Canklow.

The IDP team has two new members of staff, as reported in previous Minute No. 23. The posts will cover Thurcroft and Maltby.

At this point in the meeting, Chris Elvidge introduced herself and explained she had recently been appointed as the Community Employment Advisor in place of Alan Goy. She had previously worked in East Herringthorpe and was now based in the Miners Welfare Hall, Thurcroft. Her work also covered Brinsworth, Treeton, Catcliffe, Swallownest and Whiston.

Chris stressed that one of the key requisites of her work was the need to work in partnership. Any person in Rotherham could access funding to help them find employment, be it equipment for work or one-off training needs.

26. DATES FOR JANUARY-MAY 2004

Martin Hughes explained that due to future changes in Area Assemblies, it was only possible to book the following meetings for 2004:-

12 th January, 2004 - 1.30 p.m.	Full Life Christian Centre, Maltby
9 th February, 2004 - 6.30 p.m.	Whiston Worrygoose School
8 th March, 2004 - 1.30 p.m.	Christian Fellowship Hall, Thurcroft

5th April, 2004 - 6.30 p.m. Charles Foster Community Centre, Maltby
10th May, 2004 - 1.30 p.m. Whiston Parish Hall

Meetings followed the normal pattern, apart from the April meeting which was to be held on the first Monday in the month due to the Bank Holiday on 12th April, 2004.

AGREED:- That the above dates be noted.

27. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Martin Hughes referred to the following topics awaiting discussion:-

Work with Young People in Maltby
South Yorkshire Key Fund
Neighbourhood Wardens
Emergency Planning
Annual Library Plan
Crime on Public Transport
Work with adult offenders

AGREED:- That, in view of the next meeting being held in Maltby, the agenda include the single main item on the work with young people in Maltby.

28. CLOSURE OF SUB-POST OFFICES

Councillor Pearson referred to recent National announcements on the closure of sub-post offices and explained that Whiston had been highlighted as a probable closure.

Councillor Pearson had been approached by Whiston Parish Council regarding the need to call a public meeting to oppose the action.

George Skinner pointed out that concerns mainly centred around the elderly residents of the community in terms of ease of access to other Post Offices in the area, the nearest of which was on Broom Lane.

Whiston Post Office was always busy.

It was felt that in view of the agreement to the closure by the present Postmistress, very little could expect to be achieved by such action.

AGREED:- (1) That, on behalf of the Area Assembly, Martin Hughes write to the relevant Government office expressing strong objection to the closure.

(2) That other community groups/organisations be advised to take similar action in expressing their disagreement.

29. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday, 13th October, 2003 at the Charles Foster Community Centre, Maltby at 6.30 p.m.