

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(held at Laughton Village Hall, Laughton en le Morthen)
Monday 5th March, 2001

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No.13 (in the Chair)
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. Brian Cottam	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Mr. Graham Greaves	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Mr. Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Mr. Irvine Sampson	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. Roy Newman	Laughton Conservation and History Society
Mr. Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Mr. Trevor Stanway	Laughton Parish Council
Mr. Jack Mackey	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Councillor Ann Britton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Mrs. Valerie Hinchliffe	South Anston Methodist Church
Mrs. Gloria Cawthorne	South Anston Methodist Church
Mr. R. Carter	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Mr. Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Mr. Peter Blanksby	Resident Kiveton Park
Mrs. Fran Blanksby	Community Activist
Mrs. Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Mr. Colin Britton	Resident Kiveton Park
Mrs. Monica Carroll	Association of Governing Bodies
Councillor Sid Bennett	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. John Jordan	Laughton Common Community Association
Councillor Karl Barton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Mrs. Sue Thompson	Resident South Anston
Mrs. Beryl Howarth	Resident North Anston
Mrs. Ivy Matthews	Resident Anston
Mr. Geoff Robson	Disability and Carers Resource Centre
Mr. John Brookes	Disability and Carers Resource Centre

Together with:

Ms. Nicola Bluff	Area Assembly Support Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mrs. Wendy Degg	Community Development Officer (RMBC)
Mrs. Tessa Popple	Sports Development Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Peter Cunningham	Culture, Countryside and Amenity Service (RMBC)
Mr. Leon Giasiorski	Economic and Regeneration Service (RMBC)

Mr. David Tyrrell

Chief Executive's Office (RMBC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mrs. Mandy Bell (Housing Services); Mrs. Margaret Bland (South Anston Methodist Church), Mr. Mick Stowe (Community Development Worker – RMBC) and Mr. Ken Ward (Woodsetts Parish Council).

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Some general introductions took place.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following issues were raised:-

(a) Todwick Road, Dinnington (B6463) – the road was breaking up and needed urgent attention

(b) Kiveton Park White City – following demolition work a rat problem required attention. Problems were also being experienced with empty boarded up houses being broke into. This was being addressed with private landlords.

(c) Foot and Mouth Disease – it was confirmed that public footpaths had been closed due to the outbreak.

(d) Dinnington Town Centre – Litter – concern was expressed at the amounts of litter around the Borough Council car park near Safeway and the footpaths leading through to Laughton Road in the vicinity of the market area.

Discussion ensued on the general problem of fly tipping including the dumping of tyres and the need to educate people to help prevent this. It was also felt the Borough Council should have more regard to rural areas with cleansing operations and provide more litter bins in the areas referred to.

Agreed:- (i) That requests be made that the sites referred to receive attention.

(ii) That any problem areas be notified to Gordon Smith with a view, as appropriate, to adding to the schedule for possible Environmental Hot Spot treatment.

(iii) That the overall issue be raised in the Council Newsletter and in the general press and all schools be written to seeking their support in addressing attitudes towards litter and tipping.

(e) School Governing Bodies – The need for all School Governors to ensure they see the latest Consultation Document and pass on any views

and the completed questionnaires prior to the end of the extended consultation period.

(f) Woodsetts Highways Issues – Concern was expressed at delays in completing the footpath works due, it was understood, to Yorkshire Electricity connections and the need for interim measures to safeguard operations pending completion of the works.

Agreed:- That the matter be raised with the Cabinet Member and Deputy for Economic and Development Services for consideration at a visit to the area to be made on 12th March, 2001.

(g) New Type Cats Eyes – Information was sought on the success or otherwise of the new type cats eyes installed on roads at Woodsetts and Thurcroft

(h) UNSCO Steels, Kiveton Park – It was noted with deep concern that the receivers had been appointed in respect of this company's operations. Whilst it was understood the Company had taken this action at an early stage any likely job losses would have serious implications for the area.

Agreed:- That this Assembly urge the Borough Council to take all possible action to help protect the jobs and to instigate the relevant steel redundancy procedures.

(The Chair recorded an interest in the above matter)

(i) Former Kiveton Colliery Site – the need for improved consultation arrangements by Yorkshire Forward were referred to

(ii) Conservation Areas – reference was made to a planning application in Harthill and need to help protect the character of Conservation Areas. Comment was made on the benefits of Village Design Statements.

Agreed:- That the Head of Planning and Regeneration be informed of views as expressed.

4. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February, 2001 be received and approved with Fran and Peter Blanksby being added to the list of those present.

(b) That arising it be noted:-

(i) Computers for All – that the initiative had been extended to cover Dinnington but had now closed (Minute No. 3a))

(ii) Thurcroft Tip – coal extraction would not take place until the new access to Cumwell Lane was completed. Works on the tip at the present

time were in readiness for the operations. The A631 Improvement Scheme was awaiting the Compulsory Purchase Order/Public Inquiry results (Minute No. 3(b))

(iii) Fly Tipping – The Borough Council did clear tyres in the Loscar Common area very quickly but more had been tipped nearby. Thanks were extended for the speedy action (Minute No. 3(f))

(iv) A57 Lighting – The Highways Agency had confirmed the trees affecting the lighting were to be dealt with as programming permitted. The telephone number for contact on any general maintenance issues to do with this road was given as 08493 017777 (Minute No. 4(b)(i))

(v) Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – Two new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes had been set up in Maltby. The Wath Scheme had been set up and the Vehicle Watch 25 Scheme was now becoming operational.

A Police Liaison Committee was to be held in the St. John's Rooms at Wales that evening with the next Police Liaison meeting held in the Wales Parish Rooms on 27th March, 2001 (Minute No. 4(b)(ii))

5. ROTHERHAM DISABILITY AND CARERS RESOURCE CENTRE

The Assembly received Geoff Robson and John Brooks.

Both reported on steps being taken to establish a resource centre.

The idea came about following the shown demand for a focal point not just for disabled persons but for their carers. A Steering Group had been established, largely with Health Authority backing with HAZ funding to enable a feasibility report to be prepared by Consultants.

The main issue was to establish need and in exploring the matter it had been noted that other towns were also conducting similar exercises.

In Rotherham it was hoped to establish a One Stop Shop type concept which could also assist/advise on employment training for the disabled. It had been determined that a Development Worker was needed to take matters forward and following a successful Single Regeneration Budget Round 5 application funding had been obtained and subsequently John Brooks appointed to the post.

John outlined his role in ascertaining overall need and investigating funding. Newsletters were being compiled and sent out and views being obtained. The important thing was to provide what people needed, a bottom up approach. Many people did not realise the problems until they were faced with them themselves.

A short question and answer session then took place.

Agreed:- That Geoff Robson and John Brooks be thanked for their presentation.

6. CHILDRENS' PLAY AREAS

The Assembly received Peter Cunningham of Culture, Countryside and Amentiy Services of the Borough Council who reported on a five year refurbishment programme which had been initiated to bring play areas across the Borough up to full national standards. Funding had and was being applied for and they were hopeful such would be received to undertake the whole programme.

It was the intention to only improve play areas that people wanted and therefore local views were very important. To get the programme underway it had however been necessary to put in a list of existing schemes, within this Assembly area estimated to cost £48,000, which should be completed by mid-Summer 2001.

A schedule was also put forward of further play areas within this Assembly area which could also be brought up to required standards. Parish Councils were also being invited to apply for funding for any of their own play areas to bring them up to similar standards.

A question and answer session then ensued with issues raised including:-

- it would be a breach of human rights if housing directly overlooked a play area, a minimum distance was required
- the role of the South Yorkshire Playing Fields Association
- approaches to and involvement of Parish Councils
- regular inspection work was carried out and minor works then just undertaken with more major works programmed. Inspection reports were avialable at the Culture, Countryside and Amentiy Services Offices
- Best Value required the programme to be evaluated in accordance with peoples' wishes

Agreed:- (a) That Peter Cunningham be thanked for his presentation.

(b) That the schedule of schemes be accepted and any comments forwarded to Peter Cunningham.

7. REPORTS

The reports of the following meetings were submitted:-

South Rotherham Rural Transport Group held on 29th January, 2001

DART Board meeting held on 11th January, 2001

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Agreed:- That the following items be listed for future consideration:-

Area Health Authority – Presentation by John Hinchcliffe, Chief Executive

Human Rights Act

Local Transport Plan

Chesterfield Canal – Presentation by British Waterways Board

Youth Offending Service – Presentation by Jackie Key, Project Co-ordinator

Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative – Presentation by Sarah Crossland

9. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Assembly be held in the Sports Pavilion at Woodsetts on Monday 2nd April, 2001 at 2.00 p.m.