

**ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(Wales Primary School, Wales)
3rd September, 2001**

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Mr. Brian Cottam	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Mr. Graham Greaves	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Mr. Irvine Sampson	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. Jack Mackay	South Yorkshire Transport Initiative
Councillor Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Iain St. John	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mrs. Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Mr. David Hall	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Mrs. Brenda Howarth	Anston Resident
Mrs. Sue Thompson	Anston Resident
Mr. Roy Newman	Laughton Conservation and Historical Society
Mr. Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Mr. Keith Jones	Laughton Conservation and Historical Society
Mr. Peter Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Mrs. Maureen Banks	Firbeck Parish Council
Mr. Alan Yates	South Anston Resident
Mrs. Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Councillor Ann Britton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Mr. Britton	Wales Resident
Mr. Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council

Observer:-

Mrs. Ruth Dudley	District Audit
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Together with:-

Mr. Mark Benton	Environmental Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Greg Dalton	Rural Priority Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Stephen Ward	Community Development Worker – Kiveton Park and Wales (RMBC)
Ms. Katy Spurhum	Development Worker (RMBC)
Mr. David Tyrrell	Chief Executive's Office (RMBC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Sid Bennett (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1), Mr. Nigel Lee (Firbeck Parish Council), Mrs. Fran Blanksby (Community Activist), Mr. Trevor Stanway (Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council) and Mr. Ken Ward (Woodsetts Parish Council).

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Some general introductions took place and a welcome extended to Ms. Ruth Dudley of the District Audit who was to observe proceedings.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following issues were raised :-

- Dump it Sites – It was understood that the e.g. North Anston site was to be restricted to household waste with no commercial waste allowed. In response it was explained this had been brought about by an abuse of the system by Commercial Contractors, the decision of Barnsley and Doncaster to ban commercial waste from their sites and the overall costs involved. The Carr Hill Site would however on payment continue to receive commercial waste

Trailers larger than 4' x 3' were also not allowed access. Leaflets had been printed and handed out explaining the situation. If people telephoned Rotherham 363030 arrangements could be made for them to be allowed access to Carr Hill.

The need for better publicity was again emphasised and suggested that Mark Benton take this up with the Borough's Press and Public Relations staff.

- Harthill Nitaker Wood – A lorry had gone through the fence/hedging on the road leading to this wood and whilst some plastic mesh had been put up to protect the boundary the damage still remained to be repaired
- Litter Bins Harthill – were full and remained to be emptied in this and other locations
- Linesman Kiveton Park – Concern was expressed at the number of times he was being diverted to other duties although understood the current instance was through illness
- Flytipping Increase – The need for action to help point out that this was an offence. It was suggested that leaflets be issued to Parish Councils and the need for people to come forward to give evidence to obtain prosecutions emphasised.

The importance in employing a contractor, of finding out how they were to dispose of waste, was emphasised.

4. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 2nd July, 2001 be received and approved subject to the inclusion of apologies for absence from Councillor Derek Chapman and Mr. Peter Blanksby.

(b) That arising therefrom it be noted :-

(i) Japanese Knot Weed – had been identified at some eight sites in Dinnington and it was believed many others existed elsewhere. It was queried why the Knot Weed on land situate off Undergate Road, Dinnington had been flayed and not treated. An Environment Agency code of practice for dealing with this noxious weed problem was circulated (Minute No. 3)

(ii) Smell/Noise Nuisance, South Anston – a meeting had been held on 25th September, 2001 which representatives who attended had found helpful. It was noted that further problems were still being experienced (Minute No. 4(b)(ii))

(iii) Community Chest – an assessment of applications was being undertaken

Through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund further funding was to be allocated to be administered centrally for cross cutting issues. Further information would be circulated when available (Minute No. 4(b)(iii))

(iv) Ragwort – Reference was made to the growth of this weed alongside footpaths/rights of way and noted the issue was already being addressed (Minute No. 3)

(v) Village Information – should any representatives have historical or other information about the village in which they lived they were asked to let Roy Newman know.

The value of information on local Internet sites e.g. “Junction 31” and “Living in Dinnington” was referred to (Minute No. 5)

(vi) Community Skips – concern was expressed that some six months into the new financial year this issue had not been resolved. It was explained this was the subject of a later report (Minute No. 8(c))

5. ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS

The meeting welcomed Mark Benton, Environmental Officer responsible for the new Wardens Scheme. He explained that the Borough Council had been well aware of the concerns of people and had made creating a clean, safe and healthy environment one of its key themes. The Cleansing and Environmental Health Services had been charged with suggesting ways of delivering a cleaner Rotherham and in response had proposed positive steps which had been agreed by the Council and which included:-

- more sweeping, more bins and better equipment
- sweeping arrangements based on need
- set up team of Enforcement Officers
- designation of most land in Rotherham – Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996
- crack down on littering and fly tipping
- provide the leadership and co-ordination of a strategy to clean up Rotherham (joined up thinking)

To assist in enforcing standards the following had already been set in action :-

Four Environmental Wardens in marked vans and uniforms

Other Council Officers carrying out enforcement activities e.g. Environmental Health, Country Park and Housing, Highway Inspectors

Fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and litter

High publicity prosecutions on dog fouling, fly tipping and litter.

To help ensure there was a lasting improvement in the cleanliness of the Borough it was proposed :

- that there be rigorous enforcement
- innovative ideas be sought particularly on litter to generate press coverage and seeking constant ways to improve
- there be real time action to address issues through community based Environmental Wardens
- Help people to help themselves by providing bins, community skips, litter pick tools etc.
- Engender social changes through education

A number of fixed penalties had already been issued in respect of dog fouling and litter and publicity issued on the subject. The Service would have a presence at the Rotherham Show to help reinforce the issue.

It was clarified that most land within the Borough was designated under the poop scoop legislation. All cleaning schedules were being reviewed to reflect need.

The importance of all residents assisting to help tackle the problems was emphasised, most people realised the importance of keeping the area in which they live and work tidy. They were invited to telephone (01709) 823172 with general issues or (01709) 823179 to speak to Steve Thackery the Warden covering this Assembly Area direct.

A general question and answer session ensued with issues raised including the process for dealing with complaints, publicity, the need to obtain evidence, the fact the legislation has overtaken previous byelaws, additional focus to deal with problems and the adoption of a co-ordinated approach and the need for businesses/public houses to adopt responsibility for rubbish arising from their businesses.

It was emphasised that ignorance was not a defence, people should not deposit litter or allow dogs to foul.

Agreed:- That Mark Benton be thanked for his helpful and informative presentation.

6. AREA ASSEMBLY OFFICERS REPORT

Gordon Smith reported on the following issues:-

(a) The Area Assembly Office had moved during August and was now based at the Old Colliery Offices, Colliery Road, Kiveton Park (Telephone 01909 774399) with the support workers based at Ulley.

(b) Traffic calming was taking place along Wales Road, Kiveton Park.

(c) Work had commenced on the Dinnington Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.

(d) An Asylum Seekers event was to take place at the Unity Centre between 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. on 26th September, 2001.

(e) A review was being undertaken of the Management Plan for the Anston Plantation.

(f) A visit was to take place to Middlesbrough on Thursday 20th September, 2001 to view some of the Town's leisure facilities. This was arising from the Sport and Active Recreation Plan deliberations. Four representatives had been invited from this Assembly and nominations were sought.

(g) A schedule was submitted of costed Environmental Hot Spot Works and confirmed that other sites notified were being added to what was becoming a long list. Graffiti problems were also being identified and were also to be dealt with.

Parish Councils had been contacted as to any other identified problems.

It was noted that the request regarding tidying gardens on Wilberforce Road, Anston was still being pursued.

Agreed:- That the works already identified and costed be undertaken and further identified sites continue to be scheduled for attention.

(h) Visits were to take place by the Leader and Chief Executive of the Borough Council to Anston, Woodsetts, Kiveton Park and Dinnington on dates stated and at meeting venues agreed.

(i) A Schedule of possible allocations for community skips was submitted, it being noted that the applications were in excess of the number that could be arranged and indeed believed further requests may also be forthcoming.

Agreed:- (1) That the Assembly notes the difficulties which it is presented with in determining the allocation of skips in Rother Valley South.

(2) That the allocation of ten skips days per Ward be agreed.

(3) That on the basis of ten skip days per Ward, the suggested allocation for each Ward, as referred to in the report submitted, be accepted.

(4) That should any spare skip days be identified in the Assembly area priority be given to their allocation to Laughton Common.

7. STATUTORY CONTAMINATED LAND FRAMEWORK

The Assembly received details of the strategy for dealing with contaminated land which was required to be adopted by the Borough Council, published and implemented.

Mark Benton clarified issues arising.

Agreed:- That the new strategy document be noted.

8. REPORT

The report of the following meeting was submitted:-

South Rotherham Rural Transport Group held on 24th September, 2001

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

Agreed:- (a) That future agenda/main presentation items be:

Transport/Highway Issues
Community Learning Forums
Health Service (possibly January)

(b) That arrangements be made for a copy of the Kiveton Park Colliery Master Plan to be placed in the Kiveton Park Library.

10 NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Assembly be held at the Firbeck Village Hall, on Monday 8th October, 2001 at 2.00 p.m.