

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(St. James Church Hall, North Anston)
5th November, 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
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Councillor Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Mrs. Beryl Howarth	Anston Resident
Mrs. Sue Thompson	Anston Resident
Councillor Iain St. John	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Councillor Sid Bennett	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Mr. John Hinchcliffe	Rotherham Health Authority
Mr. Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Mrs. Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Mr. Roy Wells	Anston Conservation Society
Mr. J. Brammer	South Anston Resident
Mr. J. Poad	South Anston Resident
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Mr. Gerald Capper	DART/Dinnington Resident
Mr. Ken Ward	Woodsetts Parish Council

Together with:-

Mr. Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Mick Stowe	Community Development Worker – North Anston (RMBC)
Mr. David Tyrrell	Chief Executive's Office (RMBC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mrs. Alice Booth (Wales Parish Council); Councillor Carl Barton (Borough Councillor Ward No. 13); Councillor Ann Britton (Borough Councillor Ward No. 13); Mrs. F. Blanksby (Community Activist) and Mr. Peter Blanksby (Wales Parish Council); Mr. Nigel Lee (Firbeck Parish Council); Mr. Roy Newman (Laughton Conservation and Historical Society); Mr. Malcolm Hoggard (Resident); Mr. Alan Yates (South Anston Resident) and Mrs. Wendy Degg and Mr. Stephen Ward (Community Development Workers).

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Some general introductions took place.

3. MINUTES

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 8th October, 2001 be received and approved.

4. SHIFTING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

The meeting welcomed John Hinchcliffe, Chief Executive of the Rotherham Health Authority who reported on the proposals for the establishment of a new Strategic Health Authority for South Yorkshire clarifying it was about determining boundaries, the principle of the establishment of such bodies having already been determined.

He referred to the key issues including:-

The Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the new N.H.S. Plan – Reforms - Changing Powers and Responsibilities - Involvement of Staff and Patients in the process - Delivery Service Improvements (One Primary Care Trust would cover the whole of Rotherham)
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The Role of the Strategic Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support Improvement - Performance Management - Creating a Coherent Strategic Framework
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The Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population of approx. 1.5m - Broadly aligned with clinical networks - Co-terminus with aggregated Local Authorities - Within the boundaries of a single Government Office
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(A Plan was shown delineating the new Health Authority boundaries)

South Yorkshire position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population 1.3m - It is co-terminus with the four Local Authority boundaries - Clinical links exist between the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham District General Hospitals and the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals - Seven Primary Care Trusts exist with another two proposed - There are eight N.H.S. Trusts - There is a workforce confederation
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- There are wider economic and social regeneration links e.g. through Yorkshire Forward
- Implications of the proposals
- For Patients with –
 - good practice shared
 - increased involvement in decision making
 - innovative local services to meet needs
 - improved integration
 - For Staff with –
 - matching skills to posts
 - personal development opportunities
 - application of TUPE
 - For N.H.S. Organisations –
 - clarified responsibilities
 - improved access to wider regeneration opportunities
 - For Partner Organisations –
 - clarifies and strengthens key N.H.S. input to wider agendas
 - improved understanding of commitment
 - simplifies process for joint working
- The Next Steps
- People are being asked what they think
 - Secretary of State to make a decision in December
 - Establishment of new Strategic Health Authorities as from 1st April 2002 with them being in place mid 2002
 - Delivery of the N.H.S. Plan

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

- the representatives to the new body were all not democratically elected
 - In response it was explained that it would be more open and transparent then before
- the good relationship the southern part of the Borough shared with Bassetlaw District General Hospital – In response it was explained the changes were more administrative then on the ground and it would not affect people attending the Bassetlaw Hospital

- who decides the level of staffing and resources in providers/trusts – informed determined by N.H.S. Trusts
- the strategic allocation of resources would bring the four South Yorkshire areas together, what was to stop priority being given to e.g. Sheffield – it was explained resources would be channelled to where they were needed
- if people needed specialist treatment at Bassetlaw District General Hospital they were referred to the Queens Medical Centre at Nottingham. Could not an arrangement be made to have a reciprocal arrangement to refer them to e.g. Sheffield – it was explained this could be looked at
- what was the proposed complaints procedure as it could be very difficult lodging a complaint against your own doctor – initially people were asked to take up an issue with their practice and if not satisfied raise it with the Health Authority. An independent service/ombudsman could then try and resolve the matter and if that did not work a formal complaints procedure would kick in. Again the point was made that if issues could be dealt with initially it could prevent them becoming complaints
- the Ear, Nose and Throat Unit Management and Mental Health had moved to Doncaster, what was to say other services would not follow – it was clarified it was only the management that had moved on a three year contract
- compared with the others South Yorkshire seemed a small Health Authority, would it get its share of resources – it was explained it covered a large important conurbation and more than warranted its fair share of resources.

Agreed:- That John Hinchcliffe be thanked for his helpful and informative presentation.

5. ROTHERHAM REACHOUT

The Assembly received the Executive Summary of the findings of the first survey of Panel Members which had been set up as one of the ways in which the Borough Council listens to the people of Rotherham. Issues on which responses had been sought included:-

Life in Rotherham
 Your G.P. (family doctor)
 The Internet
 Your Local Neighbourhood
 Travelling in and around Rotherham

It was explained the Borough Council were already taking action in responding to the feedback.

Arising from one issue raised it was noted that whilst "Dog Loos" were being provided they were not being emptied as often as required.

Agreed:- That the report findings be noted.

6. AREA ASSEMBLY OFFICERS REPORT

Gordon Smith reported on the following issues:-

(a) Community Skip Allocation

That the original thirty skip days had been allocated as mentioned in the Assembly Newsletter and that it had been possible to assist Thorpe Salvin in time to enable clearing up after its success in Village in Bloom. It was hoped to negotiate some additional allocation arising from wider under utilisation by other Assembly Areas.

Agreed:- That the allocations made be noted and any persons requiring a copy of the Assembly Newsletter notify Gordon Smith.

(b) Environmental Hot Spots

That work on environmental hot spots had taken place and queried if the Assembly would wish to allocate any resources to help tidy up the land surrounding the new Community Centre at Dinnington. Further to the preparation of the report it was noted that Groundwork Creswell had indicated they could do the work.

Discussion ensued on the condition of the former machinery store building at the side of the Dinnington Scout Group building and to the rear of the adjacent Community Building.

Agreed:- (i) That the allocation of resources towards tidying/landscaping works at the Dinnington Community Centre be not supported.

(ii) That the Borough Council be asked to take action to deal with the former machinery store building referred to.

(iii) That it be noted that the wheelchair access/egress to and from the Community Building has and was being addressed.

(c) Rotherham Show

That a Community Planning exercise had taken place at the Rotherham Show over the weekend 8th/9th September, 2001. Issues raised by residents from the south of the Borough who attended were referred to.

(d) Coalfields Regeneration Trust

That following a meeting involving Assembly Officers and Danny Buckley, the Trust's Development Officer, terms of reference had been agreed for a joint strategy group to help ensure the effective deployment of resources in the Borough. Local Area Assemblies would be invited to act as a reference group in influencing which bids for funding submitted to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust should be supported.

It was explained that a new round of bidding had been launched on 14th October, 2001.

Agreed:- That the Assembly: (i) accepts the invitation to engage in acting as a reference group for locally derived applications for grant support to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust;

(ii) adopts the criteria suggested in the submitted report as a basis for commending applications to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

(e) Community Away Days

Notification was given of events being arranged and representatives were asked to contact Gordon Smith for further details.

14th November, 2001 - Rural funding meeting in the Bailey Suite, Rotherham

30th November, 2001 - Community Workers Away Day
(transport can be arranged)

6th November, 2001]	Rotherham Environmental Forum
5th February, 2002		
7th May, 2002		
3rd September, 2002		

It was also mentioned a report on the Asylum Seekers/Refugees meeting held recently was available.

7. MEETINGS SCHEDULE

A schedule was submitted of suggested meeting dates/times for the 2002 Calendar Year. It was explained it was proposed to arrange venues as soon as possible to assist prior advertising.

Agreed:- That the Schedule be received and arrangements proceed for suitable venues.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Consideration was given to suggested possible future agenda items.

It was suggested that reference in "Council Matters" to the Rother Valley South Assembly area would help in creating interest/ownership.

Agreed:- That the following subjects be addressed at the Assembly meetings as indicated:-

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| December | - | Crime and Disorder including CCTV |
| January | - | Yorkshire Forward proposals
as to the former Dinnington and Kiveton
Park Colliery sites |

with a future programme of discussion themes to be determined.

9. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Assembly be held in the Wales High School (Careers Room) on Monday 3rd December, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.