

**ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(Firbeck Village Hall)
8th October, 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
Mr. Jack Mackay	South Yorkshire Transport Initiative
Councillor Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Iain St. John	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Mrs. Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Mrs. Beryl Howarth	Anston Resident
Mrs. Sue Thompson	Anston Resident
Mr. Roy Newman	Laughton Conservation and Historical Society
Mr. Alan Yates	South Anston Resident
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Councillor Sid Bennett	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Mr. Trevor Stanway	Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council
Mr. Peter Cogett	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Mr. Mick Elliott	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Mr. Ken Ward	Woodsetts Parish Council

Together with:-

Mr. David James	Principal Engineer (RMBC)
Mr. Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Greg Dalton	Rural Priority 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 Councillor Ann Britton (Borough Councillor Ward No. 13); Mr. Gerald Capper (DART), Mrs. Monica Carroll (Association of Governors), Mrs. Wendy Degg and Stephen Ward (Community Development Workers); Mr. Michael Gazur (Anston Parish Council); Mr. David Hall (Harthill with Woodall Parish Council); Mr. Nigel Lee (Firbeck Parish Council); Mr. Alan Vickers (Anston Parish Council) and Councillor Philip Wardle (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18).

2. INTRODUCTIONS

General introductions took place.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following issues were raised:-

- CCTV – damage had taken place on Laughton Road e.g. including broken windows in the new library but believed no action taken despite CCTV. It was queried if they were monitored and if any action was ever taken.

Comment was also made that the siting of such cameras merely moved a problem

In response it was explained that the CCTV system was monitored and that it was believed the people who caused vandalism in the library had been apprehended

Agreed:- That representatives of the South Yorkshire Police and CCTV be invited to attend the next Assembly meeting to address the concerns.

- High Nook Estate, Dinnington – concern was expressed at the state of this area with litter/tipping, some unkempt gardens and a child/youth nuisance. It was suggested this needed to be addressed to prevent a decline in the area.

In view of the nature of the problems it was felt this should be addressed by the Borough Ward Councillors and the Area Housing staff

- Youth Nuisance – comment was made at the nuisance caused by children from local schools who were visiting areas in gangs. Whilst it was accepted this could happen in different areas it was felt in the first instance arrangements should be made for several representatives to attend at and meet with the management of a large local Comprehensive/High School.

The point was made that out of school hours parents were responsible for the actions of their children.

- Traffic Calming – a query was raised as to why other areas achieved traffic calming measures and yet South Anston did not
- Meeting Publicity – it was queried why an annual list of meetings, together with venues was not published on the web site
- Laughton-en-le-Morthen Blind Junction – it was queried why a mirror had not been provided at this blind spot to assist people exiting a junction. In response it was explained the Department of Transport would not authorise such although it was still being pursued.

On closing this part of the meeting the Chairman referred to the attendance of Ruth Dudley from District Audit at the last meeting.

She had subsequently given a report to the Borough Council and had referred to the good and balanced representation on this Assembly and had felt the variation in timing of meetings and venues to be good practice.

4. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 3rd September, 2001 be received and approved.

(b) That arising therefrom it be noted:-

(i) Dump It Sites – complaints were being made as to the height of the barriers and queried why they opened outwards which meant that if a larger type vehicle was allowed through all traffic had to back up. Concern was also expressed that local Parish Councils who had collected tipping materials from open spaces/hedges etc. in the spirit of partnership could not then take the materials to local sites. It was explained that the Environment Scrutiny Panel of the Borough Council were to review the new operations after three months and would take on board all such issues.

An update report would be given after their deliberations and suggested the issue could be raised in Newsletters (Minute No. 3).

(ii) Assembly Issues – in Ruth Dudley's (District Audit) report to the Borough Council, she had suggested that Assemblies could be more pro active in identifying appropriate issues and referring them to Scrutiny Panels for consideration (Minute No. 2).

(iii) Japanese Knot Weed – Information had been placed on the web site (Minute No. 4(b)(i)).

(iv) Smell/Noise Nuisance, South Anston – A local meeting had been held with concerned residents and a course of action agreed (Minute No. 4(b)(ii))

(v) Community Skips – Thorpe Salvin had requested a skip for several days but had been advised that insurance problems would prevent this (Minute No. 4(b)(vi))

(vi) Community Chest – Twelve applications had been received of which three had been rejected. A total sum of £1,650 had been allocated to the other applicants. Another round were to be considered at the end of January 2002 with £2,100 remaining to be allocated. Further applications were being sought now. This would be mentioned in the next Assembly Newsletter (Minute No. 4(b)(iii))

(vii) Anston Plantation Management Plan – Some thirty-five people had attended a site meeting held in heavy rain and had been extremely positive as to the proposals (Minute No. 6(e))

5. SOUTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN/HIGHWAY ISSUES

The meeting welcomed David James, Principal Engineer in Engineering Service of the Borough Council who gave a progress report, further to the presentation to the Assembly on 2nd April, 2001 on the 5 year programme for delivering the Local Transport Plan in Rotherham. The key issues to note were outlined which included the fact that a bid had been made for a scheme for the A57 from the M1 to Todwick crossroads. In addition he reported on progress with schemes in this area namely:-

Worksop – Wickersley Rural Quality Bus Corridor
Dinnington Town Centre
Wales/Kiveton/Todwick Sector
Laughton Common Sector – maintenance, housing
Rural Sector – Firbeck

The overall Integrated Transport Package Programme for the financial years 2001/2 to 2005/6 was outlined.

It was explained that consultation and public involvement was a fundamental part of delivering the Local Transport Plan in Rotherham. A consultation exercise in Maltby was being used as a pilot for other sectors.

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

(a) the need for better signing for the Industrial Estates to help prevent HGV's from travelling through residential areas/along inadequate roads;

(b) whilst there had been a reduction in accidents on Nursery Road, North Anston, traffic speeds had not reduced and the traffic calming scheme was accordingly being examined further;

(c) the mini roundabout was to be constructed shortly at the junction of Leopold Street - Lidget Lane as part of the Dinnington Town Centre scheme;

(d) the A57 improvement scheme as outlined would assist the development of the former Dinnington Colliery site;

(e) the Engineering Service were willing to consider any suggestions put forward as to the Wales/Kiveton Park/Todwick scheme;

In the above regard the Chair referred to problems with residents parking on road narrowing markings instead of on their own drives.

(f) the success of the new type 'cats eyes' on Worksop Road, Woodsetts. It was noted however that similar studs on the road leading from Thurcroft had been damaged;

- (g) it was confirmed that all schemes would in future give priority to pedestrians and public transport as against the private car;
- (h) problems with motorists accessing/egressing from the junction of School Road with Mansfield Road, Wales;
- (i) the need for road markings to prevent people parking interfering with sight lines at major junctions. An accident on Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington was quoted as an example of such;
- (j) road flooding in Thorpe Salvin caused by water being unable to run away from where road humps had been constructed;
- (k) the continuing problem of road flooding near to Pigeon Bridge at Thorpe Salvin;
- (l) increase in traffic movements elsewhere in Dinnington during the Town Centre environmental works;
- (m) the traffic calming for Firbeck had been approved and was intended to be implemented this financial year;
- (n) the overall problems caused by HGV's running through rural areas;
- (o) the flooding of gardens on Crowgate in South Anston during periods of heavy rain exacerbated by HGV's/PSVs moving water;
- (p) the procedure for notifying Emergency Services of road closures/alterations was queried as ambulances were still attempting to gain access to the Council Housing estate at North Anston via Caperns Road. It was explained that this should not happen as very good liaison existed.

In conclusion David James advised that Engineering Service were willing to consider any positive suggestions put forward.

6. AREA ASSEMBLY OFFICERS REPORT

Gordon Smith reported on the following issues:

- (a) difficulties with the electronic communication systems at the Kiveton Park Colliery Office and the temporary use of an alternative telephone no. (10909) 774115;
- (b) the visit to Middlesbrough attended by the Chair, Parish Councillor Alice Booth, Roy Newman, Keith Jones and himself which had been of assistance in considering the principle of a hub recreation/leisure facility in the general area;
- (c) work undertaken in removing graffiti;

(d) the closure of the footpath through Alcove Plantation linking the Church Lane, Dinnington estate and Anston Greenland School, due to erosion of the surface;

(e) investigations into standing water problems on Outgang Lane, Dinnington had revealed several blocked gullies;

(f) the allocation of community skips and possibility that this Assembly Area could take up any unused allocation from elsewhere;

(g) the establishment of a Rotherham Environmental Forum with dates of future meetings given;

(h) the availability of funding under the Drug Scope Millennium Awards Scheme.

7. REPORT

The report of the following meeting was submitted:-

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

8. DEVELOPMENT LAUGHTON COMMON AREA

The need to ensure that adequate and appropriate schooling arrangements were made for the children of people who would be residing within the new developments within the area was emphasised.

The wish that this did not entail numerous prefabricated buildings provided when a school was already full was referred to.

9. QUEENS JUBILEE

A Parish representative queried if any other parishes/areas had started making arrangements to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.

10. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Assembly be held at the St. James Church Hall, North Anston on Monday 5th November, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.