

**ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(Wales High School, Kiveton Park)
3rd December, 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
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. Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Mrs. Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Mr. Roy Wells	Anston Conservation Society
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Inspector Steve Lavin	South Yorkshire Police
Special Constable Clive Tyree	South Yorkshire Police
Mr. Tim Hawkins	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Mr. Roy Newman	Dinnington and District Conservation Society
Mr. J. Semer	East and South Terrace Action Group
Mr. Trevor Stanway	Laughton Parish Council
Mr. A. Ferby	South Anston Resident
Mr. Jack Mackay	South Rotherham Rural Transport
Mr. Eddie Hodgson	Kiveton Park Independent Advice
Mr. Jamie Kirkpatrick	D.A.R.T.

Together with:-

Mr. Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mrs. Nicola Hacking	Area Assembly Support Officer (RMBC)
Mr. Mick Stowe	Community Development Worker – North Anston (RMBC)
Ms. Wendy Degg	Community Development Worker – Dinnington and Laughton Common (RMBC)
Ms. Sam Allen	Active Community Development Officer (RMBC)
Ms. Tessa Popple	Active Community Development Officer (RMBC)
Mr. David Tyrrell	Democratic Services (RMBC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mrs. Alice Booth (Wales Parish Council); Councillor Ann Britton (Borough Councillor Ward No. 13); Mr. Gerald Capper (DART); Mr. Michael Gazur (Anston Parish Council); Mr.

Ken Ward (Woodsetts Parish Council) and Councillor Robin Stonebridge (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1)

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Some general introductions took place.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following issues were raised :

(a) Telecommunications Masts

Queries were raised as to radio waves emitting from Telecommunications Masts and explained that there were different opinions on this subject. It had been stated the masts did not pose any threat whereas some other people disagreed. The Borough Council, as local planning authority, could only work within Government guidance on the subject and planning legislation.

The most comprehensive piece of work on the subject was the Stewart Report which dealt with the issues in some detail.

Agreed:- That a copy of the Stewart report be forwarded to each of the Parish Council's in the Assembly area.

(b) Chesterfield Canal

It was stated that in the last edition of the magazine/booklet Cuckoo, it had been stated that the regeneration proposals for the Canal might not meet the environmental criteria, In response a copy of a letter received from the British Waterways Board was circulated giving a position statement and explained that should people have any further queries a meeting was being held in Thorpe Salvin that night.

4. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 5th November, 2001 be received and approved.

(b) That, further to Minute No. 6(b)(i) it be noted that Groundwork Creswell had commenced environmental works at the Dinnington Community Centre.

5. CCTV – PERFORMANCE SINCE INCEPTION

The meeting received Inspector Steve Lavin and Special Constable Clive Tyree who spoke on the development of CCTV operations in Rotherham since the launch in 1996. They explained there were now 98 cameras operating with the main control room at the Main Street Police Station with

a secondary control room operated by this Borough Council in Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham. The latter concentrating on car parks and Council premises.

In the main operations room they had thirty screens with staff changing the monitors/cameras being viewed at random. It was however confirmed that the cameras did record all the time with the exception of a seven minute period whilst tapes were changed every three hours. Should any member of the public report any incident it could immediately be checked against the camera tapes. The cameras did help in not only identifying problems first hand but in collecting evidence.

In addition to the Rotherham Town Centre cameras were sited in six outlying areas including the Rother Valley South area.

Whilst it would be hoped to provide more cameras it was a question of funding as they were a very expensive piece of equipment. Some funding had however been identified to provide two new cameras in the Rotherham Town Centre and Help Points in agreed locations.

It was clarified that the cameras were a tool and would not solve the problems being experienced. They did however work very well as part of an overall system. This had been shown in Rotherham Town Centre where store security personnel were working with the police and the camera operations centre.

The point was made that proper security measures should always be provided. It was cheaper in the long run.

A list was produced of recorded incidents in the Rother Valley South Area during the period 1st January to 15th September, 1999 and a video presentation then made of some of the incidents recorded on camera. It was confirmed that Data Protection did cover the recordings and clarified that the resolutions did allow individual persons to be identified.

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

- the possible local monitoring of cameras. The Data Protection laws and cost implications were outlined. Some larger schools did however have their own operations.
- the perceived attention given to criminals with little support/attention given to victims
- the need for the public to be more pro-active in assisting the police in giving names and providing evidence
- the overall cost implications of not only providing a system but operating it. Whilst the Government provided grants to assist provision

and installations the Police and Local Authorities were left with meeting the revenue costs

- before any tape of a camera recording could be used it had to be cleared. They could not be released for public consumption
- the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch and suggestion that should areas not have one they telephone 01709 365908 to ascertain information or contact their local community constable
- the operation of the vehicle 25 plus scheme
- statistics for 2000 and 2001 of camera operations had as yet to be fully logged
- Rotherham was the safest place to live in South Yorkshire and its statistics were below the national average

On conclusion the general view of the meeting was that CCTV did help and their operation and hopefully expansion was supported.

Agreed:- That Inspector Lavin and Special Constable Tyree be thanked for their most helpful and informative presentation.

6. AUDIT OF CRIME AND DISORDER 2001

The meeting received Mr. Tim Hawkins who reported on the findings of this Audit. He gave the background namely that the Borough was required to have a Community Safety Partnership which had the task of drawing up a three year strategy. In Rotherham the strategy was commenced in 1998. The work therefore had been to undertake an audit of the position and review the current strategy which was coming to an end in 2002.

He advised that copies of the Audit findings document were available and the views of everyone were being sought.

Tim then made a presentation, highlighting :-

- Priorities for Action
- The Good News for Rotherham
- Factors to be taken into account
- Rotherham's Top Five Crimes
- The position in the Rother Valley South Area
- emerging issues to be tackled
- other issues to be addressed including the protection of young people and local crime and partnerships

In the latter regard there was felt to be a gap at Assembly level. Local knowledge should be better captured and felt a local group could help address local issues.

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

- the existence of a Crime and Disorder Group which covers Dinnington and Laughton Common
- Police Forum Groups appear to have lapsed and further meetings in the Rother Valley South Area were needed
- In view of different localities forming the Rother Valley South Area it was felt that a series of local groups would be better, based in villages, but accepted one at Assembly level would be a good start
- pro-active policing was needed in the area
- the lack of funding for Neighbourhood Watch was referred to and noted that the South Yorkshire Neighbourhood Watch was getting together with a number of M.Ps to form a deputation to the Home Office

Agreed:- That Tim Hawkins be thanked for his presentation and representatives make individual responses to the questionnaire.

7. AREA ASSEMBLY OFFICERS REPORT

Gordon Smith reported on the following issues:-

(a) Environmental Hot Spots

Following responses from several Parish Councils a meeting had been held with the Engineering Service and detailed costings were now being prepared for potentially suitable schemes for presentation to a future meeting.

Whilst it was an owner's responsibility to move dumped items i.e. tyres from private land, the situation as to bridleways was different. Action had already been taken to remove tyre dumps on such sites, situated off the A57 near Lindrick Golf Course, Barker Hades Lane, Letwell and off Oldcotes, Road, Throapham near to Thwaites Wood. Some further tipping had since been noted along the highway on the A57 lay-by at Anston Stones Wood, on Brookhouse Lane and New Road, Firbeck near the junction with A634 all of which had been reported to the Highways Service. Should any further problems areas be identified representatives were asked to contact the Borough Council's Footpaths Officer, Richard Pett on Rotherham 822932.

Further to work undertaken on removing graffiti, it was noted the Borough Council were to purchase a machine and establish a team to address such problems on a borough-wide basis.

Agreed:- (i) That the Assembly endorse the method adopted in disposing of hotspot money whereby it is concentrated upon non-statutory issues of an “eyesore” nature.

(ii) That similar action be initiated regarding the disposal of fly-tipping on Rights of Way when all other means have been explored.

(b) Community Skips

All skips for this Assembly Area had now been allocated and Cleansing Services (David Olliver 01709 823190) were to contact the nominees to ensure the skips were supervised in their locations.

If there was under-utilisation in any other areas, the Borough Council would consider possible relocation.

(c) Dinnington Town Centre

Whilst the preparation work for the implementation of the improvements to the highways environment had been thorough, local traders had become concerned once the work had started. This had resulted in some adverse publicity. A meeting had been arranged to try and address their concerns.

At an earlier Working Group meeting, it had been agreed that together with the Dinnington St. John’s Parish Council a “Welcome Back to Shopping in Dinnington” campaign be launched with newspaper advertising, following completion of the highways scheme and prior to the Christmas Festival on Tuesday 6th December, 2001.

Agreed:- That the work undertaken to promote the re-launch of Dinnington Town Centre as reported be approved.

(d) Social Services Plan

The Service Plan for the above had been issued and a copy was available for inspection if any representative was interested.

(e) Highway Issue

A petition had been received from the Action Group for Wales Bar requesting a pedestrian crossing on Mansfield Road, Wales and had been formally submitted to the Borough Council for consideration.

Agreed:- That the petition be supported.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

In accordance with Minute No. 8 of the 5th November, 2001 meeting it was confirmed that Yorkshire Forward were to attend the next meeting of the Assembly to explain their proposals as to the former Dinnington and Kiveton Park Colliery sites.

9. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Assembly be held in the Laughton Village Hall on Monday 7th January, 2002 at 2.00 p.m.