

ROTHAM VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
held at Wales Methodist Church, Wales
4th March, 2002

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert
Barbara Justice
Sam Allen
Michelle Garrison
Tessa Popple
Stephen Ward
Brian Cottam
G. ?
Alan Yates
Alan Vickers
D. Holland
N.H.W. Lee
Trevor Stanway
Clive Pantry
Pat McLaughlin
Charles Ball
Councillor Philip Wardle
Councillor Iain St. John
Councillor Bennett
Councillor Clarence Swindell
Councillor D.S. Chapman

Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
ACE Project (Kiveton & Dinnington)
Active Communities Development Officer
Active Communities Development Officer
Active Communities Development Officer
Community Development Worker
Dinnington Parish Council
Local Resident
South Anston Resident
Anston Parish Council
DART
Firbeck Parish Council
Laughton Parish Council
Todwick Parish Council
Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Borough Councillor Ward No. 18

Together with:-

Gordon Smith
Mr. Simon Peters
Greg Lindley
Janet Dalton
Nicola Hacking

RMBC, Area Assembly Officer
Langtree Estates Development
RMBC – Economic & Development Services
RMBC Surf4Health
RMBC – Assembly Support Officer (Rother Valley West
Assembly)
RMBC – Democratic Services Officer

Jean Waldie

Apologies for Absence:-

Wendy Degg
Mick Stowe
Roy Newman
Rita Alderton
Beryl Howarth
Sue Thomson

Community Development Worker
Community Development Worker

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made. The Chairman thanked Councillor Stonebridge for chairing the meetings in her absence.

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following issues were raised:-

(1) Mud on Road:

Reference was made to the muddy road from Kiveton Park Old Station for half a mile and it was noted that this matter had already been reported and there was knowledge that the gullies were full. The Assembly asked that the site be inspected with a view to resolving the problem.

Agreed: That the Assembly Officer pursue this matter.

(2) Flytipping: A resident of North Anston referred to a recent press article which stated that "Town is a Dump - Locals" which was about flytipping in the area (reference made to Cramfit Road, opposite Gypsy site, which was privately owned. He reported that he lived half a mile away and the site resembled a "war zone" also a scrap yard business was operating on Council property and complaints had been made to the Council about the situation but no action seemed to have been taken.

A reply was given that the Environmental Health Services were presently undertaking a search of the land and that arrangements were in hand to have a meeting with Railtrack to try and establish ownership and to discuss the Gateway. It was acknowledged that if it was not in ownership then the land needed to be cleared before anyone can take ownership. There was a belief that the land did not belong to anyone.

(3) Flytipping / Bulky Item Collection:

Clarification was sought regarding the pricing of bulky items as an individual had been charged £21 to take away a bathroom suite.

Agreed: That information on the Bulky Item Collection Service be sent out with the next agenda.

(4) Model Code of Conduct

Reference was made to various Parish Councils not getting people to sign up to the Model Code of Conduct and a request was made for a local Seminar to be arranged.

Agreed: That the Assembly Officer have discussions with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

3. MINUTES

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February, 2002 be agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) Todwick Road - Reference was again made to the bad condition of part of Todwick Road and the Assembly Officer confirmed that this matter was being investigated by the Highways Section and a reply was still awaited.

(2) Local Agenda 21 – formation of Sub-Group to progress environmental activity within this Assembly Area - The Assembly Officer reported that two names had been put forward to represent Dinnington and Anston and one more was needed for Kiveton Park.

Mrs. Alice Booth put forward her name.

(3) Finningley Airport - The Assembly Officer explained that the Planning Service did not feel it appropriate to open this matter up for debate as the Inquiry date had been set and Rotherham MBC had already submitted its views.

5. WALESWOOD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS - PRESENTATION BY LANGTREE ESTATES

Mr. Greg Lindley (RMBC) reported that this was about a proposal that Langtree had put to the Objective 1 Directorate to obtain European funding for a development to take place at Waleswood IE. Objective 1 is about restructuring the economy of South Yorkshire and it was eligible for the highest grade of European funds; about £700m was available until 2008 and Objective 1 delivers to six priorities. The Economic and Development Service assists private developers to access such funds and helps with the writing of Business Plans. To maximise those benefits it is about making links with what happens in the local area to make it real, for example, to maximise jobs during construction and afterwards and consultation would take place with local agencies regarding employment.

Mr. Simon Peters of Langtree Estates was introduced and he gave a brief verbal report on the proposed development. He explained that Langtree was a private industrial-commercial property company and had 40 industrial estates across the north of England and a significant number in South Yorkshire. It had recently completed schemes in Barnsley, Doncaster Mansfield and Worksop and was now hoping to start the development at Waleswood this summer. Langtree also has a joint venture partnership with English Partnerships which is called "Network Space" to develop small workspace units. Detailed planning permission had recently been granted by Rotherham MBC for the first phase of the 16 acre site, to be known as Vector 31 for industrial units in sizes ranging from 1,000 to 2,700 square metres (11,000 - 30,000 sq. ft). A Network Space in Phase 1 (rather than later in Phase 2) will be an amendment to these proposals seeking to provide small units for growing new businesses from 1,750 square feet.

Langtree felt that there was a need for high quality modern workspace in the area and that it was an important attraction as the location of the site was close to the M1, Junction 31 and the A57 and would be highly attractive to potential occupiers. About 350/400 jobs could be created in Rotherham.

The Chairman thanked both Greg Lindley and Simon Peters for their report.

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

As agreed at the previous meeting the following documentation was submitted for information :-

Methane from abandoned Coal Mines in the U.K.
Environmental Benefits from CMM Capture

7. SURF FOR HEALTH

The Chairman welcomed Janet Dalton to the meeting who gave a brief outline of the Surf4Health project which is a new and exciting project for young people about their health and wellbeing. It is for all 7-18 year olds in Rotherham. Not only is the site just for Rotherham's young people, it is also designed by them.

The site will provide a directory of health and well being services in Rotherham. It will have information on key topics, and it will provide links to local, regional and national health advice pages. There will be a bulletin board so that youngsters can discuss different health issues and a medical dictionary so young people can look up common conditions and ailments. There will also be the facility to create and play your own games.

For the initial launch on 26th March, the site will cover six key topics: Nutrition, drugs alcohol and smoking, body image, mind and spirit, sexual health and sport and fitness.

The site is for young people; therefore they are the people who need to design the site. It needs to be how they want it, to address issues that they want to look at and to display work they have written.

The main objectives of Surf4Health are:

- To provide a signposting service to Rotherham's health and welfare resources
- To support new and innovative ways of gaining information and advice
- To engage the socially excluded – we want the site to get to hard to reach young people. We aim to do this by having access to the site in youth clubs and through social workers as well as being able to access it at home. The site will also be used in schools and will be used as a resource by parents, carers, teachers and professionals.
- To encourage young people to adopt good health and lifestyle practices for life.
- And To develop the IT skills base.

There are several benefits that the web site has:

- It will improve the awareness and information of health and welfare resources amongst young people.

- It will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The site will contain up to date information and advice. The user will be able to access information anonymously, so they can use it to find out information that they were too scared or embarrassed to find out from anyone else. The site will assist in the development of IT skills, research skills and confidence.

Several different groups of people are involved in the project and they are involved in a number of ways.

- Young people are actively involved in the design, creation and evaluation of the site - they have been involved with cartoon workshops, focus groups, activity days and classroom activities.
- Teachers have been asked to fill in questionnaires, and have attended meetings and interviews.
- A number of professionals regularly attend our steering groups and have agreed to be on our editorial board, as well as write content for the site.
- Surf4Health has visited many community organisations inviting them to contribute information for their site.

The project is funded by Central Governments Invest to Save budget. The ISB gives money to innovative projects, which provide new ways of doing things. Successful projects can be implemented in other areas. Rotherham Council, the owners of the project, are providing 25% match funding. The funding for the project runs up till March 2003. It is hoped that additional funding will be gained to sustain the project through sponsorship from local businesses and other funding bids.

For any further details contact can be made as follows:-

Surf4Health, Rawmarsh Comprehensive School, Monkwood Road, Rawmarsh,
Rotherham, S62 7GA

Web:- <http://www.surf4health.info>

Fax:- 01709 710078

8. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Assembly Officer submitted a report updating the Assembly on the following matters:-

(1) Jubilee Street Parties:

The Borough Council is offering to process applications for street parties at a much reduced rate of £10. But to take advantage, organisers must apply before 30th April, 2002.

Applicants will receive a Celebration Toolkit with advice on what to do and who to contact. For further information contact Graham Weaver, Engineering Service on (01709) 822930.

(2) Rotherham Advice and Information Network - The RAIN Building:

This purpose built "one-stop-shop" for information and advice was completed in 1999.

Tenants include Rotherham Citizen's Advice Bureau, Children's Information Service, Age Concern, Health Advice Centre, Rotherham Credit Union, Action in the Community for Employment, Irish Forum, Disability Information Service and South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau. A leaflet about RAIN and its services was made available.

RAIN is above the Markets off Eastwood Lane, Tel. (01709) 517999; www.rainweb.org.uk

(3) Special Assembly Meeting:

The Social Inclusion Unit is planning a Special Area Assembly Event with the aims of promoting Assemblies in general and benchmarking performance. Rother Valley South has been chosen as the Assembly Area to participate in the event which will be held on Friday, 12th April in the Lyric Hall at 2.00pm.

Details have not been finalised but it was anticipated that they will include the use of widespread publicity, presentation of the Assembly activities to date and themed discussion groups facilitated by the Area Assembly Officers.

(4) Leaflet: Mobile Phones and Health:

Further to this Assembly's previous interest in this issue, the Assembly Officer submitted a copy of a letter and leaflet issued by the Secretary of State for Health to Mobile Phone Retailers. The leaflet had been issued following publication of the Stewart Report and concern had been expressed that distribution of the leaflet to customers was patchy. It reminds retailers of their joint commitment to ensure that advice on the "precautionary approach" reaches parents and carers for whom it is intended.

(5) Leaflet: Tyre Industry Council:

Further to this Assembly's recent deliberations upon the issue of tyre dumping the Assembly Officer came across a leaflet on display in a local garage. The garage owner observed that he was one of the first persons to take a copy. He also complained that, as a responsible business, he is being disadvantaged by those who choose illegal means of tyre disposal.

The Assembly noted that the Tyre Industry Council has established a certification scheme for responsible tyre retailers. Certificates will identify whether local garages and tyre dealers subscribe to the ideals of the scheme.

(6) Chesterfield Canal Liaison Meeting:

Following the success of previous meetings, in enabling exchange of information and concerns arising from the ongoing restoration works in the vicinity of Thorpe Salvin, a further meeting is arranged for Tuesday 5th March at 7.30p.m. in St. Peter's Parish Church. Among the issues to be addressed are proposed open day events during April and May.

(7) Community Skips:

The full allocation of skips was ultimately utilised plus two surplus from underuse by other Assemblies. Thanks are due to all those Parish Councils and other individuals and organisations enabling the success of this year's programme.

There is no certainty that a budget will be available for 2002-03. However, it would be prudent of the Assembly to have a contingency plan and it was requested that Parishes submit draft requests on the assumption that they will receive a similar total allocation as this year, spread over the 12-month period.

(8) Environmental Hotspots Fund

The work authorised by the January Assembly, i.e. refurbishment of seating at Kiveton Park and rubbish clearing at Leicester Road / Silverdales Road-end, Dinnington, is ordered and should be undertaken before the financial year-end.

Following further investigations of the ownership of the footpath linking Doe Quarry Lane with Scarsdale Street, Dinnington it is now beyond doubt that the Borough Council owns it but it is not clear which Service owns.

It was suggested that this would be ideal candidate for treatment from the hotspots fund and the Assembly was asked to consider sanctioning the work to proceed next year in the event that funding of a similar nature with the same objectives is available.

The Assembly objected to this as they felt that the footpath was the responsibility of the Council's Housing and Environmental Services Programme Area and that any treatment should not come out of the Hot Spot money.

Agreed: (a) That the proposal to provide a surfaced footpath from Doe Quarry Lane to Scarsdale Street as a first call as any future allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal (Hotspots) Fund be not approved and that the Executive Director, Housing and Environmental Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be asked to investigate this matter with a view to improving the footpath.

(b) That the Borough Council be asked to seriously consider reallocating money for community skips because of the benefit in alleviating flytipping.

9. EXTRA ITEMS

(a) South Rotherham Rural Transport Group Meeting

The minutes of the above group held on 21st January, 2002 were made available.

(b) Kiveton Park and Wales Luncheon Club

Details of the above Club were made available which meets at the Festival Hall every Monday and Friday from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm and the Assembly were asked to encourage attendance to keep it viable.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Housing Regeneration - Report by Councillor Sue Ellis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services (April).
- Electoral Boundary Review.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed: That the next meeting be held on **Monday, 8th April, 2002** at **2.00 pm** at the Lyric Hall, Dinnington.

12. DATE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Agreed: That it be noted that a Special Meeting of the Rother Valley South Assembly will be held on **Friday, 12th April, 2002** at **2.00 pm** at the Lyric Hall, Dinnington, for the reasons described earlier.