

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
held at the Lyric Hall, Dinnington
8th April, 2002

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Barbara Justice	ACE Project (Kiveton & Dinnington)
Michelle Garrison	Active Communities Development Officer
Tessa Popple	Active Communities Development Officer
G. R. Day	Anston Conservation Society
S. Thomson	Anston Resident
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
K. Ward	Anston Parish Council
Brian Cottam	Dinnington Parish Council
Roy Newman	Dinnington Conservation Society
Bob Kearsley	Dinnington Resident
J. Jordan	Dinnington Resident
Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Trevor Stanway	Laughton Parish Council
G. Keens	North Anston Resident
Pat McLaughlin	Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident
Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Councillor Philip Wardle	Ward No. 18
Councillor Iain St. John	Ward No. 1
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Ward No. 18
Councillor D.S. Chapman	Ward No. 18
Councillor Karl Barton	Ward No.
G. Burkinshaw	Resident
D. Ramsden	Resident

Together with:-

Gordon Smith	RMBC, Area Assembly Officer
Rex Carter	Executive Director, Housing and Environmental Services
Mick Stowe	RMBC Community Planning Officer
Jean Waldie	RMBC – Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence:-

Beryl Howarth, Alan Vickers, Jack McKay, Charlie Ball, Graham Greaves, Alice Booth, P. Blanksby, Fran Blanksby, Sam Allen, Steve Ward, Councillors Bennett, Ann Britton and Stonebridge.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following issues were raised:-

(1) Falcon Way:

On behalf of residents, concern was expressed regarding traffic calming measures which *were* affecting the access and egress at Falcon Way and now considered to be creating a dangerous situation. Concern was also expressed that there had been a lack of consultation about the installation of the traffic calming measures. It was noted that the situation had been raised by the Anston Parish Council and the changes had been brought about as part of the Quality Bus Corridor scheme.

Agreed: That the Head of Engineering Service be asked to submit a report on the background to this decision to the Assembly.

(2) Possible Funding – Wales Parish Church Cemetery Footpath:

Reference was made to difficulties being experienced in obtaining funding from various funding regimes for work to the cemetery footpath. The water tank was also not in good condition.

Agreed: That the Assembly Officer research possible funding sources.

(3) Flytipping:

Reference was again made to the various problems surrounding the Cramfit Road and associated areas and that despite several complaints to the Council no action seems to have been taken. A reply was given that a meeting was pending with Anston Parish Council, Railtrack and the land owners in order to address the issues.

(4) Red Dog Boxes:

A questioner asked who to contact with regard to the provision of red dog boxes and he was advised to contact Mark Benton, Environmental Health Services.

(5) Skips:

A questioner asked about the procedure for obtaining skips.

The Assembly Officer explained that funding was available from Neighbourhood Renewal for the last financial year and he was awaiting confirmation regarding the availability of funding for this financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services confirmed that funding was available for the financial year 2002/2003 and urged people to submit their bids to the Assembly Officer who would process the requests.

(6)Anston Conservation Society:

A member of the Anston Conservation Society asked the Assembly for assistance regarding the provision of resources to deal with its work, similar to the help given to the Rawmarsh area by its Assembly. It was stated that the average age of members of the Society was increasing and that it was difficult to attract younger people to take on some of the heavier gardening tasks.

The Assembly Officer referred to the Hot Spot funding allocated to Assemblies for Environmental Hot Spot work and reported that he could take the detail and try and work up a response for a potential project with funding from the Hot Spot fund or attempt to identify sources of support.

(7) Countryside Walks with wheelchair access:

A questioner asked about the possibility of providing a footpath in the countryside suitable for wheelchairs from Lordens Hotel down Lathes Lane in Throapham.

It was pointed out that this could be an expensive proposal but that the idea could be reported to the Dinnington Parish Council meeting. The questioner was advised to pursue the idea through the Ward Councillors.

(8) Civic Amenity Site:

Concern was expressed regarding some vehicles being refused access to the dumpit sites due to the new arrangements, particularly with trailers. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services acknowledged that there were restrictions and explained that the new arrangements required the public to fill in the appropriate form which would allow the issue of a permit(s) (up to 12 per year) to gain access to the dumpit site. Application can also be made for an exemption in one-off circumstances.

(9) Civic Amenity Site – Barriers:

A questioner referred to the different height of barriers, i.e, the *exit* barrier was slightly lower than the entry barrier and, therefore, some high vehicles could access the site but could not exit, without using the entry access and asked if this matter could be rectified.

Agreed: That this matter be referred to the Executive Director, Housing and Environmental Services, for investigation.

(10) Dumping of Refrigerators:

A questioner referred to the difficulty in disposing of refrigerators and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services explained that refrigerators can still be taken to the dumpit sites and they would be disposed of correctly at no cost to the individual.

Reference was made to the Bulky Item Collection Service and the contact number for details was given (01709-823108).

(11) List of Contacts:

Agreed: That the Assembly Officer provide a list of Contact Names and Telephone Numbers as a quick reference for the public.

3. MINUTES

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March, 2002 be agreed as a correct record subject to the addition of the name Ken Ward to the list of apologies.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Responses to issues raised at the previous meeting are included under the Assembly Officer's report.

5. HOUSING REGENERATION

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Sue Ellis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Services and Mr. Rex Carter, Executive Director, Housing and Environmental Services.

Councillor Ellis gave a brief resume of her Cabinet portfolio, together with a brief update on the following :-

(a) Kiveton Park White City:

(i) Demolition

Demolition of 16 properties (Phase 1) had commenced on site 18th February, 2002. The Contractor is G. Fry Demolition. Phases 2 and 3 are in the preparation stage due to the complex nature of diversions, structural engineers reports. etc.

(ii) Rehousing

There are two Council tenants remaining on Coronation Avenue and both have recently accepted new tenancies and will be moving shortly.

(iii) Survey of Existing Private Tenants

A survey of the remaining 42 private tenants on the estate was completed recently. To date, only 28 residents have returned the survey form.

The survey was to ascertain if the remaining tenants would like to be rehoused by the Council or go into housing association accommodation. 90% of those who have returned the form wish to be rehoused by the Council. Visits will commence on Monday 8th April to all remaining households to establish their re-housing needs.

(b) Laughton Common:

(i) Demolition

There are no further plans for demolition at the present time. Three Council Tenants who are not in transit accommodation are still waiting to be re-housed.

One owner-occupier has still not agreed terms but has been written to recently by the Programme Area asking them to make contact.

(ii) Re-development of the site

The Development and Planning briefs were completed a short while ago and during local resident group meetings were given to those group members attending to view. They were allowed to take the briefs home and return them with their comments or suggested amendments. These are now ready for sending out for expression of interest.

(iii) Expression Of Interest

The advertisement is due to go out on the 12th April for expression of interest, this will go out to both local and national press agencies, and will also be placed on the R.M.B.C web site.

(c) East Street, Dinnington

The vacant Council owned site has been selected for re-development by the Education Department to replace the existing infant and junior school, which is currently at the top of East Street. A community consultation day was held to discuss the proposals, and the Planning Officer is compiling the information received into a report at the moment. The education department is currently preparing to submit an outline planning application.

It is also hoped that the old school site will be re-developed to include social housing to accommodate local need.

Remaining East Street properties are in need of renovation, and are all privately owned by a mixture of private landlords and owner-occupiers. Meetings are held monthly with local residents and landlords to discuss the future of the properties, and other issues in partnership with other agencies.

We have included this area in the Renewal Declaration report, but a further lack of funding in the private sector has prevented this from going forward.

(d) Woodland Drive

Phase one is fully complete and Phase two is nearing completion. Economic Development Services, Bailey House, has dealt with the whole re-development of the area. Clive Jepson Senior Architect managed the scheme.

At this stage, Mick Stowe, newly appointed Community Planning Officer, was introduced and he gave a brief update on his remit and the work achieved so far in the area and that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

The Chairman thanked both Councillor Sue Ellis and Rex Carter for attending the Assembly.

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

As agreed at the previous meeting a report giving information about the Bulky Item Collection Services was submitted.

7. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

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

(1) Special Assembly Meeting:

The previously announced special Assembly to be held in the Lyric Hall, Dinnington on Friday, 12th April, 2002 has been postponed. Details of alternative date will be notified when available.

(2) South Yorkshire Police External Consultation:

There is consultation taking place with potential partners in community planning as to how closer working relations between organisations and groups can be facilitated.

One initiative arising from such discussions is a proposal from South Yorkshire Police to receive feedback from meetings when Police Officers are not in attendance.

The Police have formulated a Pro-Forma (P2) to be submitted by a representative of the meeting. A copy was tabled at the meeting.

It has been agreed that Area Assembly Officers across the Borough will co-ordinate the submission of returns from their Assemblies.

(3) Community Fund Advice Sessions:

In order to achieve a greater success rate in applications for Lottery Grant from coalfield communities a series of advice sessions and workshops have been organised for community groups and their representatives. Details were submitted and contact can also be made on Telephone No. 0114 – 2494343.

(4) Issues from Previous Meetings:

(a) Red Hill Quarry

Further to this issue being raised at the March Assembly, Gordon had requested co-ordinated action between Planning and Highways Engineers within Economic and Development Services. The officers identified to pursue this are; Bronwen Peace (Planning) and Graham Weaver (Highways).

(b) Chesterfield Canal Restoration

The next liaison meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 18th June, 2002, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church, Thorpe Salvin.

(c) Park farm, North Anston:

A third public meeting was held on Tuesday, 26th March, 2002, to discuss the ongoing issues relating to the pig farming and recycling activity. Residents agreed to co-ordinate monitoring of environmental nuisance incidents. If this is undertaken rigorously it will improve the chances of enforcement action being successful by substantiating evidence.

(d) Parish Councils – Model Code of Conduct:

Parish Councils should now be aware that a seminar has been organised for the evening of 9th April, 2002 at the Town Hall, Rotherham.

All Parish Councils have been invited to send two representatives. Depending upon whether they feel able to “cascade” information down following this, further seminars may be organised. Dates and venues are being investigated by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services should these be necessary.

(5) Environmental Hotspots Fund:

The outstanding work to renovate two public seats in Kiveton Park is completed.

(6) Rother Valley Health Improvement Development Day

Advance notice had been received of the above event on 13th June, 2002, at a venue to be arranged. Interested parties are invited to contact Terri Roche on 01709 302098.

It was clarified that this is intended for health and related workers and is not an open community event.

(7) Oyster Awards:

The Oyster Awards is a new citizenship initiative launched in February by Common Purpose, Camelot Group p.l.c. and the Sun Newspaper. Oyster Awards will be made to individuals who have spoken up and take constructive action about something they thought should be improved, changed or created in the local community.

Awards are aimed at persons over 18. The Assembly may wish to encourage nominations from its citizens who have shown grit and determination in pursuit of achievements in the categories of Education, Environment, Crime Prevention, Health, Governance, Community, International, and Culture/Leisure.

Further details on www.citizensconnection.net

(8) Unemployment Bulletin:

The latest published data sheet on unemployment by Assembly Area was submitted. It shows that Rother Valley South shares with South Rotherham the dubious position of having the highest youth unemployment rate in the Borough.

(9) Future Agenda Items:

In order to comply with its timescale for consultation the issue of Electoral Boundary Review by the Boundary Commission must be discussed at a future meeting.

In addition, the Emergency Planning Officer wishes to address the Assembly. Although this presentation cannot be made until November, agreement in principle to receiving this item will enable it to be scheduled then.

(10) Community Planning Officers:

Reference was made to the newly created posts of Community Planning Officers and that Mick Stowe will work with the Rother Valley South Area Assembly.

Eight Community Planning Officers are appointed to work within the eight Area Assembly teams. The purpose of these posts are to work with community organisations/partnerships and the Council's partners to develop and support the Community Planning process. This will include giving support to community partnerships within this Assembly to develop community plans, prioritise and draw down external funding, and promote the Government's agenda for the Modernisation of Local Government.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Electoral Boundary Review
- Emergency Planning

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed: That the next meeting be held on **Monday, 13th May, 2002** at **2.00 pm** at the Old Library, North Anston.