

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(held at Old Library, North Anston)
13th May, 2002

Present:-

Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Councillor Karl Barton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
D. Bell	Laughton O.A.P. Club
Councillor Sid Bennett	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Fran Blanksby	Disability Awareness Group
Peter Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Councillor Ann Britton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Colin Britton	Kiveton Park Resident
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Brian Cottam	Dinnington Parish Council
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Barbara Justice	ACE Project, Kiveton/Dinnington
J. Kirkpatrick	Dinnington Area Regeneration Trust
John Humphrey	Letwell Resident
Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Pat McLaughlin	Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
Roy Newman	Dinnington Conservation Society
David Oldroyd	Kiveton Park and Wales Community
Development	
	Trust
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Trevor Stanway	Laughton Parish Council
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Sue Thomson	Anston Resident
Mr. A. Tristram	Chairman, Rotherham Transport User Group
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Mr. A. Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident

Together with:-

Roger Childs	Halcrow
Wendy Degg	Community Development Worker (VAR)
Nicola Hacking	Area Assembly Support Officer (RMBC)
Steve Hewitson	Community Transport
Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mick Stowe	Community Planning Officer (RMBC)
Mark Trask	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Dawn Mitchell	Democratic Services Officer (RMBC)

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Ian St. John (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1), Tessa Popple (Active Sports Development Worker) and Graham Greaves (Thope Salvin Parish Council).

13. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Road Conditions

Mr. Newman expressed concern regarding the state of the road from Todwick to Dinnington which was now becoming dangerous to cyclists/motorcyclists.

Councillor Wardle reported that he was meeting with officers of the Engineering Service the following day and would draw it to their attention.

(2) Overhanging Branches

Mr. Pantry reported that a number of traffic signs were partly obscured by overhanging trees.

Mr. Smith asked that he be supplied with details and he would pass them onto the Highways Section.

(3) Park Farm

A member of the public reported that he had a copy of plans which showed the proposed construction of a large storage building and dwellings for farm workers.

Agreed:- That Councillor Bennett be fully informed and discuss with the appropriate officers.

(4) Falcon Way

A report was distributed prepared by the Head of Engineering Service regarding the recently introduced traffic calming on Nursery Road.

(5) Walesmoor Club

Peter Blanksby reported that the former Waleswood Pub, now a chinese restaurant, had erected railings which he considered hindered visibility for drivers emerging from the junction.

Councillor Ann Britton reported that an official complaint had been lodged and the owners informed that they had to submit a retrospective planning application. The Parish Council would then have the opportunity to object to the railings.

(6) Traffic Mirror

It was reported that the mirror requested on the junction of School Road/High Street had been erected.

(7) Community Service

A member of the public asked if there was still a scheme where offenders worked in the community?

Councillor Swindell reported that the service was soon to be run by the Youth Offending Service. Where young offenders had committed a crime

for the first time they would be expected to carry out some sort of service for their community.

14. MINUTES

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April, 2002, be agreed as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes, reference was once again made to the increase in flytipping throughout the Area Assembly area since the installation of barriers at civic amenity sites.

Gordon Smith reported that the Executive Director of Housing and Environmental Services had responded to the issue at the last meeting. He had explained the difficulty for the Local Authority in subsidising the private operators who took material to the sites and did not incur the charge for disposal to landfill. The matter was one for active policing and prosecution.

15. SOUTH ROTHERHAM RURAL BUS CHALLENGE

Roger Childs reported that Halcrow were a company of civil engineering/transportation/public transport consultants who had been commissioned by the South Yorkshire Passenger Executive to develop a Rural Bus Challenge bid for additional public transport funding from the Government.

The Government funding was a competition which was in its 4th of a 5 year programme. Its aim was to fund new bus or rail initiatives against a set criteria which was published year by year and built on the previous year's criteria in light of the bids received. The Government had not yet produced the criteria for this year's round. A successful bid had been awarded in 1999 of £1.3M from which the Dinnington Interchange, Service 19 Quality Bus Corridor, RotheRide Services and shopmobility had been funded.

The Study area had been extended and now covered Treeton, Ulley, Thurcroft, Firbeck, Aston, Todwick, North Anston, Woodsetts, Kiveton Park, Wales, Harthill and Carlton-in-Lindrick. It may not seem rural but it fitted the DTLR's definition of rural. A similar urban competition was run for which bids were due in by the end of July.

A possible bid could include additional "demand responsive" services, more Quality Bus Corridor initiatives, possible rail interchange improvements and emphasis on local partnerships. Consultation was central to any meaningful schemes and there was a need to demonstrate local support. Initiatives had to be identified by mid-June with draft bids being submitted for the Passenger Transport Executive approval process. Bids had to be submitted by the end of October with an announcement being made mid-December.

The funding was for three years and was for both capital and revenue. When the funding came to an end the scheme(s) would have to be picked up elsewhere.

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

Was the concessionary ticket to be extended to more cross boundaries
 No direct access to Meadowhall which excluded many from work
 Need for reliability of service
 Need for a Quality Bus Corridor in the southern area and higher specification buses
 The need for double decker buses at certain times during school holidays
 Need for real time information on bus shelters

Roger and Mark Trask, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, took note of the issues raised.

Roger was thanked for his interesting presentation.

16. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

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

(1) Environmental Warden's Service – Update

A copy of the annual report had been received which highlighted that 60 fines had been issued against people for failing to pick up after their dogs and 65 fines for litter droppers/minor fly tipping offences.

(2) Civic Amenity Site Barriers

The Waste Management Service had investigated the height of the entry and exit barriers at the Cramfit Road site and found the exit to be 1" higher than the entrance. It was likely that the height of vehicles was raised once they had discharged their loads. The supervisor had been advised that he should open the gates to enable a vehicle to exit in such a circumstance. The possibility of raising the exit barrier was also being considered.

(3) Gardening Schemes

Gordon Smith had contacted Help the Aged following a further plea by Anston Conservation Society for hands-on assistance in maintaining the sites under its care. Help the Aged was in the early stage of looking at a gardening support service and was anxious to speak to gardening schemes no matter how large or small. Although their focus was on domestic gardens and links with crime reduction, Gordon had passed the Conservation Society details on.

Mick Stowe had also established a link between the Society and Scouts, Cubs and Guides with a view to involving young people in the restoration of community gardens. He had suggested that photographs be taken to record good practice and that the Society attend events held by the Scouts etc in return.

(4) Wales Parish Church Cemetery Footpath and Water Tower

Gordon Smith felt that the above would be better pursued via the Parochial Church Council although enquiries could be made to South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau.

Pat McLoughlin reported that the PCC had contacted 12 different funders on the advice of SYFAB and had not been successful. Nobody wanted to take responsibility for the building. The funders' funding for religious buildings was not centralised and did not cover graveyards at all.

Various suggestions were made as to the way forward including investigating the possibility of granting a long term lease to a community group to enable them to bid for funding.

(5) Community Skips

The Assembly had been allocated an increased number of skips i.e. 15 per Ward. Once again the Assembly would be responsible for their allocation subject to Environmental Health being satisfied that all conditions relating to their hire, and in particular the need for constant supervision on site, would be adhered to. The start date would be 20th June, 2002. Currently there had been 2 formal and 1 informal request for skips.

(6) Environmental Hotspots

There was to be another round of funding, details unavailable as yet. The Community Planning Officer had been advised of the need to liaise with the Environment Sub-Group with a view to working up some schemes which might be capable of attracting grant aid.

(7) Rotherham Environment Forum

A further meeting had been held on 7th May at the Unity Centre. The topics discussed included the Unitary Development Plan, Grot and Good Sports and Nuclear Power. The next meeting was scheduled for 3rd September.

(8) Conservation Awards

The above awards were for groups who had made a positive contribution to Yorkshire wildlife. The Wildlife Trust was looking for innovative projects which had helped conservation (done by school, individuals, community/voluntary groups, businesses) for example creating a nature habitat, sustainable farming and protecting sites. The first prize was £400 with entries to be submitted by 2nd August. Telephone 01904 659570.

(9) South Yorkshire funding Advice Bureau

The Bureau had secured increased funding from the Council and was now able to resume a full-time presence in Rotherham at the RAIN building. A condition of the funding was that SYFAB link with and support Area Assemblies. To this end a surgery was to be held on the Woodlands Community Centre on Tuesday, 9th July from 10.00 a.m.-12.00 Noon.

Peter Foyle was the Rotherham Funding Development Worker and could be contacted on 01709 5145258, email rotherham@syfab.org.uk, website www.syfab.org.uk.

(10) Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest

Letters had been sent to Community Chest Panels informing them that the above was available for bids up to 30th June.

(11) Community Chest

A steering group of officers was meeting to look at issues of duplication and how the process could be simplified.

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau
- Skills Training and Careers
- Cultural Strategy including Community Curators Project of Clifton Park Museum
- Periodic Electoral Review (1st July)
- Emergency Planning (4th November)
- Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust – Pit Head Baths
- Youth – Rotherham Connexions – Youth Service

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting be held on Monday, 10th June, 2002, commencing at 7.00 p.m. at Wales High School.