

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
1st July, 2002

Present:-

Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Councillor Karl Barton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Fran Blanksby	Disability Awareness Group
Peter Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Councillor Ann Britton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
C. Britton	Wales Resident
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Peter Collier	Park Avenue Dinnington Resident
Brian Cottam	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Graham Greaves	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Cliff Hall	Falcon Way, Dinnington Resident
A. Hall	Falcon Way, Dinnington Resident
Jeanette Hunt	Park Avenue, Dinnington Resident
Norah Lemin	Laughton Common Resident
Jack MacKay	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council and
	South Rotherham Rural Transport Executive
Pat McLoughlin	Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
Christine Morton	Swinston Hill Road, Dinnington Resident
Roy Newman	Dinnington and District Conservation and
	History Group
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Patricia Patnick	Falcon Way, Dinnington Resident
Katie Pemberton	North Anston Resident
Councillor Gerald Smith	Cabinet Member for
	Economic and Development Services (RMBC)
Councillor Iain St. John	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Sue Thomson	Anston Parish Council
Alan Tolhurst	Firbeck Resident
Ken Ward	Woodsetts Parish Council
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident

together with:-

Richard Copley	Corporate I.S. (RMBC)
Richard Jackson	Engineering Service (RMBC)
Paul Nash	Engineering Service (RMBC)
Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mick Stowe	Community Planning Officer (RMBC)
Chris Thomas	Corporate I.S. (RMBC)
David Tyrrell	Principal Democratic Services Officer (RMBC)

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by C. Ball (South Yorkshire Fire Service); Sam Allen, Tessa Popple, Wendy Degg and Steve Ward (Community Development Officers) and Alan Vickers (Anston Parish Council).

29. INTRODUCTIONS

General introductions took place.

30. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2002 be received and approved.

(b) That arising from Minute No. 24(a); (i) it be noted that a request had now been received from the Anston Parish Council for Community Skips which was being accommodated; (ii) and that the concern of the Harthill with Woodall Parish Council that a skip did not arrive until 10.30 a.m. instead of 9.00 a.m. as arranged, was being pursued.

(c) That further to Minute No. 24(c) the different types of Community funds be noted.

31. QUESTION/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) Closure of Aged Persons Homes – Following concerns as to the reported closure of Council run homes the Borough Council Members explained the correct position namely that :-

- Aged Persons Homes were to be the subject of new Government criteria requiring a minimum room size with facilities
- a review was being undertaken in Rotherham as to meeting standards in residential provision
- part of the review was about supporting people in the Community

It was stressed that no decisions had been taken yet and that discussions were ongoing.

Agreed:- That an update report be presented to the next appropriate meeting of this Assembly.

(b) Drilling of Gas Well and Use of Gas for Electricity Generation – Concern was expressed as to a planning application submitted relating to land situate off Swinston Hill Road adjacent to Bradshaw Wood. Residents were deeply concerned as to this proposal, situate in a prominent position in the Green Belt. People with concerns/views were asked to make

representations to the Local Planning Authority and advised that the submitted proposals were different from those previously considered and not proceeded with for a site near to Woodsetts. It was queried why details of the application were not lodged in the local library.

(c) Traffic Scheme, Dinnington Town Centre – concerns were expressed that some motorists were still abusing the new traffic system and driving the wrong way down one way streets. It was explained this was a matter for the South Yorkshire Police.

32. **TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME/QUALITY BUS CORRIDOR – NURSERY ROAD, NORTH ANSTON/DINNINGTON**

The Assembly received Paul Nash and Richard Jackson of the Engineering Service of the Borough Council who gave an overview of the Local Transport Plan which basically was the mechanism for the delivery of local transport initiatives. There were targets for sustainable schemes and of course road safety. It was particularly important to reduce the number of child casualties. Whilst Rotherham was already under the national average the wish obviously was to revise this further.

Every year based on the plan the Government determined the level of funding to be made available and they were pleased to advise that the allocation for Rotherham had been increased in the last year. This had given the opportunity to deliver further road safety schemes. To give focus two strategy documents had been worked up, the key elements of which were 'Danger Reduction Schemes' and 'Safer routes to schools'. There was also a criteria for pedestrian crossings.

The major factor in the majority of accidents were speed and in response and in conjunction with the police a Speed Management strategy covering main distributor and residential roads had been drawn up.

Having regard to guidance it was important to link speed limits with road and surrounding conditions. The measures adopted were :-

- enforcement by the police (limited resources)
- traffic calming measures
- education of drivers

The message does get across but there was still a need to encourage drivers to accept they should drive at appropriate speeds.

A report was submitted which gave details of the strategies referred to, measures to slow traffic, examples of road safety initiatives in the Rother Valley South Area and areas still to be considered.

Specific reference was then made to the scheme introduced on Nursery Road, North Anston/Dinnington, to calm traffic and as part of the Rotherham to Workshop Quality Bus Corridor.

A number of comments were then made/issues raised including :

- the need for greater police enforcement
- no objections to principle of traffic calming but there were implications including noise from vehicles, particularly lorries/vans travelling over the bumps would could affect residents quality of life.
- there was a need for lower speed limits in or adjacent to residential areas – in real terms it was explained most drivers tended to drive at speeds which reflect what they saw as the road conditions applying
- on Nursery Road many drivers were seen to be zig-zagging between the speed humps and some travelling on the wrong side of central traffic islands/bollards
- some drivers were using Falcon Way to by-pass some of the traffic calming
- if buses and H.G.V.s were passing in opposite directions one had to slow right down – it was explained that Nursery Road was now in fact slightly wider in places
- Park Avenue, North Anston was also being used as a rat run, was now suffering from more problems and some of the signage was wrong and needed reviewing
- why had speed cameras not been introduced prior to spending a lot of money on the scheme. It was explained they were used to relate to known accident areas and other criteria. Drivers who became aware of where they were sited tended to slow for the camera and speed up elsewhere
- following queries it was confirmed that no traffic police had been removed from Rotherham and in fact they had two more
- could H.G.V. restrictions be considered for some roads where there were known problems
- there was a need to revisit the area on Nursery Road near to Falcon Way, motorists had difficulty with the revised junction
- the general standard of the work on Nursery Road was considered poor and not as achieved in other areas
- people were still having difficulty in crossing the main road through Harthill – it was explained that the length and nature of the road did not lend itself to defining individual crossing points or the provision of a pedestrian crossing

- the consultation on road traffic schemes was queried and explained.

Agreed:- (a) That the presentation be received.

(b) That the Ward representatives and Engineering Services Officers meet with representatives of aggrieved residents on Falcon Way/Nursery Road to discuss their concerns.

33. ROTHERHAM'S PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Assembly received Richard Copley and Chris Thomas of Corporate I.S. of the Borough Council who explained that the Boundary Committee for England were undertaking a Periodic Electoral Review of the Borough which covered Council size, Ward boundaries and Ward names. The purpose being to ensure that every Councillor represents a similar number of electors, enabling electors to have around the same access to a Councillor and all Councillors the same chance of being elected.

The current situation in Rotherham was explained together with proposals of the Borough Council which had, following detailed consideration, put forward the proposal that the Council be reduced in size by 3 members to 63 with 21 wards. As the electorate was predicted to be 195,772 by 2006 each Ward was predicted to have a target electorate of 9,322.

The amendment of Ward boundaries was not a political consideration and did not affect Parish boundaries. It was however expected to reflect natural communities and to have real features as boundaries.

The review timetable was quoted, initial comments at this stage being invited by 26th July, 2002.

Two wards which make up this Assembly area namely the Kiveton Park ward and the Anston and Woodsetts Ward were recommended as unchanged with the third, St. John's Ward, being slightly reduced.

The proposals were seen as not dramatically changing the position in this area and sensible in relation to the population balances in the area.

34. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Area Assembly Officer submitted a report commenting on the following issues :-

(a) Environmental Sub Group

The first meeting of the group had been held on 12th June, 2002 and they were requesting suggestions for projects. A further meeting was to be held on 3rd July, 2002. The membership was Alice Booth (Kiveton Park), Sue Thompson (Anston/Woodsetts) and Jamie Kirkpatrick (Dinnington St. John's).

(b) Rotherham Reachout – Rother Valley South Area

A copy of the report for the area produced by Rotherham Reachout, a new Citizen's Panel which enables the Council and its partners to monitor public satisfaction with their services, was submitted.

(c) Queen's Golden Jubilee Award

Details of this new annual award were reported to recognise and reward excellence in services provided to the community by groups. Nominations for 2002 being required by 30th September, 2002.

(d) The Experience Corps

Established last year with the aim of encouraging people over 50 to offer their skills and experience to benefit local communities

(e) South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau

Free advice and information sessions for voluntary and community groups were to be held at the Woodland Drive Community Centre, North Anston on Tuesday 9th July, 2002.

(f) Free Computer Workshops

The RCAT – based Community Education Resources (CEDR) were offering a variety of training opportunities to voluntary and community groups. Information was available.

(g) New Opportunities Fund – Fairshare for Rotherham Community Groups

It was noted a pre-launch briefing had been held for this new initiative to boost the take-up of lottery funding by Rotherham based voluntary and community groups. Information was available.

(h) Unemployment Bulletin

A copy bulletin giving the picture for the Assembly Area as for April and May, 2002 was submitted.

(i) Community Skips

The latest schedule of skips was attached which took account of further requests received since the last Assembly meeting. Consideration was accordingly given to these further requests.

Agreed:- That requests for skips be approved as follows:-

Anston Parish Council	(7)	
Laughton en le Morthen		(1)
Kiveton Park	(8)	

35. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Agreed:- That, and as previously determined, the following item(s) be considered at the next or following meeting(s) of this Assembly:

- Community Plan
- The Future Role of Local Authority Care Provision

36. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held in the Woodsetts Pavilion on Monday 2nd September, 2002 at 2.00 p.m.