

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
(held at Wales High School, Kiveton Park)
10th June, 2002

Present:-

Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Councillor Karl Barton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Andrea Bennett	Resident
Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
H. Bradshaw	South Anston Resident
Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Graham Greaves	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Robert Holland	DART and Dinnington Resident
Barbara Justice	ACE Project, Kiveton/Dinnington
Robert Kearsley	Dinnington Resident
J. Kirkpatrick	Dinnington Area Regeneration Trust
Josie Lee	North Anston Resident
Pat McLaughlin	Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Councillor Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident

together with:-

Sam Allen	Acting Community Development Officer (RMBC)
Sharon Haigh	Connexions/Youth Service
Tessa Popple	Active Community Development Officer (RMBC)
Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Mick Stowe	Community Planning Officer (RMBC)
David Tyrrell	Principal Democratic Services Officer (RMBC)
Ian Whitehead	Youth Service (Team F) (RMBC)

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by C. Ball (South Yorkshire Fire Service); Fran Blanksby (Disability Awareness Group); Peter Blanksby (Wales Parish Council); Brian Cottam (Dinnington St. John's Parish Council); Councillor Derek Chapman (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18); Wendy Degg (Community Development Worker); Nigel Lee (Firbeck Parish Council); Jack Mackay (South Rotherham Rural Transport Group); Roy Newman (Dinnington and District Conservation Society); Councillor Iain St. John (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1); Councillor C. Swindell (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18); Sue Thomson (Anston Resident); Steve Ward (Community Development Worker) and Councillor Philip Wardle (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18).

20. INTRODUCTIONS

General introductions took place.

21. MINUTES

Resolved:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May, 2002 be received and approved.

(b) That further to Minute No. 2(5) the present position be ascertained as to the Waleswood Club issue.

22. SOUTH ROTHERHAM RURAL TRANSPORT GROUP

The notes of the last meeting of this Group held on 20th May, 2002, were submitted for information.

23. SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The meeting welcomed Ian Whitehead, Youth Service Manager and Sharon Haigh, Area Personnel Advisor, Rotherham Connexions, who reported on services for young people.

Ian initially reported on the operation of the Youth Service in its current form, involving working through Youth Centres and in accessing the harder to meet groups. Information was given of the current provision and structure and the Way Forward. He emphasised the Youth Service was about the recognition of needs and determining the most appropriate response, be it centrally based or outreach. Again he referred to the need to relate to young people on the street and quoted examples of real progress achieved.

Sharon then briefly commented on the Connexions Service and her role as a Personnel Advisor. It had been formed in recognition that there were some four million teenagers in England who would all need access to help to deal with issues that could affect their achievements. Almost a third of young people drop out or fail to achieve their goal in full time education, which costs an estimated £350m. It was currently estimated the 157,000 16 to 18 year old (1 in 11) were not in education, training or employment.

The aim of Connexions was to give every young person the best possible start in life by helping them achieve a smooth transition from adolescence to adulthood and working life.

She went on to describe the role of Personnel Advisors who work with and for young people, brokering access to specialist services if needed, commenting on referral.

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

- referrals, it being noted that referrals in the 13 – 16 year age group can come from any source, including a school or child him/her self

- the relationship between Connexions and the Youth Service with the Borough Council acting as employer
- the services were trying to address issues not covered before e.g. Connexions could give more dedicated support
- careers guidance was addressed
- the number of young people who obtain qualifications and then wash their hands as to what they feel is 'the system' can be referred for support

The work was ongoing and unfolding and felt that the progress would be readily seen.

Resolved:- That Ian Whitehead and Sharon Haigh be thanked for their presentation and invited to attend a further meeting in several months time to report on progress.

24. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

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

(a) Community Skips

A schedule was submitted detailing requests received for the allocation of Community Skips which had been planned on the basis of fifteen skips per Ward. It was noted many areas had still to respond.

Resolved:- (i) That the request for ten skips for Dinnington St. John's, eight for Woodsetts, four for Harthill and two for Thorpe Salvin be approved.

(ii) That one skip be allocated to Hooton Levitt.

(iii) That the remaining skips in Ward No. 13 be set aside for Wales and Todwick.

(iv) That in the event that Anston Parish Council do not wish to participate the remaining unallocated skips from Ward No. 1 be reallocated on the basis of a further four to Dinnington St. John's and three to Kiveton Park for known hot spot areas.

(v) That should further requests be received from other parishes within the Assembly Area they be satisfied from any redistribution from Ward No. 1 and/or any under-utilisation from other Assembly Areas.

(b) Environmental Sub Group

Nominees to this Sub Group had been invited to meet to discuss making the best use of this years allocation. A total of 5,000 had been received from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which may be matched from funding from other sources including Landfill Tax Credits to create a potential fund of £10,000.

It was stressed that, where practical, the expenditure should be targeted at areas of greatest deprivation which in this form accord with the European Objective One Priority Areas, including Laughton Common, Dinnington, North Anston (south of Woodsetts Road) and Kiveton Park (Storth Lane/Stockwell Avenue) excluding any new private residential area.

Resolved:- That suggestions be sought for appropriate Parish Councils for consideration by the Environmental Sub Group.

(c) Community Chest

A further £2,000 had been allocated for Community Chest funding for the present financial year and arrangements were being made for the first round of bids. Application forms were available from the Assembly Office at Ulley Country Park Offices, Pleasley Road, Aughton, Sheffield S26 3XL (Tel. 01709 721190).

In the interests of achieving a fair distribution of limited resources, applicants from Kiveton Park and Anston/Woodsetts were urged to apply to the WEA who administer the Rural Priority Community Chest in those areas, in the first instance.

(d) Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Details were given of two further funding sources launched in this area by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust namely:-

- 'Bridging the Gap' which was similar to the Community Chest providing grants between £500 and £10,000 which was open to any organisation with a governing document including Church and Parish Councils
- 'Small Grants' which was targeted at voluntary and community organisations providing project funding from £10,000 to £30,000

25. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Reference was made to preparatory work on the Assembly Community Plan, an essential part of the Community Strategy, which should be available by the Autumn of this year and the need to address the issue of the Periodic Electoral Review.

Resolved:- (a) That the Periodic Electoral Review be considered at the next (July) meeting of this Assembly and the Community Plan at its September meeting.

(b) That Skills Training and Careers be addressed at a future meeting.

26. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) Bassetlaw/North East Derbyshire Tipping Proposals

The position was queried as to tipping proposals believed to be contemplated at the former Steetley Quarry which was across the Borough boundary but which would have implications for Rotherham if pursued.

Resolved:- That enquiries be made as to whether the Borough Council, as Local Planning Authority, had been consulted on the reported proposals.

(b) South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau

Details were notified of an Information Session and Advice Surgeries to be held at the Woodland Drive Community Centre, North Anston on Tuesday 9th July, 2002 between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

27. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held in the Dinnington Resource Centre on Monday 1st July, 2002 at 7.00 p.m.