

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH ASSEMBLY – 7TH OCTOBER, 2002
AREA OFFICERS REPORT

COMMUNITY SKIPS

This Assembly was the first to utilise its full allocation of 45 skip days. I will inform the Assembly of any opportunity to obtain more skips. Parish Councils are advised to give consideration as to whether they need any more skips and to advise me of their proposed dates and locations as soon as possible. Priority will be given to requests from known problem areas.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT ROTHERHAM ROAD, LAUGHTON COMMON

Following advice from the Economic Development Service I was contacted by Redwall Developments Ltd. about their proposal to construct business and industrial properties on this reclaimed former gasworks site. The firm's proposals would aim to provide premises which are in short-supply in Rother Valley South. They would enable growing businesses to move on from the Dinnington Business Centre, a mixture of offices and industrial units. A planning application has been submitted but the development would not be viable without grant support from the European Regional Development Fund (Objective One).

In order to qualify for grant the applicant firm must demonstrate that it is meeting a need within the community it is situated.

It may be recalled that, several years ago, considerable effort was put into an attempt to develop this site for starter business units as requested by some residents of Laughton Common. This proposal was withdrawn for several reasons, i.e. funding was time-limited, there was a gap in the finance available, the site required re-levelling and English Partnerships claimed it could provide a better site for such a development.

My advice to Redwall was that, without prejudice to proper consideration by the Planning authority, its proposal would meet a need in the area and help to create job opportunities in the local economy. The Community Development Officer, Wendy Degg gave advice on how contact could be made with existing residents of, and those intending to return to, Laughton Common.

Recommendations:

That, subject to proper consideration of planning matters, this assembly welcomes the proposed development of business and industrial units at Rotherham Road and supports the developer's application for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (Objective One).

Community Chest:

The first round of applications for the Assembly Community Chest has now closed. Six applications were received and the Assessment Panel will meet in October.

FLY-TIPPING

Railway Access Land, Cramfit Road

A site meeting took place on 4th September, 2002 involving the Environment Agency and various Borough Council staff, Anston Ward Members and Anston Parish Council to examine the ongoing problem of fly-tipping here.

Through research undertaken by Mark Benton it is clear that no simple solution is available to tackle this problem. The site is owned through default by the Crown Estate which has been careful to avoid accepting any liability.

It was agreed that the various people on site would investigate enforcement and resourcing issues. For my part I have sought the advice of the Forward Planning and Economic Development teams in the Borough Council and will bring the issue to the attention of the Environment Sub-Group of this Assembly. I have also alerted Yorkshire Forward to this issue and a suggestion by Ward Members that the site could be incorporated into its landholding.

Coincidentally, Mick Clay of the SK58 Bird Group has produced a draft proposal to Yorkshire Forward for the future conservation and enhancement of the southern most part of Dinnington Colliery site to create a Nature Reserve. This proposal recognises the need to secure this site and to prevent ongoing destruction of native hedgerows. It makes all the more urgent the need to do something to address this problem and potentially offers a means of access to interpret the site.

Letwell and Firbeck

As reported verbally at the previous Assembly the Borough Council, as a one-off gesture, made arrangements for fly-tipped material on private land to be taken to Retford Commercial Waste Disposal Site. The sites involved were at Letwell and Stubbins Wood, Firbeck. The legal position is quite clear, albeit that it may appear unfair on the landowner. When material is fly-tipped the Council can only pursue legal action against the person responsible for fly-tipping, or the landowner if the person responsible cannot be identified.

The Borough Council is developing a rapid response fly-tipping removal team which will have the resources to remove such material from its own land. Also through the Environmental Health Service the removal of fly-tipping from certain other types of land may be possible. This will require an agreement by

the land owner to a scheme of works to minimise the risk of future fly-tipping at this location.

For further information contact Mark Benton, Environmental Health Tel: 01709 823187.

Gordon Smith
Assembly Officer 18/9/02