

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN

3. Introduction to the Area

3.1 Rother Valley South is geographically the largest and most rural of the Rotherham Borough Assembly Areas. Each of its Wards contains one of the three urban settlements of Dinnington, Anston and Kiveton Park. The Wards also include a number of rural villages.

- **Kiveton Park (Ward 1) – inclusive of Kiveton Park, Wales, Harthill with Woodall, Thorpe Salvin, Netherthorpe and Todwick.**
- **Anston Woodsetts (Ward 13) – North and South Anston, Woodsetts, Turnerwood**
- **Dinnington St. Johns (Ward 18) – Dinnington, Laughton Common, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, Brookhouse, Carr, Hooton Levitt, Firbeck, Gildingwells and Letwell.**

3.2 The area's urban history spans a period of no more than one hundred and twenty five years and is closely associated with the rise and fall of the deep coal mining industry. Kiveton Park was the earliest coal-mining settlement, growing around the colliery which opened in 1864 and continuing to grow after it closed in 1995. Dinnington followed with its colliery opening in 1904 and closing in 1992. Anston's main period of growth came in the 1960's when the West Riding of Yorkshire County Council earmarked the locality to receive population "overspill" from the West Yorkshire conurbation.

3.3 There are over 32000 people living in Rother Valley South, fairly evenly divided between the three Wards. The area has a very low percentage of population from the ethnic minorities. Data from the 2001 Census is awaited but it is unlikely to show much change. Sometimes overlooked, is that Dinnington, in particular, received a large number of post-war immigrants from Eastern Europe, mainly the Ukraine. These and their descendants have contributed greatly to the life and character of the area.

- **Kiveton Park, population 9,686, has more residents (66%) of working age than Rotherham Borough (59%)**
- **Anston Woodsetts, 12,402, has the youngest population in Rother Valley South and the most people of working age (69%).**
- **Dinnington St. Johns, 10,725, has a remarkably low ethnic minority population (0.2%) and more residents of working age (66%) than Rotherham Borough (59%).**
- Source: Office of National Statistics Mid Year Estimates 2000 and 1991 Census.

- 3.4 In comparison with the rest of Rotherham Rother Valley South has some of the least deprived Wards. However there are pockets of deprivation in each Ward whilst Dinnington indicates a more general level of deprivation than its neighbours.
- 3.5 Rother Valley South is an area of contrasts where housing is concerned. The private residential new build sector has prospered since the closure of Dinnington and Kiveton Collieries. Local authority house building ceased in the 1980's, with social housing needs being met by the growth of housing associations focussed upon supplying specialised properties. There was an emergence of a new-type of private landlord following the sale of former British Coal properties, which has since spread generally within the privately owned stock.
- 3.6 Effort to address the most immediate housing issues is ongoing with significant clearance underway at Laughton Common, East Street, Dinnington and Kiveton Park White City.
- 3.7 New private residential estates have recently been completed at Chapel Way/Father's Gardens, Kiveton Park and Church Lane, Dinnington. In progress are estates at Laughton Common and Highfield Avenue, Kiveton Park.
- 3.8 Greenlands Park at North Anston is the only significant area of public open space. However a good network of public footpaths enables ready access to the countryside from all settlements. The rural landscape includes some significant areas of ancient woodland, particularly Anston Stones Wood. Tourism interest is particularly attracted to the quality of many local Churches, Anston Butterfly Farm and the Chesterfield Canal, which is undergoing restoration.
- 3.9 Since the closure and demolition of Dinnington and Kiveton Park Collieries in the early 1990's the industrial base for the area has been provided mainly by trading estates at Waleswood, North Anston, Rotherham Road and Monksbridge Road, Dinnington. Significant new investment in the Brooklands Business Park at Church Lane, Dinnington has attracted tenants to a range of medium sized business units. Dinnington Business Centre continues to provide for new and growing manufacturing and office businesses.
- 3.10 Dinnington is the area's main shopping centre providing a choice of supermarkets and a variety of other retail outlets. Elsewhere local shops are available in Kiveton Park and North Anston. Beyond the urban settlements retail outlets are few in number and non-existent in some villages.
- 3.11 Dinnington forms the hub of a relatively good network of public transport which is being further invested in by the Rural Transport

Challenge Fund. Direct rail services to Sheffield and Worksop are available at Kiveton Park. Ready access to the motorway network at the M1, M18 and A1 is provided via the A57 which dissects the area.

- 3.12 There is ready access to further education facilities at the Rother Valley College Dinnington Campus and outreach locations at Kiveton Park.
- 3.13 Fourteen junior and/or infants schools in the area feed into two secondary schools. Dinnington Comprehensive and Wales High School also attract pupils from neighbouring authorities.
- 3.14 The locality has a range of childcare provision including nurseries and playgroups, including the purpose built facility at Dinnington Community Resource Centre.
- 3.15 Primary health care is structured around two general practices at New Street, Dinnington and Chapel Way, Kiveton Park. A further satellite teaching practice is to be provided by the Dinnington Practice in North Anston.
- 3.16 Policing of the area is conducted from a new headquarters based at Hellaby, following the closure of Dinnington Police Station. Community policing is undertaken by three officers assigned to the area.
- 3.17 Summary of Key Statistics

Health

- **General life expectancy in Rother Valley South is similar to that in Rotherham Borough although appears significantly less for both men and women who are residents of Dinnington.**
- **Closer examination indicates that in Dinnington the stillbirth rate, perinatal mortality rate and low birth weight rate are all higher than the national rate. Anston also suffers from perinatal mortality, neonatal mortality and infant mortality rates which are somewhat higher than national rates. This data suggests there are localised problems which require appropriate intervention.**
- **Rother Valley South exceeds the government target to reduce female conceptions aged under 18 by 2010 to 24 per 1000 by a large margin. Whilst local rates fluctuate on a year by year basis they were consistently above that target from 1992 to 1999. The problem is particularly acute in Dinnington and recently Kiveton Park has shown a substantial increase.**
- **Deaths from lung cancer are higher in Dinnington than in Rotherham as a whole.**

- Statistically Rother Valley South Area Assembly is the healthiest part of Rotherham Borough and Dinnington St. John's is the healthiest of all Wards. This suggests that there is a concentration of health problems in St. John's Ward at township level.

Crime

- The crime rate in Rother Valley South is lower than in Rotherham albeit that the Dinnington St. John's Ward rate is similar. This means that Dinnington is experiencing urban levels of crime in a rural setting. Both Kiveton Park and Anston Woodsetts Wards have a higher crime rate than comparable rural or suburban Wards.
- The highest levels of recorded crime from April 2000 to March 2001 in descending order were
Theft from Vehicles (429 offences)
Non-Domestic Burglary (424)
Criminal Damage (389).
- Street crime against individuals was very low, seemingly contradicting a local survey finding of a perceived risk on the streets.
- Burglary is highest at non-domestic property.

Wealth

- Income levels are relatively high in Rother Valley South Area Assembly compared to the rest of the Borough.
- Levels of child poverty are highest in Dinnington St. John's and Anston Wards.
- Dinnington is the fourth worst Ward in the Borough in terms of Education indicators as a measure of deprivation (educational attainment is closely associated with household wealth).
- The whole area is deprived in terms of access to social capital such as hospitals and leisure services. Dinnington is the most deprived of all Rotherham Wards on this measure.

Housing

- Dinnington St. John's has a greater concentration of housing issues than its neighbours.
- The percentage of property rented from the Local Authority in Rother Valley South Area Assembly is 41.2% of which 10.4% are houses.

- **There are more privately owned homes in Rother Valley South than anywhere else in Rotherham.**
- **There are less people on Council Tax/Housing Benefit in Rother Valley South Area Assembly (6.4%) than anywhere else in Rotherham.**

Education

- **The overall pass rate at Key Stage 2 is 67.8% in Rother Valley South, higher than the Rotherham norm of 62.5%.**
- **The take up rate of free school meals in Rother Valley South Area Assembly (13.5%) is one of the lowest in the Borough.**
- **The number of secondary school pupils enrolled in the area's two comprehensive schools in 2000-01 was 2926.**
- **More pupils left secondary school with a qualification of any kind in Rother Valley South Area Assembly than in the Borough as a whole.**

Rother Valley South Area Assembly

Index of Deprivation 2000	Anston Ward Borough ranking out of 22 Wards	Anston Ward National Ranking out of the 8414 Wards	Kiveton Park Ward Borough ranking out of 22 Wards	Kiveton Park Ward National ranking out of the 8414 wards	St Johns Borough ranking out of 22 Wards	St Johns National Ranking out of the 8414 Wards
Multiple Deprivation	18	2589	20	2978	14	1820
Income Domain	16	2123	20	3010	19	2640
Employment Domain	15	1894	19	2620	20	2763
Child Poverty Domain	15	2723	20	3324	14	1831
Health Domain	18	2276	19	2344	22	2966
Education Domain	22	4269	20	3084	4	333
Housing Domain	19	5949	21	6702	9	3183
Access Domain	6	3545	3	2624	1	2350

Notes:-

- In the local and national rankings above, low numbers indicate areas of deprivation and high numbers suggest greater affluence.
- Even the most affluent of Rotherham's Wards feature within the least well off half of the country.
- Statistics at a Ward level can mask pockets of deprivation. This fact was reflected in the Council's recommendations to the Local Strategic Partnership concerning the choice of Objective One Priority 4A areas.

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¹ The Access Domain refers to local issues such as access to a post office, access to food shops, access to a GP and access to a primary school.

4. **Community Infrastructure**

- 4.1 Rother Valley South is similar in size and community composition to the former Kiveton Park Rural District Council. The area was absorbed into Rotherham Metropolitan Borough with local government reorganisation in 1974. It is fully-Parished, having ten Parish Councils and two Parish Meetings. Laughton Common is part of Thurcroft Parish Council although geographically attached to Dinnington. Table 1 names the Parishes by Ward.

Table 1

Parishes Councils/Meetings in Rother Valley South by Ward

Anston Woodsetts
Anston Parish Council
Woodsetts Parish Council
Dinnington St. Johns
Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Firbeck Parish Council
Gildingwells Parish Meeting
Hooton Levitt Parish Meeting
Laughton-en-le-Morthern Parish Council
Letwell Parish Council
Part of Thurcroft Parish Council (Laughton Common)
Kiveton Park
Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Todwick Parish Council
Wales Parish Council

4.2 **Parish Councils**

Parish Councils play a key role in community life in this area and their support is vital if partnership ambitions are to be realised. Details of significant Parish Council priorities as known or expressly stated are included in following chapters. Key issues are:

Dinnington

- **to promote an improving image of the Town Centre.**
- **to address inclusion and image by promoting revival of the Dinnington Carnival and a Christmas Festival**
- **to make a success of the new traffic management scheme**
- **enhancement of the market area to the rear of the Shopping Centre**
- **the future of the Lyric Hall.**

Wales

- **the Kiveton Leisure Centre including providing the area with a swimming pool.**

Anston

- **Anston Stones Wood and Eco-Centre**

Rural Parishes

Woodsetts

- **new Village Hall and Village Plan.**

Harthill

- **maintenance of new sports pavilion adjacent to the recreation ground. Todwick**
- **extension of Village Hall and improvements to access at Goosecarr Recreation Ground.**

Thorpe Salvin

- **revised Village Appraisal.**

The Rural Target Fund activity being undertaken by the Yorkshire Rural Communities Council and the availability of Vital Villages funding from the Countryside Agency are both expected to result in a significant firming of Village Plans in the near future.

4.3 Dinnington Area Regeneration Trust

(DART) has grown in prominence as a focal point for community based regeneration. This was recognised when **DART was invited to produce a Community Action Plan to address opportunities offered by Dinnington's designation as a European Objective One Priority 4a target area.** This means that, provided match funding can be identified, schemes which deliver Programme outcomes can obtain up to 75% grant from the European Structural Funds. DART is currently expanding its staffing capacity to deliver the targets of the Active Communities Unit to double the numbers of volunteers and community groups. **It has produced a Neighbourhood Management Scheme as a Rotherham pilot which proposes the establishment of a community managed partnership to deliver the regeneration that Dinnington demands.**

DART's current projects include:

- **Objective One Priority 4 Community Action Plan**
- **Teenscene Youth re-engagement programme**
- **Projects in Theatre Skills (PITS)**
- **Children's Cinema**
- **Dinnington Youth Theatre**
- **Active Community Unit**

4.4 Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust

The Borough Council's Corporate Areas Initiative helped to facilitate the emergence of Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development

(CDT) Trust. The Trust is now custodian of the Old Colliery Offices on a short-term lease from Yorkshire Forward, which expires in 2004. **The Trust is in receipt of support funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and has ambitious plans to be involved in the regeneration of the former Kiveton Colliery site.**

- **A feasibility study into the potential for conversion of the Pithead Baths into a community arts venue has been completed**
- **A Business Plan has been prepared and SRB6 and Coalfield Regeneration Trust funds secured towards project outcomes.**
- **A community consultation was undertaken in May 2000 which confirmed local interest in saving the Baths.**
- **The Trust has undertaken a 'Scoping Study' of the potential to introduce 'Adventure Sport' activities onto the, to be reclaimed, Kiveton Colliery site.**

4.5 Youth Service and Rotherham Connexions

The Borough Council's Youth Service is actively engaged in promoting regeneration through its network of centre based workers at Dinnington and Kiveton Park. **This provision is currently under review with a potential new emphasis on outreach which is needed to address Social Inclusion and Community Safety issues in Rother Valley South.**

Rotherham Connexions has its southern headquarters at Dinnington Youth and Community Centre.

4.6 Churches Together for Regeneration

When Youth Club provision was withdrawn from Anston one of the local Churches helped to fill the void. This highlights the continuing and potential role of the Churches in regeneration, which has been reciprocated in the support offered from the Rural Priority Area towards developing the **Churches Tourism Project** and the associated **Rotherham Walking Festival.**

Churches have also faced a decline in attendance although not necessarily a universal one. The larger communities have churches serving several denominations. However, the Assembly Area is rich in churches of historical and conservation interest. Its Parish Churches are important contributors to the itinerary in the successful Churches Tourism Initiative sponsored by the Borough Council and Yorkshire Forward.

4.7 CISWO

The Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) is facing up to challenges posed by the consequences of colliery closure upon its network of social and recreational facilities at

- Kiveton Park where sports provision is run down
- Lorden's Hill where the former Welfare building has no identified use
- Dinnington where it has worked in partnership to deliver the Resource Centre

CISWO has undertaken a survey of all outdoor recreation facilities in Kiveton Park and Wales towards the acknowledged need for a Community Sports Development Plan.

4.8 Meeting places

Local forms of community meeting venues include places of worship, community and village halls, public houses and social clubs. Of the latter, there has been something of a decline marked by the closure of Dinnington Miners Welfare. The loss of income coming into these clubs following the closure of their respective collieries is the main factor in this reversal.

The provision of community meeting places such as Village Halls and Meeting Rooms presents a mixed picture. The larger communities generally have the biggest venues although not necessarily the best quality. **The recent construction of Dinnington Resource Centre and Community Library marked a significant step forward in local regeneration.**

4.9 Key Local Issues

- i **The impact of closure of local collieries is still deeply felt in the area.** Traditional community support structures such as the Miner's Welfare fell into decline with nothing to replace them. **The competitive nature of funding interventions by Government and other bodies has found people willing but wanting in terms of the skills necessary to take advantage.** Once close-knit communities have been obliged to become more outward looking. **Dissatisfactions with what they are left with have become overtly expressed especially in a lack of respect for areas of housing and the general environment.**
- ii **A commonly expressed view is that the slow progress made in addressing the reclamation of the former Colliery sites and the creation of new locally based jobs has added insult to injury.**

- iii Commonly expressed opinion is that the provision of and access to our local and public services in Rother Valley South is somewhat limited, whilst substantial journeys are involved in visits to town centres and hospitals. (Table 2). **There is some resentment and mistrust of the local authority among active citizens**, possibly fuelled by this distance, **which poses challenges for building partnerships.**

Table 1

Approximate distance in miles (kilometres) from Dinnington.

Sheffield City Centre	14	(22)
Meadowhall	12	(19)
Crystal Peaks	7	(11)
Rotherham	10	(16)
Worksop	7	(11)
Rotherham General Hospital	7	(11)
Bassetlaw General Hospital	7	(11)

iv **Retail and other Services
Dinnington**

Dinnington is the local service centre having a choice of banks and other financial service outlets, two supermarkets, foodstores and a limited range of comparison goods outlets. The survival of the latter probably owes more to Dinnington's isolation from competition than it does to its strength as a retail Centre.

Given that the catchment population of Dinnington is over 30,000, there is probably scope to improve its position as a retail and service Centre, but this will require attention to be paid to factors such as transport linkages and image.

As a key land and property owner the **Parish Council** is in a pivotal position to influence future development as it has already demonstrated by its **partnership with the Borough and the Coal Authority** in bringing forward development land **to enable construction of the new Safeway superstore and Transport Interchange.**

4.10 **Community Partnerships**

Three areas for partnership engagement and development have been identified through local consultation:

- The Rural Priority Area covering Kiveton Park and Anston Woodsetts Wards

The Rural Priority Area coincides with the Yorkshire Rural Community Council's Rural Target Area and receives assistance from the YRCC's Development Team in general and a dedicated officer, albeit shared

with neighbouring local authority areas. The YRCC maintains a Satellite Office at the Kiveton Park and Wales CDT Offices. Funding for its programme comes from the European Union's Regional Development Fund (Objective One, Priority 4.b).

The Rural Priority Area is based upon a foundation of partnership activity through its established Consultation Forum and Decision Making Body. There is no corresponding structure elsewhere.

- Dinnington with Laughton Common

Dinnington Area Regeneration Trust has a key role to play there as the lead body for community planning in the context of Objective One Priority 4a. However there is also a need to ensure that community interests and groups with needs which cannot be addressed through time-limited regeneration programmes are acknowledged. This suggests that there is scope for development of a broader partnership within Dinnington. **The challenge will be to build this partnership whilst leaving scope for DART to grow and evolve.**

- Rural Parishes in Dinnington St. John's Ward

Elsewhere, the rural settlements extending from Gildingwells to Carr in the hinterland of Dinnington have had no opportunity to engage in Community Planning. **Engaging Parishes to ensure the future inclusion of their needs in forward planning will be an important task for the Assembly Team with the YRCC and Countryside Agency.**

4.11 Summary of Key Issues

- **The need to identify and exploit opportunities for local collaborative working between groups and organisations.**
- **The need to project a positive image of the area in general and Dinnington in particular.**
- **The importance attached to the creation of new job opportunities at both former colliery sites.**
- **The need to raise of educational aspirations and achievement.**

5. Introduction to the Themes

This Assembly Area Plan focuses on information available through area-based partnerships and area based initiatives. In identifying community priorities, however, it is important to acknowledge that it has not been possible to involve all the communities in the Assembly Area, at this time. Consequently, there are still gaps and issues of diversity and inclusion to address.

Local Community Planning, supported by the Council, will eventually make it easier to identify issues and priorities and to ensure that they are addressed by the Community Strategy for Rotherham. In this respect the **plan is part of a new framework for both improving service delivery and supporting regeneration activities in the area.** With this in mind the next few chapters of the plan will look at the four main themes of the Community Strategy and how local priorities can be addressed.

In the four themed sections consideration will be given to the key issues identified through baseline statistics and information from existing audits, surveys and consultations. These will include information from existing partnerships' action plans and will be referenced as such. A broad summary of priorities for action is also included.

6. Strategic Theme: Increasing Wealth and Prosperity for All

6.1 The Community Strategy places great emphasis on the role of job creation as a means of addressing this priority. Particular priority is given to the development of an International Technology Corridor, Breakthrough Project centred on Waverley. Rother Valley South Area Assembly contains a number of important industrial estates and business parks at Dinnington and Waleswood. The former Dinnington Colliery site is allocated for business and industrial after-use when it is reclaimed. There is concern about the high level of real unemployment following the demise of local coal and steel jobs. A commonly expressed opinion is that local jobs should be created for local people, reflecting a perception that access to existing jobs is restricted. The despoiled environments associated with local coal mining, steel and quarrying were a disincentive to care for neighbourhood quality. Their legacy continues long after the jobs have gone reflecting a poor image of an area which is itself a disincentive to investment as well as impacting on local quality of life.

6.2 Baseline Information and Implications

- Although Rother Valley South is not particularly deprived by Rotherham standards there is local **concern about general local prosperity** when compared with other areas of the nation and specific neighbourhoods not benefiting from regeneration.
- All three Wards have less of their populations on Income Support than the nation as a whole (8%) or Rotherham (10%), but previous analyses of **small areas identified** Kiveton Park White City, Laughton Common, Anston Woodlands and East Street, Dinnington **as pockets of multiple deprivation**.
- All Wards in Rother Valley South **have visibly prosperous settlements in close proximity to visibly poor ones**.
- **Slow progress in reclaiming disused colliery sites** adds insult to injury. No reclamation at Dinnington ten years after closure. Many Hectares of derelict land.

6.3 Key Issues for the Communities

Whenever local consultation has been undertaken be it at Dinnington or Kiveton Park people have prioritised:

- **Create jobs for local people**
- **Clean up the area, not just the dereliction but the fly-tipping and dog mess**
- **Help with providing public transport so that people can get to where the jobs are.**
- **Help to provide affordable childcare so I can get to work**
- **Deal with issues about former Coal Board housing areas.**

- **Provide more services locally or help with getting to them.**

6.4 The Local Picture:

- As a centre of employment Dinnington is pre-eminent in Rother Valley South. It has 44 hectares of industrial land but most of this is derelict. **It is planned to further redevelop the former Dinnington Colliery Site for business and industrial use.**
- Access constraints, site contamination and the rise to prominence of Waverley as a key regeneration area for Rotherham have been factors in the slow progress.
- Rother Valley South should however benefit from the International Technology Corridor Breakthrough Project at Waverley. Dinnington Colliery site is included for European Objective One funding purposes within the designated Corridor which aims to stimulate growth of an advanced metals and engineering cluster.
- Yorkshire Forward as site owner is seeking planning consent to proceed with further stages of reclamation and development. **A public consultation with the Dinnington/Anston communities was initiated in August 2002 and a liaison meeting reinstated.**
- **Work is about to start on the next phase of decontamination.**
- Options for re-development of marginal areas remains open to local influence but **the core use of the site is for business and industrial development.** 24 hectares (35 acres) may be developed before access constraints apply. **The favoured solution for the additional 20 hectares, which could be developed out if access constraints are removed, is short-term willow-coppicing.**

Kiveton Colliery

- Slow progress in derelict land reclamation has also been experienced at Kiveton Park where the disused Colliery site has been **greened over pending progress in agreeing a restoration scheme appropriate to its Green Belt location.** Public consultation events have been held and a draft scheme based upon feedback has been prepared by Yorkshire Forward for submission to English Partnerships. **The related potential to promote social inclusion by the proven method of canal restoration is being exploited by British Waterways Board in partnerships with the Borough Council.**
- **Retail and other Services**
Dinnington
Dinnington is the local service centre having a choice of banks and other financial service outlets, two supermarkets, foodstores and a

limited range of comparison goods outlets. The survival of the latter probably owes more to Dinnington's isolation from competition than it does to its strength as a retail Centre. Given that the catchment population of Dinnington is over 30,000, **there is probably scope to improve its position as a retail and service Centre, but this will require attention to be paid to factors such as transport linkages and image.**

- As a key land and property owner the **Parish Council** is in a pivotal position to influence future development as it has already demonstrated by its **partnership with the Borough and the Coal Authority** in bringing forward development land **to enable construction of the new Safeway superstore and Transport Interchange.**

Kiveton Park

- By comparison with Dinnington the only other service centre of note is Kiveton Park with Wales. These communities developed as ribbon settlements along the length of the B6059, School Road, Wales Road, and Red Hill between its junction with the A613 Mansfield Road (Wales Bar) and Kiveton Park Station, some 3 miles (5 kilometres). There is a modest local shopping centre between Chestnut Avenue and Chapel Way where a new Co-operative Supermarket has been built together with a Health Centre. There is a bank and a building society agency. There are post offices some distance away from this centre at Wales and Kiveton Bridge Station.

Anston

- North and South Anston could be said to be disadvantaged in the provision of local services by the proximity of the former to Dinnington and by the separation of the latter by the **A57 which is a significant barrier to pedestrian communication.** There is a parade of shops in North Anston at Quarry Lane and a cluster of shops and pubs on Sheffield Road at South Anston.

Rural Communities

- Beyond the urban settlements and the major villages of Harthill, Todwick and Woodsetts the supply of local services dwindles to a trickle. Retail outlets where they did exist, for example, at Laughton-en-le-Morthern have been converted into dwellings. The picture is more positive in relation to public houses in that all settlements with the exception of Hooton Levitt, Carr, Letwell, Gildingwells, Turnerwood, Netherthorpe, Woodall and Wales Bar have at least one. Wales Bar, where the Waleswood Public House closed in 2001 before ultimately re-opening as a restaurant, could be seen as a sign of things to come. There is **concern that the area could follow the example of other rural areas, which have seen the closure of village pubs and a loss of a point of focus of village and community life.**

Chesterfield Canal

- **The British Waterways Board is engaged in restoration of Chesterfield Canal in partnership with the Borough Council.** A proposal by the Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust envisages a Marina development on the Kiveton Colliery Site. Yorkshire Forward is aware of this and has undertaken reclamation works with a view to not prejudicing its implementation. A further opportunity presents itself at the former Brophy depot off Dog Kennel Lane which has access to the canal. The Borough Council (which owns the site) has prepared plans to develop this as a mooring area with associated maintenance and visitor facilities

Transport

- Significant developments in provision for transport are planned for Rother Valley South. **Priority will be given to promoting more sustainable modes of transport and improvements to road safety in accordance with the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.**

Rural Bus Challenge

- is overseen by the South Rotherham Rural Transport Group, a partnership between Parish Councils, Community Groups, the Passenger Transport Executive and Borough Council. It has led to

Dinnington Transport Interchange

- A new hub for connections to all parts of the area.

Quality Bus Corridors

- - introduced on the Service 19 Rotherham-Dinnington-Worksop route.
- proposed along the South Anston- Kiveton Park-Swallownest-Rotherham route.
- the new Service 202, linking villages with jobs in the Dearne Valley
- efforts to improve through ticketing for access to hospitals.

Road Links

- When the area economy was reliant upon coal there was no imperative to take advantage of the excellent road links afforded by the M18, A1, M1. Now those links offer some of the most congested highways in Europe and still, access to them is poor. **The redevelopment of Dinnington Colliery is restrained by poor access to Dinnington via the B6463.**

Approval is being sought to dual the A57 as far as Todwick Road. This will eliminate the notorious Todwick bends and to improve access and egress to the B6463 by construction of a roundabout. A cycle route will be incorporated.

Cycling

- Rother Valley South offers ideal cycling terrain with extensive areas of relatively flat land and attractive country lanes. **There is further potential to develop and integrate cycle routes**

Rail Services

- The Sheffield to Lincoln Railway serves the Kiveton Park area but services are only hourly and there is **a marked lack of integration with other modes of transport** such as bus, car and bicycle. Dinnington/Anston is not connected to the passenger rail network although the Maltby Branch Mineral Railway passes through. A previous **Park and Ride proposal for Kiveton Bridge Station is to be subject to feasibility study.**

The Environment

- Rother Valley South has within its boundaries what are arguably **some of the most attractive environments in Rotherham Borough, together with pockets of serious environmental degradation.**
- The Borough Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) plays a key role in determining the future type, scale and location of the built environment. The UDP is currently under review however certain broad principles can be defined which apply to Rother Valley South and which are unlikely to be significantly changed in the review process.
- Perhaps the most significant of these is the designation of **substantial areas of** rural land as **Green Belt** with particular restrictions on development other than that related to agriculture.
- Representations made to the **Area Assembly** point to the following as local **priorities for action:-**

Dinnington

- **development of land at the end of Leicester Road and - Silverdales thereby removing the opportunity for fly-tipping.**
- **redevelopment of the former Kwiksave site at Lorden's Hill.**
- **to properly manage land to the rear of the shopping centre and the adjoining market.**
- **Colliery site and its environs regenerated.**
- **redevelopment of Laughton Common and East Street residential areas.**

Anston

- **to secure the future of Greenlands Park.**

Kiveton Park

- **redevelopment of the White City.**

Environmental Healthy

- Where urban areas meet rural ones in Rother Valley South environmental concerns are brought into sharp focus. Common concerns from the Woodlands Drive area and from South Anston have been alleged malpractice from agricultural operations. Some issues cannot be resolved to resident's satisfaction. They are a consequence of urban living in a rural environment.

Waste Disposal and Recycling

- Rother Valley South is familiar with the growth of waste transfer and recovery operations, being the location of :-
 - SafetyKleen chemical treatment plant
 - Cramfit Road Household Waste Collection site at North Anston.

Sustainable Tourism

- Rother Valley South has potential to be further developed as a sustainable tourism destination. The rural environment contains local areas of considerable beauty and interest such as Anston Stones Wood and The Chesterfield Canal. Both are subject to proposals which, if fully implemented, will see an increase in appreciation of their value and challenges to protect their intrinsic character.
 - **Yorkshire Forward has suggested a use for part of Kiveton Colliery as a touring caravan site.**
 - **The Canal will attract visitors as it becomes better known and opens to cruising narrowboats.**
 - **The North Anston Butterfly Farm is an established attraction.**
 - **The Church Tourism Project will raise the profile of virtually unknown gems such as Laughton-en-le-Morthern and Thorpe Salvin Parish Churches.**
 - **Anston Parish Council is proposing to promote appreciation of the Stones-Wood through its associated Interpretation Centre on Ryton Road.**
 - **Letwell Parish Council has recently promoted a Mediaeval Festival.**

Housing

- Rother Valley South is an Assembly Area of contrasts where housing is concerned. **The private residential new build sector has prospered since the closure of Dinnington and Kiveton Collieries.** Local authority house building ceased in the 1980's, with social housing needs being met by the growth of housing associations focussed upon supplying specialised properties. There was an emergence of a new-type of private landlord following the sale of former British Coal properties, which has since spread generally within the privately owned stock.

Redevelopment

- The need to address specific Housing issues is acknowledged in the Borough Council's Housing Strategy 2001-4, Making Progress by Transforming Neighbourhoods. **Priorities for public sector interventions have been identified at;**
 - **East Street Dinnington**
 - **Laughton Common**
 - **White City Kiveton Park**
- In **Dinnington** urgent action was precipitated by the decline of mainly privately-owned properties in **East Street**. Thirty properties were demolished, with regular meetings being held with residents remaining in the neighbourhood. Some of the latter have argued that further selective demolition is needed. A complementary issue is the proposed redevelopment of the Dinnington Junior and Infants Schools. The need to reconcile site assembly for this and wider housing regeneration is recognised in the Draft Planning Brief which was subject to consultation during 2002.
- At **Laughton Common**, the vast majority of properties were local authority-owned, rapid progress was made in demolition. Tenants having been secured properties elsewhere, either permanently or pending their return. Residents are involved in the preparation of plans to regenerate the site through the process of agreeing a planning brief and selection of development partners which is ongoing.
- **Kiveton Park** is the location of a most protracted issue over the future of its **White City Estate**. Many of its REEMA-style former British Coal properties were bought by private interests. There followed a typical decline in the environment and growing resident concerns over community safety. So far 36 properties have been demolished whilst regular surgeries are held with remaining residents.
- The Housing Strategy proposes that remaining houses will be acquired during 2002/03. A renewal area is scheduled for declaration in 2003/04 to secure the improvement of remaining properties. **Discussion is ongoing with a housebuilder who has acquired significant parts of the site. A planning brief has been prepared.**

Refurbishment

- Local consultation with area based residents groups and at public events has confirmed that large areas of Dinnington's urban fabric are in disrepair and do not meet either modern standards or expectations.

- The need to address the issue of age and deterioration in Dinnington's wider housing stock was acknowledged by the preparation of a Renewal Area Declaration Report. Should the expenditure plans contained in the Housing Strategy be approved £2,520,000 will be spent upon Group Repair of Dinnington's other private and Council-owned housing stock.
- In Anston-Woodsetts Ward the housing stock is generally sound. The Woodlands Estate, which presented challenging issues of multiple deprivation associated with a poorly-designed layout, has been transformed by a £3M+ refurbishment scheme which is nearing completion. The challenge going forward will be to ensure that the gains made through a Multi-Agency approach to regeneration e.g. by improving introduction of children's play areas and community development, are not lost when attention moves elsewhere.

6.5 **Action Planned:**

Rother Valley South will continue to be an important location for industrial development. Proposed speculative investment at the Vector 31 Business Park, Waleswood and at Rotherham Road, Laughton Common will be encouraged. Community benefits will be obtained from such investment which is supported by Objective One.

Yorkshire Forward will seek planning consent to proceed with the decontamination and subsequent staged redevelopment of Dinnington Colliery site. At Kiveton Colliery an after-use compatible with its Green Belt status is sought.

The Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust will be supported in its efforts to identify a viable after-use for the Pithead Baths based upon Community Enterprise.

The British Waterways Board will be encouraged to give priority to maintaining the momentum of its restoration work on the Chesterfield Canal in partnership with Yorkshire Forward and the Community Development Trust.

The Housing Service will continue to support the initiative by residents of Woodland Drive to improve their neighbourhood through the development of the Field Project and Community Learning Centre.

The Planning and Housing Services will continue to collaborate to ensure that housing-led regeneration of estates throughout Rother Valley South is achieved in accordance with commitments made to former residents and to achieve best value.

Planning Briefs prepared for, land to the West of Laughton Road and East Street, Dinnington; Laughton Common; White City, Kiveton Park.

Highway Network:

A57 improvement M1 to Todwick Road Junction.

Public Transport:

Keyline Bus Corridor and other service integration and enhancement under Rural Bus Challenge.

Actions Suggested:

Production of Planning Briefs for land at Silverdales and Lorden's Hill, Dinnington.

Active management of land around Dinnington Market to improve its appearance and remove/prevent litter.

Actions Suggested:

Highway network

Develop new cycle routes including from Dinnington to Thurcroft.

Public Transport:

Extension of passenger rail services to Dinnington/Anston.

Introduction of Park and Ride Stations at Dinnington and Kiveton Park.

Canal in partnership with Yorkshire Forward and the Community Development Trust.

7. Health

Notwithstanding its economic and social issues, taken as a whole, Rother Valley South has a relatively healthy population when measured against Rotherham. Its health problems are Rotherham's problems. It will benefit from those strategic measures which aim to improve the general health of the Rotherham population rather than specially targeted activity. The exception is Dinnington whose consistently poor relative health appears to correlate with adverse housing, crime, education and environmental indicators consistent with its relative deprivation, making a strong case for the extension of preventative health initiatives into the area. The Sure Start project being piloted at Maltby seems particularly appropriate.

7.1 Baseline and Key Issues

- **Rother Valley South is located within the Rother Valley locality of the Rotherham Primary Care Trust (PCT).**
- **General life expectancy in Rother Valley South is similar to that in Rotherham Borough although appears significantly less for both men and women who are residents of Dinnington.**
- **Localised problems of low-birth weight and infant mortality.**
- **High rates of death from lung cancer in Dinnington.**
- **High rates of teenage pregnancy.**
- **Anston disadvantaged in primary care provision.**

7.2 Key Issues for the Communities

- i Commonly expressed opinion at community meetings of health service provision is **concern about the distance people have to travel to receive hospital treatment** or to visit patients and the lack of coordination with public transport generally and concessionary fares particularly. The nearest public sector hospitals are Bassetlaw and Rotherham General.
- ii There is satisfaction with the services provided at the new Kiveton Health Centre albeit that the promised availability of community meeting rooms has not been delivered. There is concern at South Anston at the prospective loss of the Doctor's Surgery once the planned new Anston Health Centre is built. Residents feel that the A57 is a significant barrier to our ability to access the planned new centre. **Until planning issues are resolved Anston will continue to be under-provided with Primary Care.**

- iii **Dinnington Area Regeneration Trust has signalled its willingness to engage with the PCT to address the problem of teenage pregnancies locally.** The PCT recognises that given the fluctuating nature of the problem there is good sense in encouraging such local support where the potential and the enthusiasm exist.

7.3 Issues for Service Provision and Community Planning

There is a difficulty reconciling customer opinions of the Health Service with professional experience of need. Therefore it is important that underlying health issues which may not be a community expressed priority are acknowledged. Programmes and projects to address healthy living are short term and subject to temporary funding. Examples include the Healthy Hearts Campaign, Sure Start and Active Sport in Communities. There is potential for extending and mainstreaming these initiatives to address preventative health care.

Action Planned:

Extension of the Dinnington General Practice to provide a six-doctor Training Practice at Greenlands Park, Quarry Lane, North Anston. The existing practice at South Anston will be subject to review only when the new facility is available.

To examine with the Primary Care Trust the feasibility of extending Sure Start into Dinnington.

To continue to work with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to identify demands for public transport links between the area and hospitals whilst ensuring action to simplify fare structures and introduce cross boundary concessions.

Extensions of cycle network to encourage greater use of healthy transport alternatives.

Promotion of Partnerships between the Borough Council and developers will deliver a mix of private residential and social housing to replace the former Coal Board housing known as 'white cities' in Kiveton Park and Laughton Common.

Action Suggested:

To examine with the Primary Care Trust the potential for co-ordinated preventative health campaigns to promote healthy living including sports and active recreation.

8. **LIFELONG LEARNING**

The area is well-provided for at all levels of learning and is fortunate to have Rother Valley College located here.

8.1 **Baseline and Key Issues**

The uncertain future of Rother Valley College poses a great threat to the future success of Lifelong Learning objectives in Rother Valley South Area Assembly.

8.2 **Key Issues for the Communities**

- A local factor influencing attitudes to learning is that of parenting skills. Quantitative measures of this issue are not available but **secondary schools report a significant problem affecting some 20% of pupils in Rother Valley South based upon negative attitude to learning.**
- **A cycle of deprivation appears to exist which jeopardises school's attempts to meet Community Strategy targets.** This is reflected in the detail of the DETR Index of Deprivation 2000 in **which Dinnington is ranked 333 out of 8414 English Wards for Educational attainment, the worst performing Ward outside Central Rotherham.**
- Primary schools represent the foundations upon which childhood disposition to learning can be nurtured. **There are local issues to be addressed in terms of the quality of and location of primary school buildings in parts of Rother Valley South.**
- In Dinnington the inadequacies of the existing junior and infants schools at East Street/Doe Quarry Lane are being addressed through a new build project funded from the New Opportunities Programme.
- In Kiveton Park the infants school on Station Road occupies a cramped location and offers sub-standard teaching accommodation. However a thorough condition survey of schools throughout the Borough is required before specific action can be prioritised

Reintegration

- To address this issue **Dinnington Comprehensive School has appointed a Reintegration Officer to work with disaffected pupils and minimise the level of school exclusions,** but the causal factors behind it operate beyond the school gates.
- **There is a need to ensure that activities undertaken by schools throughout the area to address disadvantage are underpinned by out of school measures aimed at tackling social inclusion. The**

presence of Rotherham Connexions within the Dinnington Youth and Community Centre is vital to this.

Rother Valley College

- Rother Valley College is a further education asset to Rother Valley South as well as an important contributor to the local economy of Dinnington in particular. The College produced an ambitious Strategic Plan for its development from 2001 to 2004. The College also signalled a need to develop its sports curriculum through provision of a Sports Hall with community access. Obvious synergy with the work of the Sports Development Officers to promote community engagement has been exploited. Unfortunately a shortfall in projected student numbers and corresponding drop in income, combined with an adverse Ofsted inspection have cast a shadow over the College's ambitions and this proposal has been abandoned by the College in light of its financial difficulties. It is most unlikely that the College will sustain its previously excellent outreach support for community based education.
- **Dinnington Resource Centre and Community Library** is the successful first phase in the regeneration of the former Miner's Welfare grounds on a prominent site in the centre of Dinnington. It adjoins the East Street regeneration area and its continuing development **is important in the context of social inclusion, health and education.**
- **The new library at Dinnington is the first new one to be built in Rotherham for many years.**
- **The Community Library at Kiveton Park continues to provide an important local resource for learning in the South of the Borough and hosts the Kiveton Park Independent Advice Centre.**

8.3 **Local Initiatives**

- The **Red Road Music Project** based at Kiveton Colliery Offices is a Youth Service led scheme which is successfully engaging disaffected young people in music and media.

e-learning

- Both Dinnington Comprehensive and Wales High Schools are participating in the pilot e-Learning Programme, as is Anston Brook Primary School.

Community Education

- **A Family Learning Centre proposal aims to engage young people and overcome hostility to learning on the Woodlands Estate at North Anston.** It seeks funding for Information and Community Technology including access to the Internet and an opportunity for a Homework Club in an area that has little or no access to computers outside the school environment.

Kiveton CLOC

- Kiveton Park also benefits from the presence of the Community Learning Opportunities Centre (CLOC) which **provides open learning in ICT from a purpose-built building on Station Road.**

Anston Eco Centre

- Led by Anston Parish Council this project seeks to establish a new role for the former library building in its ownership. The project envisages the library becoming an interpretative centre linked to the nearby Anston Stones Wood to provide: -
 - a showcase for the ecology of the woods
 - a resource centre for innovation and enterprise linked to environment
 - a focus for local pride and understanding of the links between local human and natural history
 - a demonstration of energy efficiency in building design and operation
- Dinnington RUFC is seeking funds to enable realisation of its ambition to engage disaffected young people of both sexes in the development of the sport.
- Dinnington Colliery Band, which engages young people in an appreciation and development of music skills, has won funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust towards construction of a new practice venue.
- Dinnington Comprehensive School has bid to the Neighbourhood Opportunities Fund to secure provision of an all weather sports pitch with community access. There is potential linkage to other Dinnington based sports developments and usage by people throughout Rother Valley South Area Assembly.
- Wales High School has identified a series of desired improvements in its Ofsted Action Plan including provision for sport and information technology.

8.4 Action Planned:

A new Primary School Campus replacing the existing Dinnington Junior and Infants Schools will be constructed at East Street, Dinnington.

The plan supports the bid by the Workers Educational Association to establish a Family Learning Centre on the Woodlands Estate at North Anston. The information gathered in the course of consultation on this project will be offered to Anston Parish Council for the development of its Parish Plan.

Anston Parish Council will be supported in its efforts to achieve its Anston Eco-Centre project.

The plan supports all bids for funding for the development of Community and Sports facilities which are consistent with the Borough Council's Sports Strategy, contribute to engagement of young people, healthy living and lifelong learning whilst minimising duplication.

9. **Safe and Inclusive Communities**

There is a track record of partnership working to tackle social inclusion issues in Rother Valley South. The Dinnington Initiative and South Rotherham Rural Priority Area both worked to enable the development of community based regeneration, including the formation of the two Development Trusts. The Rural Challenge Programme specifically focused upon engaging young people and developing intelligent measures to tackle crime and fear of crime in Kiveton Park.

The crime rate in Rother Valley South is lower than in Rotherham albeit that the Dinnington St. John's Ward rate is similar. This means that Dinnington is experiencing urban levels of crime in rural setting. Both Kiveton Park and Anston Woodsetts Wards have higher crime rate than comparable rural or suburban Wards.

9.1 **Baseline and Key Issues**

The highest levels of recorded crime in descending order were:

- Theft from Vehicles
- Burglary
- Criminal Damage

Street crime against individuals is very low, seemingly contradicting a local survey finding of a perceived risk on the streets.

The area is unusual in as much as Criminal Damage tends to be the most commonly recorded offence in other areas of the Borough. This suggests that policing strategies in this area need to be subtly different.

Burglary is highest at non-domestic properties which corroborates complaints by businesses that more should be done to protect their premises. There are obvious tensions here with the priority being given to promote a new image and economy for the area.

9.2 **Key Issues for the Communities**

A collaborative survey undertaken by the Dinnington Community Development Worker, Community Police Officer and Crime Prevention Officer highlighted the degraded environment of many localities in Dinnington and Laughton Common particularly:

- Fly-tipping
- Derelict land and property
- Discarded needles
- Unsafe play areas

Further insight into issues of local concern is provided by a Resident's Survey of Dinnington and Laughton Common which was undertaken during 2001 by South Yorkshire Police and the Community Development Worker. This identified as issues most disliked about the area:

Perceived crime
Fear of crime
Poor street lighting
Substance abuse
Dirt and rubbish in the streets.
Dog fouling
Antisocial and speeding drivers.

In the Housing Strategy 2001-2004, it states that empty houses act as a magnet for crime and anti-social behaviour. Residents of East Street in Dinnington and Kiveton Park White City agree. They continue to campaign in community meetings and the press for urgent action to clear such houses.

Much concern throughout the area relates to substance abuse. **Community consultation consistently shows that drug abuse is perceived to have the greatest influence on levels of crime.**

Representations made to the Area Assembly point to the following as local priorities for action:-

Dinnington

- **development of land at the end of Leicester Road and Silverdales thereby removing the opportunity for fly-tipping.**
- **redevelopment of the former Kwiksave site at Lorden's Hill.**
- **to properly manage land to the rear of the shopping centre and the adjoining market.**
- **to see the Dinnington Colliery site and its environs regenerated.**
- **redevelopment of Laughton Common and East Street residential areas.**

Anston

- **to secure the future of Greenlands Park, currently plagued by off-road motorcycling and incursions by young people at night.**

Kiveton Park

- **redevelopment of the White City.**

9.3 Local Initiatives

- The refurbished Woodlands Estate incorporates CCTV monitored by members of Neighbourhood Watch.

Woodlands Field Project

- To complement the renewal of the Estate residents have proposed the upgrading of an area of open space to provide for siting of a Youth Shelter and kickabout area.

Traffic Calming

- Extensive residential development has resulted in streams of traffic passing through villages at peak times and in formerly quiet villages such as Kiveton Park, throughout the day.
- To combat the excessive traffic speeds a progressive but incremental approach has been adopted to dealing with traffic calming. Almost every form of engineering solution has been tried in Rother Valley South with varying degrees of success. With the exception of works undertaken in Laughton Road, Dinnington little attention has been paid to the visual and environmental impact of traffic calming. Public reaction has been mixed and some schemes have had to be re-engineered.

**New traffic calming schemes are under consideration for
Woodsetts Road, North Anston
Ryton Road, North Anston
Sheffield Road, South Anston
Lorden's Hill, Dinnington**

and a Safer Routes to School Project incorporating traffic calming is being implemented at Wales Road, Kiveton Park.

- A greater emphasis on youth outreach work by the Youth Service.
- A successful Voluntary-Sector youth club is organised by St. James Church, Anston and based at Woodland Drive.
- Woodland Drive also supports a Tenants and Residents Association and Pensioners and Toddlers Groups.
- All Woodland Drive groups work in partnership in support of the proposed Family Learning Centre.
- DART is promoting a local Community Safety Partnership in Dinnington.
- **Community Development**
 - Voluntary Action Rotherham employs Community Development Workers in Dinnington and Kiveton Park. They work closely with;
 - Sports Development Workers employed by the Education, Culture and Leisure Service of the Borough Council.

- The Community Development Trusts also employ workers in a regeneration role:
 - In Dinnington they progress the Community Action Plan and Youth-orientated projects with support from Objective One and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT).
 - In Kiveton Park a worker is funded by the CRT to build its capacity to engage in Community enterprise.
- Environmental Health Officers are encouraging private landowners to secure their land against fly-tipping.

9.4 Action Plan:

The Housing Service will continue to support the initiative by residents of Woodland Drive to improve their neighbourhood through the development of the Field Project and Family Learning Centre.

The Planning and Housing Services will continue to collaborate to ensure that housing-led regeneration of estates throughout Rother Valley South is achieved in accordance with commitments made to former residents and to achieve best value.

Planning Briefs prepared for, land to the West of Laughton Road and East Street, Dinnington; Laughton Common; White City, Kiveton Park. Developer competition involving residents at Laughton Common.

Actions Suggested:

Production of Planning Briefs for land at Silverdales and Lorden's Hill, Dinnington.

Active management of land around Dinnington Market to improve its appearance and remove/prevent litter.

Greater co-ordination of activity through neighbourhood management to ensure a swift response to problems as they arise and the development of a strategy to address longstanding issues.

