

**ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY**  
**held at the Old Library, Anston**  
**2nd December, 2002**

Present:-

Rita Alderton	South Anston 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
Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Ken Ward	Woodsetts Parish Council
R. Holland	DART and Throapham Resident
Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Pat McLaughlin	Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident
Councillor Derek Chapman	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Roy Wells	South Anston Resident
Trevor Stanway	Laughton Parish Council
Fran Blanksby	Disability Action Group
Peter Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Robert Kearsley	Dinnington Resident
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Jack Mackay	South Rotherham Rural Transport Group and South Yorkshire National Neighbourhood Watch Association
Sue Thomson	South Anston Resident

By Invitation

Abigail Hackett	Heritage Education Officer (RMBC)
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Together with

Kyley Gains	Area Assembly Support Officer (RMBC)
Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
David Tyrrell	Principal Democratic Services Officer (RMBC)
Berta Perez	Overseas Student Placement
Mick Stowe	Community Planning Officer (RMBC)

**60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologise for absence were submitted by Councillor Sid Bennett (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1); Councillor Carl Barton (Borough Councillor Ward No. 13); Alice Booth (Wales Parish Council); Monica Carroll (Association of Governors); Roy Newman (Dinnington District Conservation and History Group); Sam Allen (Active Communities Officer); Councillor Iain St. John

(Borough Councillor Ward No. 1) and Councillor Robin Stonebridge (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1).

Agreed:- That the best wishes of this Assembly be sent to Councillor Sid Bennett following his recent serious road accident.

**61. MINUTES**

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November, 2002 be received and approved.

(b) That, further to Minute No. 57 it be noted that, following representations by the Firbeck Parish Council, British Telecommunications plc. had indicated it was their intention to replace the Red Telephone Box in Firbeck with a similar one.

**62. HERITAGE EDUCATION PROJECT**

The Assembly received Abigail Hackett, Heritage Education Officer, who gave details of this new project which had commenced several months ago and which was funded as an external outreach project.

The Clifton Park Museum was shortly to close for a period of approximately eighteen months to enable refurbishments to take place and the intention was to be pro active and take the Museum out to different areas of the Borough mounting displays and workshops. Several workshops had in fact already taken place on the theme Oral History, recording oral history of past experiences/knowledge of local people. The Museum wished to train people to record and in time hoped to have over two hundred tapes.

A tape was played of a lady reminiscing about her Wedding Day.

Funding was still available until next year which it was hoped could be extended for a further year to help people attend the exhibitions or workshops by assisting with transportation and/or childcare costs. Day Care Centres were also being visited.

If any members had any suggestions to further the project they were invited to contact Abigail at the Clifton Park Museum (Telephone 01709 823635).

Useful contact points were put forward including the Dinnington Conservation and History Group who had already undertaken fairly extensive oral history recordings.

Agreed:- That this initiative be welcomed and fully supported.

**63. COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

The Assembly Officer referred to the duty placed on the Borough Council under the Local Government Act to develop a Community Strategy under which Community Plans for all areas of the Borough would sit and presented the latest draft Community Action Plan for the Rother Valley South area.

The Community Strategy was being refined and the latest draft of the document was to be presented to the Rotherham Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough with a view to the launch of the Strategy by March 2003.

He explained the Community Action Plan as presented took account of issues and priorities raised to date and it was important to ensure the Assembly expressed themselves as being satisfied that the plans and actions listed were the correct priorities. In presenting priorities for the whole of the Borough it was again important that the wishes of Assembly areas were fully reflected to ensure that they had full and proper consideration in future budget processes.

The strategic themes under Increasing Wealth and Prosperity for All, Health, Lifelong Learning and Safe and Inclusive Communities were put forward together with suggested actions.

Whilst information was still being collated and it was hoped to include the latest census and other statistical information, the process must be drawn together soon to meet the timetable.

Comments were sought and issues raised including :-

- the need to reflect the need for adequate pedestrian crossing facilities in Harthill
- the need to ensure adequate policing with police not removed to work in the Sheffield area
- the need to ensure the Education Integration Officer was fully involved in helping address youth nuisance and other issues
- that it be noted that Willow Copicing had been shown to not be commercially viable and the overall development of the former Dinnington Colliery site be pressed further
- the need to accept that a minimum of 22% of all crimes were not reported and that regard should be taken of this in building up an overall picture
- the implications of overall housing management which needed to be taken on board by the Local Authority, Housing Associations and private landlords, in that the arrival of nuisance residents can affect the well being of an area. An issue which also affected private housing and which needed to be addressed together with the police. It was noted that Rotherham was now taking a tougher stance on this matter with the issue of nuisance orders

#### **64. ASSEMBLY OFFICERS REPORT**

The Assembly Officer reported on the following issues:-

(a) Yorkshire Forward Regional Economic Strategy

(b) Rotherham Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Review Initial Issues Consultations

(c) Community Skips

It being explained that some surplus skips may be available arising from under subscription in other Assembly areas. On this basis it was believed outstanding requests together with other possible requests may be met.

**65. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

(a) Anston Eco-Centre – The Millennium bid had not been successful and the Old Anston Library building was standing empty. It was suggested that a copy of the bid document be forwarded to the Borough Council.

(b) Mansfield Road, Wales flooding problem – It was understood that water pooling on this road was still a major problem and queried if the reported remedial action had as yet been completed.

(c) Thorpe Salvin drainage problems – work to deal with problems had commenced but left unfinished. It was queried why this had happened and when works were to re-commence.

(d) Winney Hill, Harthill – Flooding problem – It was explained that despite numerous complaints without acceptance of responsibility water was still running down this highway creating a dangerous situation. The view was that the Highways Department should address the matter.

(e) Planning Issues – It was felt that more regard should be taken of the character of villages in considering planning applications and regard taken of the views of Parish Councils which reflected local opinions.

It was noted that Assembly input into the Planning process was under review.

(f) Recycling – In view of the reports from the E.E.C. and the Government as to recycling targets it was queried if the Borough had any proposals to improve recycling at local level that would be available to people of this Assembly area, including outlying villages.

Agreed:- That the Executive Director of Housing and Environmental Services be asked to submit a report on this issue taking account of the suggested recycling of electrical goods.

**66. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

The following items/issues were put forward for consideration:-

Next Meeting – Feasibility Study Pit Head Baths Site, Kiveton Park

- Recycling

Future Meeting – Community Safety Strategy

**67. NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held in the Wales Methodist Church, on Monday 6th January, 2003 at 2.00 p.m.