

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
held at Harthill Village Hall
7th April, 2003

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Jack MacKay	South Rotherham Rural Transport Group
Sue Thomson	Anston Parish Council
R. H. Kearsley	Dinnington Resident
Mr. J. Bishop	Harthill Resident
Councillor Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Graham Greaves	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Peter Carter	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Councillor Sid Bennett	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
David Hall	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Wendy Thompson	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Geoff Thompson	Harthill with Woodall Resident
Clive Jepson	Harthill with Woodall Resident
Councillor Karl Barton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Ken Ward	Woodsetts Parish Council
Brian Cottam	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Trevor Stanway	Laughton Parish Council
M. B. Lancaster	Harthill Resident
Daniel Bard	Worksop Guardian
Jackie Scott	South Anston Resident
Dave Oldroyd	Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust
Ann Cole	Safety Kleen

By Invitation :-

John Sturdy	SYNHWA
John Rotherham	Education, Culture and Leisure Services (RMBC)

Together with :-

Gordon Smith
David Tyrrell
Mick Stowe
Kylie Gains
Stewart Platts

Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
Principal Democratic Services Officer, (RMBC)
Community Planning Officer (RMBC)
Assembly Support Worker (RMBC)
Community Development Worker, (VAR)

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Derek Chapman (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18); Barbara Justice (ACE Project); Wendy Degg (Voluntary Action Rotherham); Tina Jones and Howard Saul (South Yorkshire Police – Kiveton).

97. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March, 2003, be received and approved.

(b) That arising from the minutes stated :-

(i) it be noted that the Community Police Officers were now back in local areas. The issue of vehicles was, it was understood, also being addressed (Minute No. 86)

(ii) it be noted the new Streetpride, which brought local area services under one structure, was being launched and which would work with an area dedicated budget. It being intended to make a presentation to a future meeting (Minute No. 91)

(iii) it be noted the Parish Councils were being approached as to the identification of possible sites for additional recycling banks (Minute No. 99)

(iv) some concern was expressed as to the demolition of properties on East Street and Councillor Swindell agreed to clarify the matter (Minute No. 86)

(v) it was queried when the Thurcroft Tip site would become operational (Minute No. 88)

(v) it was reported that Anston Parish Council had hosted a meeting at which Phil Rogers of the Education, Culture and Leisure Services had explained the position as to swimming provision in the Borough. He had confirmed he would be willing to attend a further meeting in Dinnington if required.

In addition it was noted the Public Finance Initiative application for improved facilities had not been successful. The position as to a new pool at Aston would accordingly not be known until about July (Minute No. 88)

(vii) it was reported that the barrier had now been erected across the entrance to the railway land off Cramfit Road, North Anston (Minute No. 91(c))

(viii) it was reported there was no planned changes to accident and emergency facilities at the Bassetlaw District General Hospital (Minute No. 92(a))

(ix) Dog Waste Bins were being provided in Anston and Dinnington but the money allocated only covered the supply and fixing and not future cleansing (Minute no. 91(d))

(x) it was explained the rubbish nuisance to the rear of shops on Laughton Road was still under investigation (Minute No. 91(c))

(xi) concern was expressed that the Local Transport Day had been hijacked by the Supertram issue not allowing full discussion on other matters. It was suggested that the provision of Supertram to this Assembly area would be positively welcomed (Minute No. 91(n))

98. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jack MacKay gave a brief introduction to Neighbourhood Watch explaining that Rotherham already had its own Association. Many people had commented about what is happening in their own areas, by involvement in a local Neighbourhood Watch it was an opportunity to help, to be involved.

John Sturdy then gave a presentation on the South Yorkshire Neighbourhood Watch Association explaining :-

- misconceptions about neighbourhood watch
- its Mission Statement
- its membership, officers, areas of work and that whilst a registered charity was a company limited by guarantee
- what it does, namely :

reduce crime

reduce the fear of crime

enable residents to take ownership for their areas

promote partnership working

encourage community cohesion

Their aim was to increase neighbourhood watch schemes throughout South Yorkshire by 30% over the next three years, to help make a difference in the heart of the community.

It was explained in problem areas they were now able to supply some concerned residents with two way radios to assist in reporting problems and this had proved very helpful. The other good news was that an office was being made available to them in the old Dinnington Police Station which would help cover the whole of Rotherham.

General discussion ensued on the presentation and concept and the following issues raised :

- the need to work hard to overcome public apathy
- the South Anston Neighbourhood Watch produced a newsletter, but was always struggling for funding

The newsletter idea was welcomed and suggested that approaches could be made to Parish Councils for funding as they also had a duty to help reduce crime and disorder. Mick Stowe explained that the Woodlands Drive Neighbourhood Watch had obtained equipment to assist in producing their newsletter.

Agreed:- That the presentation be received and concept of Neighbourhood Watch supported.

99. REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

The Assembly received John Rotherham who reported on standards used for open space provision in the Borough and on the current review of these standards as part of the Best Value Review of Green Spaces.

He initially explained that green spaces could include Country Parks, formal parks and gardens together with local green areas.

The Best Value review was to ensure that provision was effective, was delivered in an efficient manner and economically, to determine if delivery could be improved and importantly should it be the Council which was delivering this. It might be determined there was an over provision. That is why the views of Assemblies were important in gauging local opinion.

One of the issues to be addressed as part of the exercise was to identify the Green Spaces contribution towards Community Safety. Were areas planned to discourage crime?

The current open space criteria was outlined together with the National criteria.

The views of the meeting were sought and the following comments made:

- much of the green space in the Assembly area was provided by Parish Councils and CISWO and allowance should be made for this rather than residents having to pay twice though the Council Tax and Parish Precept

This was an issue the Parish Councils needed to discuss

- the Borough removed play equipment on the grounds of safety from local play areas but did not provide replacements

It was pointed out that a MORI poll undertaken had shown that 80% of people thought there was enough public open space but that it should be managed better. A general view shared by the meeting.

The Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust and Bob Kearsley expressed an interest in being involved in any future discussions.

Agreed:- That the presentation be received, due regard be taken of the views expressed and regular update reports submitted.

100. ROTHERAM REACHOUT

The Assembly received an Executive Summary of the findings of the fourth study undertaken of the Borough's Citizen's Panel on which views had been expressed, inter-alia, insofar as this Assembly area was concerned on :

- Life in Rotherham
- Accessibility of Local Facilities and Services
- Importance of aspects of the Unitary Development Plan
- Agreement with Methods of Saving Land
- Maintenance of Public Land
- Dental Health Services
- Parking
- Caring for Someone
- Age discrimination in Health and Social Care
- Complaints about Social Services

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

101. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Assembly Officer reported on the following issues :-

(a) The Draft Rotherham Parking Strategy

A summary of the draft strategy was made available together with questionnaires for completion.

(b) Countryside Traffic Management Strategy

An overview of this strategy was given which sets out how the Borough Council would work towards improving public transport and conditions for cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders, motor cyclists and people with

disabilities. It also considered issues surrounding vehicular traffic, economic regeneration and tourism.

In view of the importance of this strategy, arrangements had been made for a presentation to the May meeting of the Assembly.

(c) Regional Economic Strategy

This strategy which claims strong backing from an array of partners within the region could be used as a route map for economic development, assist decisions and influence the prospects of achieving significant local ambitions such as the restoration of the Chesterfield Canal.

(d) Partnership Development – Progress

An overview was given of Partnership working throughout the Assembly area which were assisting in securing significant local benefits through co-ordinated investment.

(e) Active Communities Development Workers

It was explained that funding for the two workers in this area had expired and they had returned to their substantive posts in Herringthorpe.

(f) Environment Good Practice Day

An event was to be held at Thrybergh Country Park on Sunday 8th June, 2003 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., the aim being to explain how the public can become more environmentally aware.

(g) Rotherham Borough Council Corporate Plan

Consultation on this was to commence shortly and the issue was to be debated by this Assembly.

(h) Public Entertainment Licence

An application had been submitted in respect of the Parish Oven Public House.

(i) Community Skips

Whilst it had been possible to obtain another eleven skips for the area last year it appeared that it would be necessary to revert back to the allocated forty five skips for this coming year.

Parish Councils were asked to consider requirements with this in mind.

102. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) Supertram

Representatives present stated they would support any proposals to bring Supertram to this area in addition to improved rail links.

(b) Safety Kleen

Concern was expressed at statements in a leading article in the Dinnington Guardian as to this company which were felt to be totally unfair. The company had operated without problems since its establishment and took an active part in community. A liaison committee operated which addressed any matters of relevance and it was felt the comments of an individual were not reflective of public opinion.

(c) Election

Concern was expressed that Election Notices had not been posted in the normal localities in Firbeck and that people had not been aware they had to actively seek nomination papers for the Parish Council, hence no nominations had been put forward.

(d) Public Nuisance Matters

A request was made as to whether Youth Nuisance could be an item at the next meeting. Discussion ensued with views expressed that it was wrong to target one element of the community and there was a much greater need for society as a whole to take responsibility. Instances were quoted where given the chance the youth had taken ownership and had pursued projects.

(e) Traffic Wardens

It was queried in light of the Government proposals to decriminalise Traffic Parking if it was correct that the Borough Council was taking over Traffic Wardens.

(f) Planning Application No. RB2003/105

Details were given of the above planning application relating to development at the Waleswood Industrial Estate.

103. RETIRING COUNCILLORS

The Chairman on behalf of the meeting thanked both Borough and Parish Councillors not seeking re-election for their services to the community.

104. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held in the Firbeck Village Hall on Monday 12th May, 2003 at 10.00 a.m.

