

**ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY**  
**held at Wales High School**  
**7th July, 2003**

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert

Alice Booth, M.B.E.

Councillor Karl Barton

Brian Cottam

Councillor David Davies

Clive Pantry

Gerald Capper

Councillor Philip Wardle

Jack MacKay

Councillor David Hall

Alan Tolhurst

Linda Hill

Wendy Thompson

Michael Bishop

Barbara Turner

Ken Ward

Councillor Robin Stonebridge

Julie Hants

Paul Hants

Alan Yates

Rita Alderton

Trevor Stanway

Borough Councillor Ward No. 13

**(in the Chair)**

Wales Parish Council

Borough Councillor Ward No. 13

Dinnington St. John's Parish Council

Borough Councillor Ward No. 18

Todwick Parish Council

D.A.R.T

Borough Councillor Ward No. 18

South Rotherham Rural Transport Group

Borough Councillor Ward No. 13

Rotherham Primary Care Trust

Firbeck Parish Council

Harthill Parish Council

Harthill Resident

Dinnington Resident

Woodsetts Parish Council

Borough Councillor Ward No. 1

Kiveton Park Resident

Kiveton Park Resident

South Anston Resident

South Anston Resident

Laughton Parish Council

by invitation

Phil Rees

Community Planning and Development  
 Manager (RMBC)

Andy Roddis

Streetpride (RMBC)

together with

Gordon Smith

Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)

David Tyrrell

Principal Democratic Services Officer  
 (RMBC)

Mick Stowe

Community Planning Officer (RMBC)

Kyley Gains

Area Assembly Support Officer  
 (RMBC)

# **11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Sid Bennett (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1), Fran Blanksby (Community Activist), Peter Blanksby (Wales Parish Council), Brian Nealey and David Oldroyd

(Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust); Stuart Platts (Community Development Worker – VAR), Councillor Iain St. John (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1), Councillor Clarence Swindell (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18), Sue Thompson and Alan Vickers (Anston Parish Council).

**12. MRS. ALICE BOOTH**

The Assembly congratulated Mrs. Booth on the award of her M.B.E.

**13. MINUTES**

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June, 2003 be received and approved.

(b) That, further to minutes Nos. 5 and 9 thereof it was noted that Tim Hawkins of the Safer Rotherham Partnership was to attend the September meeting of this Assembly.

**14. COMMUNITY PLANNING – PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS IN ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH**

Phil Rees referred to the legislation applying which set the framework for Community Planning and to the duty placed on the Borough Council to prepare a Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Community Plan. This was a document which looked forward, envisaging what Rotherham would be like in the next ten/fifteen/twenty years and what could be done to improve things. The difference with this plan and it was accepted there were many others, was that it put forward the Partnership agenda, that things were achieved in partnership over and above what otherwise may happen. It was not just about involving Service Providers but Business and the Community and was about ways of engaging, drawing out skills. The Community Plan proposed the involvement of all and not just the main players on the Rotherham Partnership Board.

In recent months work had been taking place between Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) and Assembly Officers on a model to help take matters forward.

The four parts of Community Planning as identified were :-

- Part One – about involving local people to ‘Plan the Planning’. This was the part where communities and the practitioners facilitating the process discuss :
  - ◆ What Community Planning is all about
  - ◆ What’s in it for the Community
  - ◆ Who needs to be involved
  - ◆ How under-represented groups and individuals can be helped to join in
  - ◆ What methods can be used to gather information and local opinions

- ◆ Who is available to provide support
- ◆ How progress can be measured and from what starting point
- Part Two is where local people explore and define their issues and concerns.
  - ◆ It needs to give people opportunities to say what is important to them
  - ◆ It needs to be inclusive, using a variety of ways, times and places to gather opinions
  - ◆ It needs to be fun, yet full of purpose
  - ◆ It needs to encourage participation in community-led activity
- Part Three is where the planning takes place.

It is the part of the Community Planning process when the community and the service providers get together to work out what can be done.

- ◆ It's about learning – helping people to realise opportunities and understand constraints
- ◆ It's about improving working relationships between service providers and the people they serve
- ◆ And between service providers, to identify 'added value' solutions – the 'extra something' that comes from working in partnership
- ◆ It's about the community taking stock of what it can do to help itself
- ◆ It's about agreeing a plan
- Part Four is about action – about getting things done
  - ◆ It's about developing the community organisations to deliver the Community Plan priorities
  - ◆ It's about project management and progress chasing
  - ◆ It's about monitoring the delivery of service
  - ◆ It's about feeding the Community Plan priorities into other decision-making processes to ensure they are properly considered and appropriately tackled
  - ◆ It may also be about campaigning for change and championing new priorities

Mick Stowe referred to the number of initiatives already undertaken or being progressed in the Assembly area. Some areas already had the basis for future planning whereas no action had been undertaken in others. Ward Numbers 1 and 13 were presently covered by Rural Development Area Status and the Urban Challenge Initiative applied to some housing estates. In addition a new initiative had been launched whereby Parish Councils could apply for Quality Parish Council status and with the agreement of the Borough Council assume additional powers. They could also access funding opportunities and achieve borrowing consent through the Local Councils' Association. Kiveton Park/Wales were looking at a virtual village pilot project to help in shaping the future of that area.

A schedule of progress to date in the different Parished areas was put forward.

Gordon Smith in referring to the points raised by the previous speakers explained there was a need to tie matters together through the Assembly process. It was, as put forward at the last meeting, suggested that a Steering Group be formed to help to co-ordinate and drive matters forward. The Rother Valley South Assembly covered a large part of the Borough and this emphasised the need for co-ordination. It was emphasised that the Assembly Team was not central to the process as it should be community-led but it would help ensure it was enabled. The Area Action Plan would be developed by the Assembly Officer based upon Community Plans.

Discussion then ensued on the suggested membership of the Steering Group and particularly on representation of Parish Councils and the two Community Development Trusts.

Agreed:- (a) That the presentations be received.

(b) That a Community Planning Steering Group be established which shall :

- (i) Act as a report and feedback mechanism between the Assembly and lead bodies for Community Planning.
- (ii) Ensure that progress is driven
- (iii) Work with the Assembly staff to review the Area Action Plan and monitor progress in implementation.

(c) That the membership of the said group be :

- 1 Borough Councillor representing each Ward
- 1 representative from each of the Parish Councils and, if taken up, the Parish Meetings
- 2 community representatives, 1 as from the Rural Priority Area and 1 as from the Dinnington Forum (consideration being given to actual membership having regard to the views now expressed)

together with the Area Assembly Officer and Community Planning Officer

## **15. AREA ASSEMBLY OFFICERS' REPORT**

The Assembly Officer reported on the following issues :-

(a) Rotherham Primary Care Trust :- Losses and Compensations

- a note of losses, none within this Assembly area

(b) Public Entertainment Licence

- an application in respect of the Kiveton Park Youth and Community Centre, Station Road, Kiveton Park

(c) Funding News – information on the following :-

- Funding and Fundraising for the Voluntary and Community Sector – Course to be arranged on Tuesday mornings from 30th September to 25th November, 2003 in the RAIN Building
- Places to Go Grants
- Rotherham Heart Health Small Grants Scheme
- WREN – Landfill Tax Credits – Amended Criteria
- Assembly Community Chest

(d) Supertram – copy leaflets on the suggested extensions were made available

(e) Environmental Works – Arriva had accepted responsibility for clearing overgrown vegetation obstructing highway visibility at the Colliery Road/Station Road Junction, Kiveton Park

(f) Sports Van – A Schedule of Sports Van sites for the Summer 2003 was made available.

**16. STREETPRIDE**

Andy Roddis circulated a schedule of customer reports received by Rotherham Streetpride relating to this Assembly area.

In response to a previous decision he was to be available both prior to and following meetings of this Assembly to deal with any specific queries.

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

(a) Future Swimming Provision in the Rother Valley South Area – it was explained that no approval for funding had been received for any new swimming provision at this time, including at Aston. It was still open for people to express views on the issue.

(b) Street Signs – The need to remove overgrown vegetation from around street signs was referred to with particular reference made to the Todwick area.

(c) Vehicle 25 Plus Scheme – This was to be relaunched in the very near future.

(d) Park Farm, South Anston – Concerns were again expressed as to this site and suggested new access arrangements put forward. It was noted these issues had been addressed at a separate meeting held on 24th June, 2003.

(e) Community Plan / Strategy – The need to clarify, in layman's terms, the difference between the different elements was referred to and suggested a short note be circulated.

(f) Bus Service 767 – Problems with this service were again referred to and suggested that people make representations to Stagecoach, the bus company concerned.

## **18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Agreed:- That items to be addressed at the next / future meeting(s) be :-

- Crime and Community Safety
- Rother Valley Park – Proposed Extension / Improvements

**19. NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held at the Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Hall on Monday, 1st September, 2003 at 2.00 p.m.