

**WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY**  
**held at the Manor Farm Community Centre**  
**on Wednesday 25th September, 2002**

Present:-

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Councillor K. Goulty     | Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West) (in the Chair)                  |
| Mrs. H. Anderson         | Resident  |
| Mr. P. Atkinson          | Wardens Unit, RMBC                                      |
| Mrs. M. Ball             | Area Assembly Support Officer, RMBC                     |
| Mr. A. Barnfield         | Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association            |
| Mrs. E. Booth            | Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Community Action Group     |
| Mrs. A. Brown            | Rawmarsh Youth Centre                                   |
| Mrs. D. Brown            | Resident  |
| Mr. M. Brown             | Chair, Rawmarsh Hall Sub-Group                          |
| Councillor J. Carr       | Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)                                 |
| B. Childs                | The A Team, Young People's Action Group                 |
| Mrs. J. Collie           | Secretary, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Community Action Group |
| Ms. J. Curran            | Community Planning Officer, RMBC                        |
| Mr. M. Durham            | Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership                |
| Mr. R. D. Evans          | Resident  |
| Mr. J. Formby            | Drug Area Action Team/ Primary Care Trust               |
| Mrs. M. Frith            | Resident  |
| Mr. P. Frith             | Resident  |
| Mr. E. Frost             | Resident and Rawmarsh Hall Sub-Group                    |
| Miss L. Gaimster         | The A Team, Young People's Action Group                 |
| Mr. M. Gazur             | Resident  |
| Mrs. J. Greenwood        | Neighbourhood Warden Manager                            |
| Mr. A. Harston           | Legal and Democratic Services, RMBC                     |
| Mr. C. Hawley            | Resident  |
| Mrs. J. Hawley           | Resident  |
| Mr. M. Heeley            | Chairman, Manor Farm Community Centre                   |
| Mrs. O. Heeley           | Trustee, Manor Farm Community Centre                    |
| Mr. D. Machon            | Resident  |
| Mrs. L. Machon           | Resident  |
| Miss P. Moss             | The A Team, Young People's Action Group                 |
| Mrs. C. Nicholls         | Resident  |
| Mrs. E. Read             | Resident  |
| Mr. J. Robinson          | Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association            |
| Councillor G. A. Russell | Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)                                 |
| Mrs. C. Searby           | Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)       |
| Mr. A. Shaw              | Area Assembly Officer, RMBC                             |
| Mr. D. Toy               | Resident  |
| Mrs. B. Turner           | Resident  |
| Mr. N. Westby            | South Yorkshire Times                                   |
| Councillor G. Whelbourn  | Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)                                 |
| Mrs. P. Wilson           | Resident  |
| Mr. P. Woodcock          | Resident  |



## Apologies:-

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. S. Abson         | IDP Programme Manager, RMBC      |
| Ms. R. Barley        | Rawmarsh Against Tipping         |
| Mrs. W. Billups      | Housing Services Panel           |
| Mr. B. Darby         | Resident                         |
| Mr. D. Greenway      | Wentworth Central Community Fund |
| Mrs. L. Maltby       | Resident                         |
| Rev. J. Marsh        | Rawmarsh Methodist Church        |
| Mrs. N. Platt        | Parkgate Youth Centre            |
| Mr. T. Powell        | Youth Service, RMBC              |
| Mrs. G. Sherratt     | Resident                         |
| Speak Up             |                                  |
| Councillor R. Stone  | Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)          |
| Mrs. G. Stones       | Resident                         |
| Miss L. Stones       | Resident                         |
| Mr. V. Ward          | Resident                         |
| Mr. B. Williams      | Rawmarsh Allotments              |
| Mrs. M. Wrey         | Rawmarsh Family Group            |
| Councillor S. Wright | Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)          |

**28. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and new members introduced themselves.

**29. AWARDS**

The Chairman reported that Mervyn and Olwyn Heeley and Liz Booth had received the Daily Mail Certificate – Golden Jubilee Unsung Heroes Award of Merit for their work in the community.

**30. MINUTES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY**

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July, 2002 be approved as a correct record.

**31. MATTERS ARISING****(i) TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST/RAWMARSH BATHS SITE**

It was noted that, whilst there had been no response yet, the matter was being investigated and would be pursued.

**(ii) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

It was noted that there had not been a response from DTLR.

The Chairman reported that the Environment Scrutiny Panel was looking at the whole issue of anti-social behaviour and it would be reported back to this Assembly as well as the Council.

Janet Greenwood reported that adverts were imminent for the posts of Anti-Social Officers and an Anti-Social Manager.

Specific reference was made to the firing of air rifles on Haugh Road. It was noted that the area had been patrolled by the wardens to no avail and Janet Greenwood indicated that the situation would be monitored. Janet asked that any further incidents be reported to the office.

Concern was again expressed regarding off road motorcycling every weekend. It was noted that the Police were doing their best to address the problem and that this issue was also being looked at in the scrutiny process as a borough wide concern.

(iii) YELLOW LINES ON BELLOWS ROAD

Alan Shaw undertook to arrange the previously requested site visit.

(iv) RAWMARSH SHOPPING CENTRE

Liz Booth reported, for clarification, that the centre had not been sold.

(v) THE OLD RECTORY, RAWMARSH HILL

The Chairman reported that the planned meeting, with community involvement, would be taking place shortly to try and take the situation forward.

Specific reference was made to youngsters gaining access to the building and the need to make the building secure.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw pursue this matter, particularly with regard to enforcement action relating to the security of the building.

(vi) HEAVY LORRIES USING WESTFIELD ROAD

It was noted that a response was still awaited from the Engineering Service.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw pursue this matter.

## 32. YOUTH UPDATE

Ben Childs, Linzi Gaimster and Precious Moss apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting due to the school holidays and then presented their youth update.

Gratitude was expressed to the Church Wardens who had worked hard to acquire funds for the heating in St. Mary's Church Hall which was now complete and would be much warmer for the Youth Centre this Winter.

It was hoped that decoration of the Youth Centre would commence shortly as joint working with the Scouts and with the co-operation of the Church Council. Hopefully the hall would be made more welcoming to other users.

The A Team indicated they had been invited to the Parochial Church Council Meeting on 2nd October, 2002. The forum would enable all parties, Scouts, PCC and Young Peoples Services to express any concerns to be sorted out amicably.

The A Team sought clarification of any developments or decisions regarding the resource centre in Victoria Park. The A Team also sought clarification regarding cuts in young peoples services which, although threatened at the beginning of the year, had thankfully not materialised.

The Chairman responded that Parkgate Youth Centre had not closed because no alternative provision had been found. However, alternative provision was still being sought.

With regard to the resource centre issue, the Chairman reported that, as part of the PFI initiative relating to schools, three key young persons centres were to be developed. However, the proposal was that these be at Thornhill, Clifton and Wath, building on the success of the present facilities. The Chairman felt that, with support from the Area Assembly, a request could be made that one of these centres should be built in the Park, away from a school campus.

Liz Booth reported that the Parkgate Project had written to John Healey, M.P. who had arranged for a junior minister to visit Rawmarsh imminently. Liz undertook to raise with him the issue of sites for young persons centres.

Mel Durham also reported that a bid for £250,000 had been submitted to the New Initiatives Fund for the development of the Park (£125,000 of which would relate to the Hall). The next open meeting to discuss the planning for the Hall and Park was to be held at the Titanic Club on 4th October, 2002.

Janet Greenwood referred to the park rangers in Clifton Park and that the next project for park rangers was to be centred on Rosehill/Victoria Park.

Agreed:- (a) That the information be noted and the A Team be thanked for their report.

(b) That this Assembly expresses concern regarding the identified sites for young persons centres and requests that consideration be given to one of the centres being developed within this Area Assembly area.

**33. COMMUNITY PLANNING/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Alan Shaw, Area Assembly Officer, assisted by Janice Curran, Community Planning Officer, gave a slide presentation on the above which emanated from the Local Government Act 2000.

The Act placed a duty on Councils “to enhance the quality of life of local communities through action to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of an area”. To do this the Council was required to play a lead role in developing a Community Strategy for the Borough as a whole.

It was pointed out that the first draft community strategy for Rotherham was about to be launched and was an opportunity to focus on what communities wanted for Rotherham over the next few years.

The Strategy would set out where we are now, where we want to be and how to get there. It was pointed out that priorities had to be realistic and had to recognise the commitment and work of other organisations e.g. Health Service and voluntary groups and that money to support new projects, services and activities was often limited. It was about finding ways of delivering services and adjusting existing budgets.

The process was about improving ways of working with local communities and partners to tackle problems and deliver solutions. Monitoring and evaluation was also vital.

Alan referred to how the local community, through the area assembly process, had made valuable contributions for change e.g. ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour, modernising traffic calming measures (Haugh Road) and realigning other services to introduce Environmental Wardens to tackle dog fouling, tipping and graffiti and having control of a small budget for new 'hotspots' to spend on protecting our green spaces and public areas.

Alan referred to the Community Plan and introduced Janice Curran who described briefly the work she had done in gathering information to go into the Community Plan.

Activities so far included:-

- community planning activity at Rosehill Victoria Park fun day and a similar event at the Sure Start Gala
- discussions with the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership about working with sub-groups particularly with regard to the youth and community buildings sub-groups
- promoted the idea of working on specific geographical areas such as Parkgate and Monkwood producing mini action plans for the areas, possibly sparking off interest to form TARA's or action groups. Such plans would be fed into the overall plan for Rawmarsh, Parkgate and Kilnhurst
- meeting/workshop proposed with interested parties to look at different methods and techniques
- process to begin in Kilnhurst at the Christmas Festival

Alan continued with the presentation covering :-

- community planning : how is it done and how to make it work
- support for community planning from :-
  - borough and parish councils
  - local community groups and partnerships

- community development workers
- Area Assembly Team
- Voluntary Action Rotherham
- other Council services
- other service providers
- externally funded initiatives
- how community plans would feed into the Community Strategy
- what the area assemblies could do
- the next stage

In concluding, Alan stressed the need to be realistic about what would happen to community plans. Community plans for this area and other parts of Rotherham were unlikely to make it into the first version of the Community Strategy but would eventually be included. Despite the commitment to community planning, work was still needed developing the working relationships between local partnerships (The Community), area assemblies and the people who plan and deliver the services.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were covered :-

- future of Manor Farm
- Area Assembly future activities
- environmental and green issues
- empowerment of the Community
- Pathfinder project
- Community Plan being in first version of Community Strategy
- budgets for Area Assemblies

The Chairman thanked Alan and Janice for their presentations.

### **34. COUNCIL TAX PAYMENTS**

Jim Robinson, Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association, referred to the Council's change in collection date for Council Tax payments and stressed that this was penalising those people who paid by cash.

He made reference to the recent issue of Council Matters self claiming that the Council was leading the way in the collection of Council Tax and contrasted that with the Star headline of thousands being in court over Council Tax payments.

He gave a specific example, although there were many, of an exemplary Council tenant who, as always, had continued to pay her Council Tax by cash on the 19th of the month and had been issued with a summons. Attempts by a Ward Councillor to have the summons quashed had failed. However, a Swinton tenant, similarly issued, had had his summons quashed.



Jim also expressed disgust at how the lady, who he accompanied, had been treated by Council officials at court.

Agreed:- (a) That this Assembly expresses its disgust to the Cabinet at the change of collection date and how residents have been subsequently treated and calls for the collection date to be changed to facilitate payment on the last day of the month.

(b) That the Chairman pursues the alleged discriminatory way in which requests to quash issued summons were handled.

**35. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME**

Janet Greenwood, Neighbourhood Warden Manager, updated the Assembly on the progress of the above scheme.

Janet reported that Government Office had visited the area yesterday and were happy with the Unit. They had met local groups who had commented.

Janet further reported :-

- doggy bins had been installed
- another year's funding had been secured for the warden scheme until 2004
- at tomorrow's visit by the Junior Minister she would raise with him the need for diversionary measures for the youth and ask if he would arrange a future visit to meet the area's youth
- she had noted, as a hotspot, youth nuisance on Heaton's Bank and Rockingham Road
- there had been graffiti in the last two weeks and the team had been back to look at the area and update the list of problem areas
- she had been yesterday to look at a grime busting machine costing £4,000 fully equipped which was going to be pursued. The machine could hook up to a vehicle and the possibility of acquiring a van was to be investigated
- she had noted the nuisance referred to earlier in the meeting relating to air rifles and motorcycling

Discussion ensued on the working patterns of the wardens and Janet explained why they could not work beyond 8.00 p.m.

Reference was also made to organisations cleaning graffiti off their own properties, in particular Yorkshire Electricity and British Telecom.

Janet clarified the position with regard to stray dogs but reminded the Assembly of the Wardens' enforcement powers regarding dog fouling.

Agreed:- That the progress be welcomed and Janet Greenwood take on board the issues now raised.

**36. RAWMARSH AND PARKGATE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Mel Durham reported :-

- the office had been opened officially last Saturday by the Mayor and Peter Elliott
- Steve Abson was now based in the office
- permission had been obtained to draw down funds from the approved £6.8m
- proposals to reclaim two hectares of land for factory development
- the administration officer was to commence work officially in two weeks time following a month's secondment
- job description for the Community Development Worker was now with the Partnership
- the August fun day in Rosehill/Victoria Park had been a huge success and the need was stressed for more such regular events, especially in the summer and school holiday periods
- the Laser Credit Union had opened on Bellows Road three weeks ago on Mondays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon

### **37. COMMUNITY SKIPS**

Alan Shaw reported that there were annually 15 skips each per ward available. Until the end of March, 23 of the 30 total were still available.

It was noted that a skip was being provided at Manor Farm on Saturday, 28th September, 2002.

### **38. HOTSPOT MONIES**

Alan Shaw reported that only £2,000 of the allocated budget of £5,000 had been spent.

Agreed:- That any ideas for utilisation of the funding be forwarded to Alan Shaw.

### **39. NEW STUBBIN COLLIERY SITE**

The Chairman, responding to speculation that someone was interested in developing the New Stubbin Colliery Site, reported that he and Alan Shaw had approached Ron Hull who had confirmed his interest, but only if he could take the community along with him.

The Chairman summarised the discussions covering :-

- proposal to extract the smallest seam
- previous problems regarding :-
  - dust control

- duration of scheme
  - disadvantages outweighing benefits
  - transportation, pollution, noise etc.,
- potential benefits the community might receive
- proposed full presentation to the Area Assembly

Preliminary discussion ensued and the following issues were raised:-

- transportation proposal to reinstate existing railway line very costly and in any event it was no longer an existing line and had been reclaimed by mother nature
- concern areas could be made into wetlands
- meeting taking place next week between Guy Canby and the Partnership's Environment Forum to discuss the 'interest'
- tremendous wildlife already in the area
- concerns at the possible intentions to opencast further if the go ahead given for this development

The general feeling of the Area Assembly was one of concerns regarding future intentions for development and that this was already an area of natural beauty that needed leaving well alone.

Agreed:- That the Chairman report further.

#### **40. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **(i) PROPOSED QUALITY TRANSPORT CORRIDOR**

Agreed:- That this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

##### **(ii) JACKSON CRESCENT – SNICKET**

Mrs. Anderson asked if the snicket at the back of Jackson Crescent could be closed.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw pursue this matter.

#### **41. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held at the Dale Road People's Centre on Wednesday 6th November, 2002 at 4.30 p.m.