

**WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY  
HELD AT THE DALE ROAD PEOPLE'S CENTRE,  
on Wednesday 6th November, 2002**

Present:-

Councillor K. Goulty	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West) (in the Chair)
Mrs. H. Anderson	Resident
Mr. M. Anderson	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Mrs. M. Ball	Area Assembly Support Officer, RMBC
Ms. R. Barley	Rawmarsh Against Tipping
Mr. A. Barnfield	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mrs. P. Birch	Resident
Mr. K. Boughen	Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)
Mrs. A. Brown	Rawmarsh Youth Centre
Mrs. D. Brown	Resident
Mr. P. Brown	Resident
Mr. M. Brown	Chair, Rawmarsh Hall Sub-Group
Mr. G. Canby	Fitzwilliam (Wentworth) Estates
Ms. J. Curran	Community Planning Officer, RMBC
Mrs. D. Douglas	Economic and Development Services, RMBC
Mr. W. Farrier	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mr. M. Fisher	Engineering Service, RMBC
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. A. Harston	Legal and Democratic Services, RMBC
Mr. C. Hawley	Resident
Mrs. J. Hawley	Resident
Mr. D. Jackson	Resident
Mrs. L. Maltby	Resident
Mr. A. Matthews	Emergency Planning Co-ordinator, RMBC
Miss P. Moss	The A Team, Young People's Action Group
Mr. J. Parks	Neighbourhood Warden Supervisor
Mrs. N. Platt	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. E. Read	Resident
Mrs. C. Searby	Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)
Mr. A. Shaw	Area Assembly Officer, RMBC
Mr. D. Shaw	Resident
Mrs. G. Sherratt	Resident
Mr. J. Staniforth	Resident
Mrs. J. Stansfield	Resident
Mr. B. Toms	Resident
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
Mrs. P. Woodcock	Resident

Apologies:-

Mr. S. Abson	IDP Programme Manager, RMBC
Mrs. E. Booth	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Community Action Group
Councillor J. Carr	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. M. Durham	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mrs. R. Reavey	Youth Service, RMBC
Mr. J. Robinson	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mr. A. Smith	Rawmarsh Against Tipping
Mrs. G. Stones	Resident
Miss L. Stones	Resident
Mr. R. Twynham	Resident
Mr. V. Ward	Resident

#### **42. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and Messrs. Anderson (South Yorkshire PTE), Boughen (Rotherham PCT) and Fisher (Engineering Services, RMBC) introduced themselves.

#### **43. MINUTES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY**

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September, 2002 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Mr. W. Farrier in the list of members present.

#### **44. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **(i) TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST/RAWMARSH BATHS SITE**

Whilst it was noted there had still been no response, Diane Douglas (Business and Corporate Support Manager, Economic and Development Services) undertook to pursue this matter and ascertain the position regarding the lease and future of the mast.

##### **(ii) ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Chairman read out an extract from Alan Smith's letter regarding the continuing nuisance of off road motorcycling and, in response to Wilf Farrier's question regarding a response generally on anti-social issues from the DTLR, indicated that such a response had not been forthcoming. However, it was pointed out that there had been a national response from Government on anti-social behaviour and it was expected that there would be reference in the Queen's Speech. The issue was being pursued, not just by us but, collectively throughout the Country.

The Chairman indicated no feedback yet from the Environment Scrutiny Panel regarding the specific issues of concern but that the Democratic

Renewal Scrutiny Panel had been looking at the issue of anti-social behaviour. Councillor Whelbourn (Vice-Chair of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel) confirmed that the issue was to be reviewed and indicated that the Panel had sought co-option of a representative of this Area Assembly to assist in that review.

Agreed:- That Jim Robinson and Wilf Farrier be nominated as this Area Assembly's representatives to participate in the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel's review of anti-social behaviour.

(iii) YELLOW LINES ON BELLOWS ROAD

Ted Frost reported he had been contacted by the Engineering Service, but had been told nothing could be done until the development was complete.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw and the Chairman pursue this matter.

(iv) RAWMARSH SHOPPING CENTRE

The Chairman undertook to try and ascertain the current ownership of the shopping centre.

(v) THE OLD RECTORY, RAWMARSH HILL

In response to a request on progress from Wilf Farrier, the Chairman referred to correspondence he had received from the Conservation Officer, Regeneration and Planning Service in response to concerns sent by this Area Assembly, particularly with regard to security, damage and also potential enforcement action.

The Chairman updated the Assembly indicating the there was funding available from the South Yorkshire Building Preservation Trust for a feasibility study and it was hoped that the building would be repaired and refurbished and then put to the community for future usage.

(vi) PARKGATE YOUTH CENTRE

Nora Platt, Parkgate Youth Centre, indicated she had, with great concern, read the Chairman's comments at the last meeting that the Centre had not closed because alternative provision had not been found. On contacting the youth Service, she had been told that no decision had been taken on closure in relation to Youth Service cuts.

It was noted that briefings had been given to Cabinet but the position was still unknown.

Nora stressed the viability and importance of the facility to the community and that such should continue in the present building.

The Chairman apologised for causing concern and clarified what he had meant by his comments, confirming what Nora had been told and that no decisions had yet been taken.

The Chairman stressed that as far as he was concerned, and based on previous undertakings, such facilities would not be closed unless alternative provision was found.

(vii) NEW STUBBIN COLLIERY SITE

The Chairman read out an extract from Alan Smith's letter expressing concern at the approach made to the potential developer enabling discussion to be facilitated at the last meeting. The Chairman reiterated the circumstances and said he would reply personally to Alan Smith.

The Chairman indicated that, in accord with the Assembly's wishes, no further action had been taken.

General discussion ensued about a potential development of the site and Guy Canby (Fitzwilliam Estates) outlined some background information.

The general feeling of the Assembly was that they ought to be aware of any potential development.

Agreed:- That a special meeting of this Area Assembly be arranged as soon as possible to discuss this matter with the potential developer and interested parties.

(viii) COUNCIL TAX PAYMENTS

In response to a request on progress from Wilf Farrier, the Chairman confirmed that the matter had been discussed at last week's Cabinet. He indicated that a review of payment dates was to be undertaken next year.

Agreed:- That the report submitted to Cabinet, prepared in response to the concerns expressed by this Area Assembly, be distributed for information with the agenda papers for the next scheduled meeting.

(ix) JACKSON CRESCENT – SNICKET

Alan Shaw confirmed that this matter was being pursued.

**45. YOUTH UPDATE**

Linzi Gaimster and Precious Moss presented their youth update.

Plans for the decoration of the church hall were currently on hold due to not being able to get a meeting with the Scouts. Two letters to them remained unanswered. It was noted some progress may be made at the next Parochial Church Council Meeting.

The A Team were delighted with the Area Assembly's request that consideration be given to a key centre being built in Rosehill/Victoria Park.

The A Team sought feedback from the meeting at the Titanic Club on 4th October, 2002 on the plans for the Hall and Park and also from the visit by the junior minister. The A Team indicated that their action plan was to write to John Healey, M.P. requesting a further visit by the junior minister to meet the young people of Rawmarsh and listen to their views and concerns.

The Chairman thanked the A Team for their presentation and read out a letter from Education, Culture and Leisure Services relating to the funding application to the New Opportunities Fund for the development of the Park.

With regard to the key centres, the Chairman reported that the reason the identified sites were on school premises was because they were being funded through the Schools Private Finance Initiative project. The suggestion for the Park would not be able to be funded this way.

The Chairman undertook to pursue this matter with Rod Norton.

The Chairman indicated he did not have any feedback from the visit by the junior minister or on the meeting at the Titanic Club.

Ann Brown informed the Assembly of the Graffiti Project and formation of a Graffiti Club meeting on the school site on Thursdays. Funding had been received for helpers from the YMCA to work with the young people. The project was to facilitate controlled graffiti art.

A proposal/request to graffiti art the subway between Netto and the Church had been forwarded to the Chief Executive.

Agreed:- That the report be noted and the response from the Chief Executive regarding graffiti art be awaited.

#### **46. QUALITY BUS CORRIDOR**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Fisher and Michael Anderson

Mark Fisher outlined briefly the Dearne North quality bus corridor which extends as far as south the Yorkshire Traction Depot and made reference to the submitted "Flow" leaflets "opening up the Dearne Valley". He referred to the partnership arrangements and aims of improving transport links between Rotherham Town Centre and Rawmarsh, Swinton, Wath and the Manvers Enterprise Zone.

Mark referred to the commissioned report on the northern corridor and the consultation process, particularly the submitted leaflet with regard to

junction improvements. It was also proposed to enhance bus stops along the route.

Michael Anderson explained the consultation process in more detail and confirmed that the closing deadline of 31st October, 2002 had been extended to today to facilitate any views from the Area Assembly.

He explained particularly the submitted consultation leaflet in respect of options for junction improvements at Kilnhurst Road and Golden Smithies and urged members to complete the response slip.

There had been a good response to the consultation, the biggest response being in respect of the Kilnhurst Road junction.

Michael explained the way forward in that a report would be prepared based on the consultation feedback, there would be a decision by officers and the Cabinet in respect of the junction improvement options and then they would be included in a programme and timetable.

A third leaflet would then be produced and distributed via the Community Access Points explaining the works which would be carried out along with a draft programme.

Michael concluded by indicating that works would have to be within budgets but that some works would commence this financial year.

A question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised:-

- bus stops outside the Dale Road People's Centre and the Yorkshire Traction Depot
- pedestrian crossing on Warren Vale Road
- widening of Rosehill Road
- why deal with the northern corridor first when the congestion was at the Rotherham end ?

Mark Fisher indicated that a separate report would be prepared on the corridor from the Yorkshire Traction Depot to Rotherham which would be the subject of a separate consultation exercise. It was recognised from the initial stages that the Southern Section would be more complex due to land issues and future developments at Retail world. Therefore, the works within the framework for delivery were programmed to take this into account.

Agreed:- (1) That this Assembly is of the view that Option 2 should be the preferred option regarding the Kilnhurst Road junction improvement.

(2) That Members be encouraged to complete and hand in the consultation response slip.

#### **47. EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The Chairman welcomed Alan Matthews, Emergency Planning Co-ordinator, who, with the aid of powerpoint, gave a presentation about the Borough Emergency Plan. The aim was to raise awareness of the emergency planning function within Rotherham MBC. The presentation covered:-

- comparative incident figures world wide for 2001 and 2002
- the need for and operation of the Emergency Plan
- details of the Emergency Planning Team staff
- training for employees involved in responding to major incidents
- training exercises to test the operation and effectiveness of the Emergency Plan
- the co-ordination and operation of the Borough Council services in response to an emergency incident
- the Borough Emergency Operations Room
- procedures and action to counter incidents of terrorism
- details of the legal background of the health and safety requirements of employees
- the bomb threat response plan
- action to ensure Borough Council service continuity in the event of an emergency incident

A question and answer ensued and the following issues were raised:-

- relevance of incidents abroad to Rotherham
- liaison with other agencies
- liaison with air traffic controllers
- training
- costs and funding available
- back up equipment and communications

- town centre evacuation plan

The Chairman thanked Alan Matthews for an interesting and informative presentation.

#### **48. RAWMARSH AND PARKGATE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Assembly noted an update report prepared by Mel Durham indicating :-

- Partnership Office was now staffed Monday to Friday
- LASER Credit Union was open to enrol new members every Monday from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon
- Integrated Development Plan : seven projects had been approved including assessing Community Needs, Environmental Improvements and Business Support
- an application had been submitted for charitable status
- working towards setting up a graffiti busting team with trained staff. This would tie in with an equipment co-operative providing DIY equipment to local residents and eventually workers to carry out tasks for people in need of assistance
- the next newsletter would be distributed at the end of November, 2002
- organising, with local traders in the Bellows Road Shopping Precinct, a Christmas Market and Fair on Saturday, 7th December, 2002

#### **49. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME**

The Assembly noted the submitted report outlining the complaints running totals up to and including 19th October, 2002

John Parks reported the following additional information:-

- the service had been instrumental in three youths being arrested for burglary
- the service had witnessed flytipping and the perpetrator had been traced and penalised
- 15 flytipping sites had been cleaned up

#### **50. WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY – COMMUNITY PLANNING**



The Assembly noted the submitted report and graphs giving an overview of the results from the community planning exercise held at the Rawmarsh Funday and Sure Start Gala.

There was an overwhelming response to improving community facilities in the area and in particular regarding improvements in facilities for children and young people. This was followed by issues relating to crime and safety, graffiti, substance misuse and local environment including more litter and doggy bins.

Results would be passed on and further activities and exercises would take place throughout the area to encourage the formation of a local community plan for Rawmarsh and Parkgate and one for Kilnhurst. Community Planning was an ongoing process and plans would be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

#### **51. COMMUNITY SKIPS**

Agreed:- That approval be given to the provision of skips as reported by Alan Shaw.

#### **52. WENTWORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY FUND**

The Assembly considered the statement of the Wentworth Central Community Fund indicating that the available £2,000 Community Chest Fund had been distributed to the 18 successful applications out of the 24 received.

The statement detailed the organisation, nature of application and level of grant approved.

Agreed:- (1) That the position be noted.

(2) That Dennis Greenway (Chairman) and the remaining Grants Panel Members be thanked for the efficient manner in which they had considered applications and allocated the available funds.

#### **53. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **ASYLUM SEEKERS**

The Assembly sought clarification as to how many asylum seekers were being distributed around the Borough and also within the Area Assembly area.

Agreed:- That the Chairman and Alan Shaw pursue this matter.

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

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held at the Parkgate Library on Wednesday, 8th January, 2003 at 4.30 p.m.