

WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY
held at the Dale Road People's Centre
on Wednesday, 21st May, 2003

Present:-

Councillor K. Goulty	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West) (in the Chair)
Mrs. H. Anderson	Resident
Mrs. M. Ball	Area Assembly Support Officer, RMBC
Mrs. P. Birch	Resident
Mrs. E. Booth	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Community Action Group
Mr. T. Boulton	Chair, Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mrs. A. Brown	Rawmarsh Youth Centre
Mrs. D. Brown	Resident
B. Childs	Youth Area Representative
Mrs. E. Clemson	Resident
Ms. J. Curran	Community Planning Officer, RMBC
Mr. B. Darby	Rawmarsh Churches Together
Mr. L. Devlin	Rawmarsh Advocates and Investigators
Mr. M. Durham	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mr. J. Formby	Rotherham Drug Strategy Team (PCT)
Miss L. Gaimster	Youth Area Representative
Mr. M. Gazur	Resident
G. Gibson	Resident
Mr. T. Gillatt	Rotherham PCT
Councillor N. Hamilton	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. A. Harston	Democratic Services, RMBC
Mrs. J. Hawley	Resident
Mr. R. Jackson	Streetpride, RMBC
Mrs. J. Jones	Housing Manager, RMBC
Mr. T. Knight	Streetpride, RMBC
Mrs. L. Maltby	Resident and 7th Rotherham Scouts
Miss P. Moss	Youth Area Representative
Mr. R. Overton	RCRP
Mr. S. Oxer	Resident
Mr. P. Padfield	Neighbourhood Warden
E. Parkin	Resident
Mr. J. Parks	Neighbourhood Warden Manager
Mrs. E. Read	Resident
Mr. M. Roys	Resident
Mr. P. Rowe	Community Development Worker, Voluntary Action Rotherham
Councillor G. A. Russell	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)
Mr. A. Shaw	Area Assembly Officer, RMBC
Mr. C. Shaw	Streetpride, RMBC
Mrs. G. Sherratt	Resident
Mr. J. A. Smith	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mr. I. Staniforth	Resident
Mrs. J. Stansfield	Resident
Mrs. G. Thrustle	Resident
Mr. D. Toy	Resident
Mrs. B. Turner	Resident
Mrs. P. Wilson	Resident

Apologies :-

Mr. S. Abson	IDP Programme Manager, RMBC
Ms. R. Barley	Rawmarsh Against Tipping
Mrs. W. Billups	Housing Services Panel
Mr. K. Boughen	Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)
Mrs. H. Cahill	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mr. W. Farrier	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mr. M. Heeley	Chair, Manor Farm Community Centre
Mrs. O. Heeley	Trustee, Manor Farm Community Centre
Mr. C. Hollingsworth	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mrs. S. Mason	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mrs. N. Platt	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. R. Reavey	Young People's Services, RMBC
Ms. C. Searby	Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)
Councillor R. Stone	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)
Mrs. G. Stones	Resident
Miss L. Stones	Resident
Mr. V. Ward	Resident
Councillor G. Whelbourn	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. B. Williams	Rawmarsh Allotments
Councillor S. Wright	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. MINUTES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING**(i) Anti-Social Behaviour**

Alan Shaw reported that Wilf Farrier had asked him to inform the Area Assembly that the meetings he and Jim Robinson had attended in respect of the above had been very productive and that he was pleased with the way things were progressing. Alan indicated that two issues being pushed by Wilf and Jim, namely a mediation service and introductory tenancies, may become Council policy.

(ii) The Old Rectory, Rawmarsh Hill

Alan Shaw reported receipt of correspondence from the South Yorkshire Building Preservation Trust indicating that they were negotiating with the

current owners regarding an endowment to facilitate carrying out remedial work. The ultimate aim was to renovate the building for community use.

Alan undertook to keep the Area Assembly informed of any progress

(iii) Goodwin Avenue / Goodwin Crescent

Liz Booth reported that the trouble had now moved to the other end of the site where the trees are.

Brian Darby indicated he hoped there would be consultation regarding the future use of the site.

(iv) Rawmarsh Shopping Centre : Insurance

Alan Shaw read out responses he had received from the owner's agents and the Insurance Ombudsman regarding the concerns raised at the last meeting of the Area Assembly in respect of the large increases in insurance premiums for rented properties at the Rawmarsh Shopping Centre.

The Agents responded that, since the events of September 11th and major claims as a consequence of storm and flood damage throughout the country, the insurance market had tightened considerably. The original insurers had declined renewal terms for the Centre. As a consequence, the owners had to find alternative cover which had proved very difficult in the current market. The cover currently in place was the only cover available but unfortunately at a substantially higher premium. There had been a general increase in premiums and a significant proportion of the properties managed by the practice had seen 100% increases. Whilst the concerns of the tenants were shared, there was little that could be done until the insurance market improved and became more competitive.

The response from the Insurance Ombudsman indicated that the complaint did not appear to be one that they could deal with because it was solely about the firm's legitimate use of its commercial judgement.

4. YOUTH UPDATE

Linzi Gaimster, Precious Moss and Ben Childs presented their youth update.

The update is set out below :-

"Good Afternoon to everyone, here is our update on things we have done since the last Area Assembly.

Young Peoples Assembly

We have recently established our Young Peoples Area Assembly, the Chairperson is Lindsey Gaimster, who volunteered for the position, and

the rest of the group was in agreement. The Chairs role at this point is to bring the meeting to order, and keep people focused. So far we organised a meeting to prepare for today's assembly, but the new members failed to turn up, but we will be persistent in our efforts to involve other young people.

External Gallery Group

This group was the Rawmarsh Graffiti Group, but the name has now changed to the External Gallery Group, as this says more about what the group wants to achieve. The youth workers and the group are now working in partnership with the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme, who has a very talented artist, who can take the group forward. We are also working with other agencies, such as the Police, PC Andy Hellen and Bill O'Sullivan, consultation is also taking place with the Rawmarsh & Parkgate Partnership and Amenities and Leisure Department, to obtain a site for the External Gallery project to display their work.

On Thursday the group will be planning, structuring and agreeing guidelines to achieve the projects aims.

If there are any concerns from the Assembly, we would gladly listen to them, and try to answer them. We would also like your ideas or local contributions and suggestions.

Feedback from Cost of Leeds Survey

We would like to ask if there has been any information on the cost of the survey that was done at school by the people from Leeds?

Litter

We would like to bring up the issue of litter on Monkwood Road. On this site where the purchase of food is very popular, there is only one litter bin, which is situated near the fish shop. Considering that there is a sandwich shop and a sweet shop, which is used by masses of pupils from school, we feel this is not enough. We are trying to get in touch with the Environmental Wardens to address this issue, and get more bins on this site, to try and alleviate the problem.

The Headteacher, Mr. Lambert, has taken steps to address the issue of litter, and has put up warning notices around school, that results in a fine.

Thanking you for listening to our points and update”

The Chairman thanked the Area Representatives for Youth for their update and undertook to pursue the requested information with regard to the Leeds survey.

Alan Shaw reported the environmental wardens were going into school for the week commencing 9th June, 2003.

Liz Booth sought the youth representatives' views regarding the wooden fencing surrounding the shopping centre. No problems had been seen and the fencing was viewed as decorative and separating areas. However, it

was acknowledged as a potential safety hazard if youngsters did not act responsibly around it.

5. RAWMARSH AND PARGATE PARTNERSHIP

Mel Durham reported :-

- the launch over the Easter weekend of a community consultation process aimed at finding out what changes and improvements everyone would like to see made in Rosehill/Victoria Park. A questionnaire was included in the Area Assembly's information pack and everyone was urged to complete and return the questionnaire to the Area Assembly Office or the Partnership Office as soon as possible.

It was proposed to utilise Groundwork Dearne Valley in improvement works and a bid had been made for £300,000 Objective 1 funding for environmental improvements.

- the closing date for contributions to the Newsletter was last Friday and it would be out in June, 2003 to every household in Rawmarsh. There had been a good response from businesses wishing to place advertisements.
- the tool hire and resource shop was now open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (a price list was included in the information pack)
- the laser credit union was now up and running
- the graffiti busting machine was still with the neighbourhood wardens because systems were not yet in place to employ people. Support had been given to the 'murals' project

6. RAWMARSH HALL SUB GROUP

The Chairman updated the Area Assembly regarding the future of the former baths site. The only way to move forward was with funding which could only be secured through the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership. It was hoped that the site would benefit from the £300,000 Objective 1 bid mentioned previously by Mel Durham and that the Area Assembly's previous wishes for a peace/memorial garden would come to fruition.

The Chairman indicated that the Sub-Group had not met for a while and he acknowledged the contributions they had made in their earlier meetings. He added that all the sub-group members would be invited to a future meeting, when appropriate, under the Rawmarsh and Pargate Partnership.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME

The Assembly noted the submitted report outlining the complaints running totals up to and including 3rd May, 2003.

John Parks presented briefly the submitted progress report indicating :-

- he had taken over managerial duties from Janet Greenwood following her departure
- wardens had begun graffiti removal with graffiti removal equipment on Saturdays only initially due to vehicle problems. Discussions were ongoing with representatives of Streepride who provide the necessary vehicle at present. Sixty instances of graffiti had been removed but this was not a quick fix solution
- a clean up day on 3rd June, 2003 of the flytipping black spot on Kilnhurst Road. Neighbourhood and Environmental Wardens were to undertake the clear up with children from Sandhill School. A local businessman from Swinton was to provide the use of a mini JCB on the day. All volunteers were welcome
- enquiries were still ongoing to source potential areas of funding for the Neighbourhood Warden Service

Ann Brown wished to thank the Neighbourhood Warden Service for all the help and support they had given to young people.

8. COMMUNITY SKIPS

Margaret Ball reported that there were 15 skips per ward available with a cut off date of the end of October, 2003 when any unallocated skips would be offered to other areas.

Skips already booked :-

Tuesday 6th May, 2003	Rawmarsh Family Group
Tuesday, 3rd June, 2003	Neighbourhood Warden Unit/Sandhill School
Saturday 14th June, 2003	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Saturday 4th October, 2003	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Saturday, 31st January, 2004	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association

Agreed:- That anyone wishing to book a skip contact the Area Assembly Office (Tel. Rotherham 526525)

Alan Shaw referred to segregation skips where waste would be segregated into green waste, scrap metal and residual waste. He indicated the proposal to try out one skip in each Area Assembly area.

Agreed:- That the feasibility of utilising segregation skips be pursued and Rawmarsh Leisure Centre be suggested as a suitable testing place within this Area Assembly area.

9. RECYCLING FACILITIES

Alan Shaw referred to discussions with Dale Otter, Environmental Services, on proposals to increase household waste recycling. It was proposed to reward communities / community groups for having recycling receptacles in their areas. The reward to be based on tonnage of recyclable matter.

Alan indicated that the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership had agreed to have facilities for splitting glass, cans and paper in the top car park of the Rawmarsh Leisure Centre. It was agreed that Stocks Lane also be looked at as a possible recycling site.

Confirmation was still awaited that the Kilnhurst Action Group wanted facilities at St. Thomas' Church. Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association had agreed to recycling facilities in the top car park of the Rig Dyke public house.

Reference was made to the blue bag collection system and Liz Booth expressed concern that the system was not working in all areas. Liz cited Hawley Street as a particular problem area.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw refer on the concerns raised regarding the blue bag collection system.

10. ROTHERHAM STREETPRIDE

Tom Knight, Streetpride Manager, gave a presentation on Rotherham Streetpride which had been 'soft' launched on 2nd April, 2003.

He also introduced Richard Jackson (Area Manager for Wentworth) and Chris Shaw (Area Co-ordinator for Wentworth Central).

The presentation covered :-

- Mission Statement to work with the community to maintain and improve the street scene to a standard which would promote civic pride and community responsibility
- Vision
 - first impressions count
 - branding issues (uniform/vehicle livery change)
 - eyes and ears
 - one stop "golden number"
 - crime and disorder
 - ambassadors for Rotherham

- Functions
 - Street Cleansing
 - Highway Maintenance
 - Grounds Maintenance
 - Street Lighting
 - Design and Construction
 - Refuse Collection
 - Litter Picking
 - Graffiti Removal
 - Neighbourhood and Environmental Wardens
 - School Crossing Patrols
- Organisational Structure Economic and Development Services - 2 Guiding Principles
 - remove client/contractor split
 - introduce community involvement and area based working
- Streetpride Structure
- Community Delivery Unit – Area Managers and Area Co-ordinators
- Devolved Budgets - Wentworth Central : Area budget of £14,464 + £5,000 Hotspot money = total of £19,464 (calculation based on population and length of highway). Opportunity for area assemblies to be given choice of how to spend the budget. Area Assemblies are required to produce a spending plan by 1st September, 2003.
- Indicative “shopping list” - (provided to help produce spending plan)
- Sample Performance Targets – to be monitored and reported on monthly
- Next Steps
 - Visits to Area Assemblies April/May 2003
 - BPR – now until September, 2003
 - Official launch September/October, 2003

In inviting questions, Tom Knight asked that details of any specific complaints/issues of concern be supplied to Chris Shaw at the end of the meeting to be followed up.

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

- the need to keep individual identities of staff working in the community : Tom indicated that this had been considered but had been discounted on a general basis because the aim was to give a clear impression of one service. However, retention of individual identity had been

honoured where it was felt to be important as was the case with neighbourhood and environmental wardens.

- were there designated teams for Rawmarsh ? : Tom confirmed there was a Wentworth team and an area assembly team for some issues based in the depot at Rotherham. Chris Shaw was the designated area co-ordinator for this Area Assembly
- would the community be involved in directing services ? : Tom confirmed that would be the case by virtue of preparing the required spending plan. It was, of course, down to each Area Assembly as to how such decisions were made
- graffiti removal from sub-stations : Richard Jackson indicated that the utilities had been approached but were not happy regarding liquids being sprayed, particularly where there was electricity. They had also been approached regarding the re-painting of sub-stations but again this was proving difficult

In concluding, Tom Knight indicated that Chris Shaw (area co-ordinator) would be attending future Wentworth Central Area Assembly meetings and any issues regarding Streetpride could be raised with him.

The Chairman indicated his intention to appoint a sub-group from across the community to consider Streetpride issues.

Agreed:- (1) That Tom Knight be thanked for an informative presentation.

(2) That anyone interested in participating in a Streetpride Sub-Group inform Alan Shaw.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) FIREWORK NUISANCE

Liz Booth referred to the continuing nuisance of fireworks discharge and the need to check in which vicinities problems were occurring.

Agreed:- That this matter be raised at the Police Forum meeting tonight.

(ii) GREEN LANE FLATS

Liz Booth referred to problems with “boy racers” around the flats and that the plant troughs were adding to the dangers. Liz asked that the plant troughs be removed.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw pursue this matter.

12. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held at the Parkgate Library on Wednesday, 25th June, 2003 at 4.30 p.m.