

## **Community Planning Update**

### **June 03**

The community planning process has been discussed at previous Area Assembly meetings, in particular, the development of the Area Plan covering Rawmarsh, Parkgate and Kilnhurst and Rotherhams Community Strategy.

This up-date discusses the development of neighbourhood level community action plans that will show local people's aspirations and needs, as well as an action plan showing priorities for action, who will be involved and responsible for taking actions forward, and over what period of time. To avoid confusion with the area plan they are referred to as neighbourhood plans.

**If you have any views, thoughts or concerns about anything within the content of this paper then please do not hesitate to contact Janice Curran, Community Planning Officer on 01709 529726 or E-mail [janice.curran@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:janice.curran@rotherham.gov.uk)**

Throughout the winter period there has been activity taking place around raising awareness and promotion of the community planning process to community groups, forums, and in schools. As a result there is a general consensus for a Kilnhurst neighbourhood plan and a Rawmarsh and Parkgate neighbourhood plan (consisting, in part, of mini plans to be explained below).

It has been agreed that the Kilnhurst neighbourhood plan will be developed and co-ordinated through the Kilnhurst Action Group, building on their previous village plan.

For Rawmarsh and Parkgate, a number of different ways have been suggested through various forums and community groups. One suggested way is the development of mini neighbourhood plans. For instance, there are a number of smaller communities within Rawmarsh and Parkgate and currently, the idea of mini neighbourhood plans in distinct communities is proving popular with groups. It is proposed that these mini plans will form part of an overall plan, along side specific planning activity happening, such as research work to be carried out on improving youth and community facilities, and the Rosehill Park developments. It is expected that after a summer of consultation activity and participation, open events/workshops will take place inviting all stakeholders to attend. This will be to achieve the following:

- To disseminate the information collected,
- To discuss how the neighbourhood plan (or plans) for Rawmarsh and Parkgate will be brought together, and
- To begin to form plans to take action forward identified in the consultation activities.

### **Community Planning Activities Taking Place**

In spring, as part of the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership event, the Area Assembly facilitated a large table top exercise, allowing people to express their views, thoughts and concerns for improving the park. The exercise was then taken to Sandhill J & I School, Thorogate J & I School, and Rawmarsh

School allowing the students and children to participate. The exercise proved very popular and a lot of information was generated. All the information collected is to be collated and further workshops with interested parties will decide on how action is to be prioritised and taken forward.

Rawmarsh School has been very kind in allowing a pilot visioning activity take place with a sample of their students. This exercise took students through a guided visualisation, encouraging them to imagine a better future and integrate their ideas with each other and come away with individual actions. This proved to be an enjoyable and productive experience and therefore a further session will take place with a larger sample of students at the beginning of July. The students will then be encouraged to participate in the wider community planning process i.e. action planning and forming of the plans.

Kilnhurst Action Group are currently reviewing their village plan and a table top exercise will take place at their fun-day in July to encourage greater community participation in deciding ways to make Kilnhurst better. Follow up sessions will then take place in September. These activities will begin to draw together a neighbourhood plan for Kilnhurst.

The following community planning activities are to take place at the following events:

- Manor Farm fun-day Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June
- Kilnhurst Festival Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July
- Rawmarsh fun-day Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July
- Discussions are taking place with SYHA to hold an open day for the Ingshead, Oats Avenue, New Street area in August – date to be confirmed.

It is hoped that community planning activity will be taking place in Parkgate, Sandhill, Monkwood and Thorogate.

**If your community, group, or if you as an individual, are interested in the neighbourhood plans and would like to know more or would like some activity to happen in your area then I am more than happy to come and visit you or your group.**

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