

WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY
held at the Parkgate Library
on Wednesday 25th June, 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. B. Battersby	Resident
Mr. T. Boulton	Chair, Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mrs. A. Brown	Rawmarsh Youth Centre
Mrs. D. Brown	Resident
Mrs. Chafer	Resident
Mrs. J. Clarkson	Rotherham Advertiser/Resident
Ms. J. Curran	Community Planning Officer, RMBC
Mrs. L. Deakin	Resident
Mr. A. Foster	Resident
Mrs. M. Frith	Resident
Mr. P. Frith	Resident
Miss L. Gaimster	Youth Area Representative
Councillor N. Hamilton	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. A. Harston	Democratic Services, RMBC
Mrs. J. Hawley	Resident
Mrs. A. Hitchens	Resident
Mr. R. Jackson	Streetpride, RMBC
Mr. P. Jones	Community Youth Worker – Rawmarsh and Parkgate
Mrs. S. Mason	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mrs. J. Mills	Resident
Mr. E. Morrison	Resident
Miss P. Moss	Youth Area Representative
Mr. S. Oxer	Resident
Mr. M. G. Padfield	Resident
Mr. P. Padfield	Neighbourhood Warden
Mr. J. Parks	Neighbourhood Warden Manager
Mrs. N. Platt	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. E. Read	Resident
Mr. A. Robertson	Rawmarsh Housing, RMBC
Mr. P. Rowe	Community Development Worker, Voluntary Action Rotherham
Mr. A. Shaw	Area Assembly Officer, RMBC
Mr. A. Shaw	Streetpride, RMBC
Mr. C. Shaw	Streetpride, RMBC
Mrs. G. Sherratt	Resident
Mrs. E. Shipman	Resident
Mrs. C. Simpson	Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)
Mr. J. A. Smith	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mr. D. Stacey	Resident

Mrs. F. Stacey	Rawmarsh Townsman's Guild
Mr. I. Staniforth	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership/ Friends of the Park
Mrs. G. Stones	Resident
Miss L. Stones	Resident
Mrs. G. Thrustle	Resident
Mrs. B. Turner	Resident
Mrs. T. Uttley	Resident
Mr. N. Westby	South Yorkshire Times
Councillor G. Whelbourn	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. J. E. Wilson	Resident
Mrs. P. Wilson	Resident
Mrs. E. A. Wirth	Resident
Mrs. P. C. Woodcock	Resident

Apologies:-

Ms. R. Barley	Rawmarsh Against Tipping
Mrs. E. Booth	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Community Action Group
Mr. K. Boughen	Rotherham Primary Care Trust (Wentworth Locality)
Mrs. H. Cahill	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mr. G. Canby	Fitzwilliam (Wentworth) Estates
Mr. M. Durham	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mr. M. Gazur	Resident
Mrs. J. Jones	Housing Manager, RMBC
Rev. J. Marsh	Minister for Rawmarsh and Ryecroft Methodist Churches
Mrs. R. Reavey	Young People's Services, RMBC
Councillor G. A. Russell	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)
Councillor R. Stone	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)
Mr. V. Ward	Resident
Councillor S. Wright	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)

13. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

14. MINUTES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

15. MATTERS ARISING

(i) The Old Rectory, Rawmarsh Hill

Alan Shaw updated the Assembly in respect of the above. He reported that the Director of the South Yorkshire Building Preservation Trust was not making progress with the current owners regarding an endowment to

facilitate the carrying out of remedial works. He was seeking the Assembly's support for the Council to serve an "Urgent Repairs Notice" on the current owners in order to pave the way for further work.

Agreed:- That the Assembly supports the serving of an Urgent Repairs Notice on the current owners and Alan Shaw pursue this matter with Economic and Development Services.

(ii) Feedback from Cost of Leeds Survey

Alan Shaw read out correspondence from the Deputy Headteacher at Rawmarsh School : A Sports College outlining the background to the above student consultation activity seeking from students what they would value in the Rotherham area in terms of out of hours provision, facilities and development of environment. The Student Support Adviser overseeing the sessions shared the concerns of the students that the activity leaders did not seem in tune with the group they were working with. Requests for feedback from the Leeds based consultants had also proved fruitless. The above views were to be forwarded to the Council.

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw pursue the issue of cost of the study.

(iii) Green Lane Flats

Tony Robertson, Rawmarsh Housing Office, indicated that Jill Jones would be consulting the Ward Councillors regarding looking into ways of getting funds to remove the planters. All possibilities would be investigated including reducing the height of the troughs.

16. YOUTH UPDATE

Linzi Gaimster and Precious Moss presented their youth update.

The update is set out below :

"Development of the Victoria Park

Good afternoon. A long running issue which has been monitored for quite some time is the development of the park. Originally it was suggested, that a Resource Centre could be built in the park, that would cater for all ages in the community. The young people were extremely impressed with the suggestion , and we backed this idea eagerly. It meant to us that we would now have something to be proud of in Rawmarsh, that the community of Rawmarsh would be united, and the young people would finally have a sited Youth Centre more ideal than our current circumstances. However, there has been no mention of further developments of this idea. We are now concerned that this is questionable whether this will ever happen.

We feel we deserve some form of update on this issue, and we would like to know what is planned for the park, and is this just yet another project

that will never be put into action, and another failure for the young people in our community.

External Gallery Group

On a more positive note, the External gallery group is waiting for confirmation on a few sites to display some project work. The Young Peoples Services and Neighbourhood Warden Unit partnership are awaiting confirmation from the ABC award (A Better Community). We would like to thank all the community groups who are supporting the External Gallery group. We have received principal approval of a mural grant, and are waiting for a visit to look at the Health and Safety issues along with the legalities. We are very hopeful and optimistic, and the External Gallery group is eagerly awaiting the chance to show the community the fine work they can produce.

Music Workshop

A consultation is taking place concerning a music workshop, which will be for the whole community to get involved in. It is a partnership between the Neighbourhood Warden Unit, the High Street Centre and local volunteers.

Sadly Ben our colleague will no longer be able to attend these meetings due to work commitments.

Thank you for listening.

Youth Reps

Lindsey Gaimster,
Precious Moss"

The Chairman thanked the Area Representatives for Youth for their update.

Trevor Boulton and Sheila Mason echoed the concerns of the youth representatives regarding lack of progress in the Park, citing lack of commitment from the Council as a problem. The Chairman referred to a lack of money but agreed that Council support had to be given and that regular updates were needed. He indicated that Friends of the Park and the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership would have joint ownership and that the Hall was to be refurbished within a few months.

Ann Brown referred to the young people getting older and the third set of youngsters were now attending the Assembly. Results were important and it was difficult to maintain interest amidst a feeling that nobody was listening to them.

The Chairman shared the concerns and indicated he had called relevant officers together approximately three weeks ago. Reference had

frustratingly been made to the need for yet another consultation exercise but he had been assured that this would be the definitive one. The officers had been charged with going away and making progress.

A general concern was expressed that officers from Education, Culture and Leisure Services regularly missed meetings of Friends of the Park and were therefore not available to give advice/answers on any questions raised. The Chairman agreed that this was unacceptable and that officers would be brought to this Area Assembly to update members.

Councillor Hamilton undertook to pursue this matter.

17. RAWMARSH AND PARKGATE PARTNERSHIP

The Assembly noted the submitted update report from Mel Durham indicating :-

- it was hoped that the Partnership would be moving into the Park Hall in September, 2003 including two Partnership staff and two members of the IDP team
- the final report in respect of the Sites and Premises Development Framework studies was complete and available for inspection in the Partnership Office
- the Council had now started the consultation in respect of the Area Framework which would involve improving the facilities within Rawmarsh and Parkgate
- the Planning Day held in Rosehill Park on 19th April, 2003 had been a great success. The table top exercise and questionnaires had also been taken into local schools for the children to have their say. The information would be evaluated over the next couple of months
- the Community Tool Hire and Resource Shop, situated in the shopping centre, Bellows Road, was now open to the public
- the second edition of the Partnership Newsletter had just been printed and it was hoped that distribution would take place within the Rawmarsh and Parkgate area within the next week

18. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME

The Assembly noted the submitted report outlining the complaints running totals up to and including 6th June, 2003.

John Parks presented briefly the submitted progress report indicating :-

- the graffiti buster was in full swing, making great inroads into the graffiti around the community with well over 150 separate items of graffiti removed

It was important now to build up a database of graffiti blackspots and it was important that the community reported graffiti problems to the wardens so that they could act on the information

The telephone number for further information, or to report graffiti problems, was (01709) 526137

- the clean up of Kilnhurst Road had been completed, removing 20 tons of rubbish over a three day period. The involvement of the children from Sandhill School had been a great success. Everyone enjoyed themselves and each child received a small gift. The Wardens would follow up the event with visits to the school and each child that attended the clean up was to receive a certificate of involvement and the thanks of the community
- there was no further information regarding the funding of the Wardens Service. Funding was due to cease in March, 2004.

19, COMMUNITY PLANNING

Janice Curran presented briefly the submitted update report indicating the development of neighbourhood level community action plans that 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.

There was a general consensus for a Kilnhurst neighbourhood plan and a Rawmarsh and Parkgate neighbourhood plan (consisting, in part, of mini plans).

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

For Rawmarsh and Parkgate, different ways had been suggested through various forums and community groups. The idea of mini neighbourhood plans in distinct communities was proving popular with groups. The mini plans would form part of an overall plan, alongside specific planning activity such as research work to be carried out on improving youth and community facilities and the Rosehill Park developments. It was expected that, after a summer of consultation, activity and participation, open events/workshops would take place inviting all stakeholders to attend. This would achieve the following :-

- disseminate the information collected

- discuss how the neighbourhood plan (or plans) for Rawmarsh and Parkgate would be brought together
- begin to form plans to take action forward identified in the consultation activities

The report highlighted community planning activities that had taken place and were taking place. This included :-

- table top exercise allowing people to express views, thoughts and concerns for improving the Park. Taken also to Sandhill, Thorogate and Rawmarsh Schools allowing students and children to participate
- a pilot visioning activity with a sample of students from Rawmarsh School, taking 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
- Kilnhurst Action Group was currently reviewing their village plan and a table top exercise was to take place at their Fun Day in July to encourage greater community participation in deciding ways to make Kilnhurst better

Community Planning activities were to take place at the following events :-

Manor Farm Fun Day	Sunday, 29th June, 2003
Kilnhurst Festival	Sunday, 13th July, 2003
Rawmarsh Fun Day	Sunday, 20th July, 2003

Discussions were taking place with South Yorkshire Housing Association to hold an open day for the Ingshead, Oates Avenue, New Street area in August, 2003. It was also hoped that community planning activity would be taking place in Parkgate, Sandhill, Monkwood and Thorogate.

It was noted that the deadline for the production of Neighbourhood plans was March, 2004.

Anyone requiring further information can contact Janice Curran on (01709) 529726 or e-mail janice.curran@rotherham.gov.uk.

20. STREETPRIDE INITIATIVE

Richard Jackson thanked the Assembly for the four community walkabouts resulting in items of work requested, which were currently being priced up. Richard indicated that the spending plan would be brought to the next meeting of the Area Assembly after a meeting of the Wentworth Central Streetpride Forum has met to prioritise the workload. Richard indicated that anything left off the list this year would be considered for next year's list starting in January/February 2004.

Chris Shaw presented briefly a progress report on the issues drawn to his attention at the last meeting :-

- a street lighting column on West Avenue was reported as having a door missing. This was investigated and rectified. A general note for the Assembly was that all missing street lighting column doors which were reported would be made safe immediately
- Haugh Road near Scovell Avenue : Aware of the ponding problem along this length of road and a number of scheme options have been identified. Condition surveys are used to rank roads against each other to produce a priority listing. Steve Finley, Streetpride Schemes Engineer – Network Management Unit had run this year's report and the road did not rank high enough, by condition, to warrant a scheme. However, due to the ponding along this road, a number of options had been considered and priced. These have proved to be expensive and other options and funding sources were still being sought
- Haugh Road was swept every Tuesday and a sweeper travelled Haugh Road every three weeks. It was important to telephone Streetpride if it was felt that the sweeping had not been carried out properly
- the verges on Warren Vale would be reinstated on completion of the building of new bus stops. Reference was made to enforcement work regarding parking on verges at the Swinton roundabout end
- Wentworth Road / Harding Avenue : verge damage and standing water on footpath. It was hoped that a scheme, including a new gully to drain water, verge reinstatement and the installation of posts to prevent parking, would improve the area
- Old Warren Vale : Park Wall Damage : it was hoped that within two to five months there would be entrance improvements permitting repairs to the wall
- Old Warren Vale: dumping near tip site: the Assembly was assured that Neighbourhood and Environmental Wardens did monitor the site, that fly tipping was removed on a very frequent basis and that there was a general litter pick every nine weeks

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

- were there any initiatives to get businesses involved in sponsorship? Richard and Chris assured the Assembly that this did happen. Most major islands already had sponsorship. McDonalds were sponsoring bins in the Wentworth South Area Assembly area. Arrangements were in hand with an advertising agency to provide bins. The Chairman indicated that two businesses on Kilnhurst Road had agreed to site

bins on their property and carry out weed removal. He also reported that John Bassendale had agreed to provide hanging flower baskets

- what costs were associated with launching Streetpride? Richard indicated that most expense had been with regard to uniform provision and painting of vehicle livery. Andy Shaw indicated much of this was not truly additional expenditure as it was necessary to provide most of the workforce with protective clothing/uniform and for a number of years new vehicles had been supplied in the white and yellow corporate livery. However, additional costs had been met from a surplus generated by the former Engineering Department doing design consultancy work for clients such as Yorkshire Water

In concluding, Richard referred to a cross programme area project for the unsightly area behind the opticians on Dale Road. A further report would be submitted to the next meeting as the project was still being planned but hopefully included would be :

- removal of graffiti
- extra streetlighting
- enforcement work that was to be advertised openly
- pruning to give more light
- painting of the garages
- mural painting on the large wall by the External Gallery Group

A letter consulting residents of the flats looking onto the site had been drafted. Young people's views would also be taken into account.

Agreed:- That the initiative be welcomed and the detail be awaited.

(Note: Streetpride could be contacted on Rotherham 336003)

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) FOOTWAY CONDITION

Mr. Foster raised concerns regarding an housebound pensioner who had bought a mobility scooter but could not use it due to the condition of the footway near her home. He indicated that Engineers had inspected and deemed the footway not in need of repair.

Richard Jackson confirmed that the matter had been looked into and the footway in question would not make the top list of required works which were assessed on a borough wide basis. However, attempts were being made to find an alternative way of resolving the matter although no commitment could be given.

(ii) COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Ann Brown introduced Paul Jones, Community Youth Development Co-ordinator, who gave a brief resume of his role and aim to provide more sustainable schemes for young people.

(iii) MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY, ROSEHILL VICTORIA PARK – LEASE

Trevor Boulton, secretary of the above society, reported that the five year lease was almost up for renewal. They had been offered only a further three year lease with a higher rent. With successful lottery funding it was hoped to extend the layout and the Assembly was being requested to support the request for a further five year lease.

Agreed:- That, subject to the future plans for / ownership of the Park, this Assembly supports the request for a further five year lease for the Model Engineers Society in Rosehill Victoria Park. Councillor Hamilton undertook to pursue this matter with Education, Culture and Leisure Services.

(iv) RAWMARSH SHOPPING CENTRE

It was reported that the shopping centre had been purchased by a Birmingham Consortium and efforts were being made to get in touch with the new owners. Alan Shaw indicated that Economic and Development Services were monitoring the situation. The Chairman indicated he had met the Directors of Economic and Development Services and Housing and Environmental Services who would keep him informed of any progress. Early indications were that the new owners wanted to work with the community and it was thought they would welcome an invite to this Area Assembly.

Agreed:- That the new owners be invited to a future meeting of this Assembly to discuss their future plans for the Rawmarsh Shopping Centre.

(v) HAUGH ROAD BUS SERVICE

Reference was made to there being no bus service down Wilson Avenue off Haugh Road. It was noted that John Healey, M.P. had taken up this issue with Yorkshire Traction to no avail.

Agreed:- That the Chairman liaise with Liz Booth and invite a representative from Yorkshire Traction to a future meeting of this Assembly to discuss the matter.

(vi) ALLOTMENT PLOTS – RECTORY SITE

Concern was expressed regarding the above site and how it had become an eyesore, insecure and a potential haven for drug addicts and burglars.

Allotment tenants were having to provide their own locks and the site needed making secure on all four sides.

Agreed:- That the Chairman and Alan Shaw clarify the long term plans for the site.

(vii) MANOR FARM TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Trevor Boulton reported that a fun day was being held at Manor Farm on Sunday, 29th June, 2003 and everyone was welcome.

22. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held at the Kilnhurst Community Centre on Wednesday 23rd July, 2003 at 3.00 p.m.