

WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY
held at the Kilnhurst Community Centre
on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2003

Present:-

Councillor K. Goulty	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West) (in the Chair)
Mrs. M. Ball	Area Assembly Support Officer, RMBC
Mrs. B. Battersby	Resident
Mrs. P. Birch	Resident
Mr. T. Boulton	Chair, Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mrs. A. Brown	Rawmarsh Youth Centre
Mrs. J. Chafer	Resident
WPC S. Cross	South Yorkshire Police
Ms. J. Curran	Community Planning Officer, RMBC
Mr. M. Durham	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Miss L. Gaimster	Youth Area Representative
Mrs. G. Gibson	Resident
Councillor N. Hamilton	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. A. Harston	Democratic Services, RMBC
Captain K. Hockley	Salvation Army – Rawmarsh and Parkgate
Mrs. J. Jones	Housing Manager, RMBC
Mr. P. Jones	Community Youth Development Co-ordinator, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Rev. J. Marsh	Minister for Rawmarsh and Ryecroft Methodist Churches
Miss P. Moss	Youth Area Representative
Mr. E. Parkin	Resident
Mrs. E. Read	Resident
Mr. D. Ross	Rawmarsh Against Tipping
Mr. P. Rowe	Community Development Worker – Rawmarsh and Parkgate
Councillor G. A. Russell	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)
Mr. A. Shaw	Area Assembly Officer, RMBC
Mr. C. Shaw	Streetpride, RMBC
Mr. G. Smith	Neighbourhood Warden
Mr. J. A. Smith	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mrs. J. Stansfield	Resident
Mrs. B. Turner	Resident
Mr. N. Westby	South Yorkshire Times
Councillor G. Whelbourn	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mrs. P. Wilson	Resident
Mrs. E. Wintle	Resident
Mrs. A. Wright	High Street Centre

Apologies:-

Mr. S. Abson	IDP Programme Manager, RMBC
Ms. R. Barley	Rawmarsh Against Tipping

Mrs. E. Booth	Chair, Rawmarsh and Pargkate Community Action Group
Mrs. D. Brown	Resident
Mr. M. Brown	Resident
Mr. P. Brown	Resident
Mr. G. Canby	Fitzwilliam (Wentworth) Estates
Mrs. E. Clemson	Resident
Mrs. M. Frith	Resident
Mr. P. Frith	Resident
Mr. D. Matthews	Resident
Mr. S. Oxe	Resident
Mr. P. Padfield	Neighbourhood Warden
Mr. J. Parks	Neighbourhood Warden Manager
Mrs. N. Platt	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. R. Reavey	Young People's Services, RMBC
Councillor R. Stone	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)
Mrs. G. Stones	Resident
Miss. L. Stones	Resident
Mr. R. Twynham	Resident
Mr. V. Ward	Resident
Mr. B. Williams	Rawmarsh Allotments
Councillor S. Wright	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East)

23. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PC3418 Sarah Cross introduced herself as being the community constable for Kilnhurst and part of the Community Safety Team. She outlined briefly her role and highlighted responsibility for problem orientated policing.

24. MINUTES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

25. MATTERS ARISING

(i) The Old Rectory, Rawmarsh Hill

Alan Shaw reported that the recently appointed officer in Economic and Development Services had undertaken to process the serving of an "Urgent Repairs Notice" and more information would be available at the next meeting.

(ii) Feedback from Cost of Leeds Survey

Alan Shaw confirmed that there had been no cost to the Council or the school in respect of the above.

(iii) Youth Update : Development of Rosehill / Victoria Park

Councillor Hamilton indicated he had met with the Manager of Culture and Leisure Services and reported that Economic and Development Services had had responsibility for the Hall. Economic and Development Services were looking at the future disposal policy of premises to community groups.

He reported that the appropriate Culture and Leisure Services Unit was a small section dealing with all the open spaces in the Borough. Staff had left and they had more work than they could cope with. However, other projects were now progressing and more time could now be given to the development of Rosehill / Victoria Park. The point was made that officers needed adequate notice to attend meetings.

(iv) Allotment Plots – Rectory Site

Alan Shaw reported he was awaiting further information from Culture and Leisure Services.

(v) Haugh Road Bus Service

Alan Shaw reported that the response from Pam Horner, Yorkshire Traction was that running a bus down Wilson Avenue was not a viable route.

The Assembly suggested the possibility of running a service the full length of Haugh Road.

Agreed:- (1) That Alan Shaw pursue with Yorkshire Traction the Assembly's request that consideration be given to running a bus service along the full length of Haugh Road.

(2) That Alan Shaw request Pam Horner to attend the next meeting of the Area Assembly to discuss bus service issues.

26. YOUTH UPDATE

Lindsey Gaimster and Precious Moss presented their youth update :-

"Good afternoon. Today the issues we wish to discuss are as follows.

The Leeds Survey

The Area Assembly agreed to find out how much the Survey cost to conduct, is there any feedback on this issue.

Partnership

On Tuesday 15th July, Ben Childs and Michael Flannagan attended a meeting at the Peoples Centre with Ann Brown and Janice Curran, to discuss the young people's consultation of which there is £10,000 available to do this. A heated debate took place regarding the lack of facilities in response to young peoples needs. Janice informed Ben and Michael that Steve Abson was inside attending another meeting and if it was possible to get Steve out then they could ask him the relevant questions, and tell him of their concerns. Steve did come and speak to them and shared with them that he and Mel Durham were going from the People's Centre to a meeting with Phil Gill from RMBC to discuss progress and further plans concerning Victoria Park. As young people we feel it would be beneficial to us if we were made aware of what the outcome was. We therefore would like to ask the Partnership if they could shed any light on this matter.

Funday

The Funday, which I'm sure you're all aware of, took place on Sunday 20th July in Victoria Park and this event was successful in the promotion of the External Gallery Group, as their artwork was displayed. All responses from the community were positive ones. From Sunday the External Gallery were approached by two local businesses that commissioned them to do some artwork for them.

The project had also sparked interest in the Public Arts programme, from Central government, who sent Alison Morton. She offered assistance in-group structure and its promotion.

Sites have been viewed and the group is now looking at private sites to display murals, as opposed to council ones, as these seem more appropriate and are more willing to co-operate.

Sound Investment

This is a group who is aiming to promote live music to 16 to 24 years olds throughout Rawmarsh. Following a survey, which was done on Sunday at the Funday, it was discovered that people didn't think there is enough live music, or facilities to practice or play. The promotion day is on 10th August in Victoria Park, feel free to drop by.

Thank your for listening. The Youth Reps.

Precious Moss

Lindsey Gaimster "

27. HIGH STREET CENTRE INITIATIVE

The Chairman welcomed Rev. Jill Marsh who, with the aid of slides, gave a presentation on the High Street Centre Initiative.

The presentation is set out below:-

- the aim of the Initiative : To improve the quality of life for the residents of Rawmarsh and Parkgate by providing modern, attractive and accessible premises and facilities to meet the needs of the community

- Background

1907 : Rawmarsh Methodist Church was built by local people with local funding. The building has always been seen as a community resource and the church members have always been part of the community.

1976 : The buildings were redeveloped to include a hall, kitchen and meeting rooms downstairs and an upstairs used exclusively for worship

1998 : The change in legislation meant that the possibility of demolishing the building had to be considered. After consultation with local residents and community groups, looking at the various options, it was agreed to look for funding for redevelopment of the existing premises.

1998 – 2000 : A partnership developed between Rawmarsh Methodist Church and the various partner groups committed to, or interested in, use of the building

2000 – 2002 : Plans were drawn up by an architect and revised once after consultation with all the interested partners. At this stage the plans were expected to cost nearly 1 million pounds.

Oct. 2002 : After taking advice and consultation with all the partners a company limited by guarantee, the High Street Centre Ltd. was formed with 5 church-nominated directors, 5 community-nominated directors and with the possibility of co-opting 5 extra directors

March 2003 : Final plans have been drawn up, negotiated by the company and the church jointly.

- Progress to date

1. The 5 year business plan is completed by a steering group with business advice from a consultant funded by the Key Fund (July 2003)

2. A 25 year lease is being drawn up between the Methodist Church and the High Street Centre Ltd. based on the heads of terms already agreed between the local parties. An 'agreement to lease' is due to be signed as soon as possible and the lease will then be signed once the

funding is secured. The Company will then maintain and manage the building with Rawmarsh Methodist Church renting the space it needs, as one of the user-groups.

3. A first phase is agreed, already funded with £100,000 (raised through local fund-raising, small grants and a Church Urban Fund grant of £25,000). This first phase will include disabled access to the back entrance, refurbished toilets, a new crèche/meeting room, two new offices and a completely separate new room with disabled access toilet on the first floor. We will be ready to follow this with the second phase as soon as the funding is available.

4. A job description has been drawn up for a Project Manager's post and funding is being sought for this post.

5. Activate, the Children's Fund project, is regularly providing activities for children in the area.

6. The Training Team is offering new training courses, as needed in the area, each term. Objective 1 funding has been secured to carry out research, in partnership with SpeakUp, about which training needs in the area can be met to increase local people's opportunities for employment.

7. We are working with Phoenix enterprises to provide employment possibilities within the Centre.

8. Local residents and community groups are encouraged to register their interest in the future of the Centre by becoming members of the High Street Centre Ltd. Membership forms are available and membership costs £2 per individual and £10 per community group.

9. Copying facilities are now available to local community groups and initiatives at competitive rates (2p per sheet for members, 3p per sheet for non-members).

10. The Art Department at Rawmarsh School have produced a new piece of art to go above the main entrance, drawing attention to all of the activities which take place within the centre.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were covered :-

- employment of the project manager and timescales
- involvement of young people
- director places still available
- community involvement

Jill stressed that any interest in the Initiative would be welcomed.

Agreed:- (1) That Jill Marsh be thanked for an informative and interesting presentation.

(2) That anyone interested in becoming involved with the High Street Centre Initiative should contact Jill accordingly.

Further information was available by telephoning (01709) 719478.

28. RAWMARSH AND PARKGATE PARTNERSHIP

Mel Durham reported :

- the funday held in Rosehill / Victoria Park on Sunday, 20th July, 2003 had been the best ever
- future events in the park were being organised and on Sunday, 10th August, 2003, two bands were to perform which was to be a kickstart to the use of the bandstand

It was hoped that the bandstand would be used regularly. Efforts were being made to reconnect the electricity supply, but if not, a generator would be utilised.

Colin Yates of Colin Yates Big Band had been approached with a view to having a Colin Yates Big Band afternoon.

- Groundwork Dearne Valley had started in Rawmarsh with a view to doing project work as in Swinton. They were to concentrate on Rosehill / Victoria Park and the former baths site (when released). Meetings had been held with Groundwork Dearne Valley
- problems were still being encountered with Economic and Development Services regarding use of the Park Hall. Assurance had been given that occupation of the Hall would take place by the end of August. Only yesterday it was found out that Building Works were unable to do the required works and a contractor had been called in. He had met the contractor this morning and it was still on track to be in the Hall by the end of August. However, the Partnership was providing £20,000 and it was essential that the work was completed satisfactorily and on time, otherwise an alternative office would be sought. If the Hall was not available by the end of August, all the plans would be ruined and funding lost
- work was to start on 31st July regarding the area framework for the development of the Shopping Centre and High Street. The community would be asked what they wanted. The new owner wanted to get the first floor reopened and he had already secured a drastic reduction in the insurance premiums

- the newsletter had been delivered successfully. The next newsletter was due in December, 2003

29. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME

George Smith presented briefly the submitted report outlining the complaints running totals up to and including 12th July, 2003.

George referred to photographs he had brought with him of works carried out that members were welcome to look at.

Other works referred to included :-

- the installation of alarms for elderly people and that such work was about to start on the Manor Farm Estate
- on 4th August, 2003 as much graffiti as possible was to be removed from Rosehill/Victoria Park
- graffiti removal beginning now to take place in estates
- a proposed joint operation with Streetpride lasting 6 to 8 weeks to clean up the snicket by the Titanic Club. Work to include the installation of CCTV cameras

George indicated that, since the last meeting, there had only been one report from a member of the public regarding graffiti. It was important to report graffiti problems.

Mel Durham reminded the Assembly that funding for the Neighbourhood Warden Service would cease in March, 2004. Objective 1 would not fund neighbourhood warden schemes as the service was seen as a local authority responsibility. The loss of the service to the area would be devastating.

P.C. Sarah Cross indicated that the neighbourhood warden service had been a great assistance to the Police and Ann Brown stressed that the warden service had been invaluable in raising the profile of young people.

The general feeling of the Assembly was that the service should be financed from mainstream funding and Cabinet should be asked to consider that course of action. Jill Jones made reference to a report already being prepared on the Neighbourhood Warden Service for submission to Cabinet in September, 2003.

Reference was also made to the need for Central Government funding for neighbourhood warden schemes and that this should be pursued with the local M.P.

Agreed:- (1) That Cabinet be requested to consider this Assembly's view that mainstream funding be utilised to facilitate the continuation of the very successful Neighbourhood Warden Service in this Area Assembly area.

(2) That Alan Shaw raise with John Healey, M.P. the issue of Central Government funding for neighbourhood warden schemes.

30. STREETPRIDE INITIATIVE

Chris Shaw outlined very briefly the aims of the Initiative and referred to the budget provision that had been devolved to Area Assemblies. He thanked Assembly members for their assistance in identifying items of work and reported that a presentation would be given to the next meeting of the Area Assembly regarding what the devolved budget was to be spent on.

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

- Allotment, Rectory Field : there was no current source of funding for security fencing, the selling off of disused allotments was being looked at to provide for such. The grass cutting had not been done as required but this should now be done shortly
- the footpath between Quarry Street and East Avenue had been cleared
- a gully had been cleared on Greasbrough Road past the Rochester and the streetlighting would be repaired by the end of the week. However, a further problem, resulting in a smell was not a blocked Yorkshire Water drain. The problem was standing water on the Stubbin incline disused railway line and the matter had been referred to Environmental Health
- a request for reinstatement of parking bays, removed during last year's surface dressing of Netherfield Lane, had been put to contractors for investigation
- the request for a crossing on Barbers Avenue had been forwarded to contractors

Chris reminded the Assembly that Streetpride could be contacted on Rotherham 336003

Agreed:- That Chris be thanked for the update and the information be noted.

31. COMMUNITY SKIPS

Alan Shaw reminded the Assembly that only 13 of the allocated 30 skips had been used. The deadline for booking skips was 31st October, 2003 after which the unused allocation would be offered to other area assembly areas.

Mel Durham reported that the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership had got a team that would supervise and man community skips. Every effort would be made to provide such assistance if plenty of notice was given.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Parkgate Youth Centre

Paul Rowe reported, on behalf of Nora Platt, that due to the closure of the Parent and Toddler Group a sale of toys had taken place today. There were still some available and anyone interested should contact Nora Platt.

(ii) Mr. M. and Mrs. O. Heeley

The Chairman reported that Merv and Olwyn Heeley had recently been to Buckingham Palace to be presented with the Queen's Jubilee Award.

Agreed:- That this Assembly place on record its congratulations to Merv and Olwyn on their receipt of the award and also its thanks for all their hard work in the community.

33. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held at the Dale Road People's Centre on Wednesday 24th September, 2003 at 4.00 p.m.