

WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY
Held at the Dale Road People's Centre
On Wednesday, 24th September, 2003

Present:-

Councillor K. Goulty	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West) (in the Chair)
Mrs. M. Ball	Area Assembly Support Officer, RMBC
Mrs. E. Booth	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Community Action Group
Mr. T. Boulton	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Ms. H. Cahill	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Miss L. Carter	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. E. Clemson	Resident
Ms. J. Curran	Community Planning Officer, RMBC
Mr. M. Durham	Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mr. P. Enos	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. M. Frith	Resident
Mr. P. Frith	Resident
Miss L. Gaimster	Youth Area Representative
Mrs. J. Hawley	Resident
Mr. K. Hockley	Salvation Army (Rawmarsh and Parkgate)
Mrs. J. Jones	Housing Manager, RMBC
Mr. P. Jones	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership
Mrs. D. Mitchell	Democratic Services, RMBC
Mr. J. Mitchell	Parkgate Youth Centre
Guy Moseley	Positive Activities for Young People, RMBC
Miss P. Moss	Youth Area Representative
Mr. S. Oxe	Resident
Mr. P. Padfield	Neighbourhood Warden
Mr. J. Parks	Neighbourhood Warden Manager
Mrs. N. Platt	Parkgate Youth Centre
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. J. A. Smith	Manor Farm Tenants and Residents Association
Mr. I. Staniforth	Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership Business Group
Mrs. J. Stansfield	Resident
Miss J. Stephenson	Parkgate Youth Centre
Mrs. G. Thrustle	Resident
Mrs. B. Turner	Resident
Councillor G. Whelbourn	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Mr. D. Wilde	Local Action 21 Officer, Groundwork Dearne Valley /RMBC
Mrs. P. Wilson	Resident
Mrs. E. Wintle	Resident
Councillor S. Wright	Ward16 (Rawmarsh East)

Apologies:-

Mr. S. Abson	IDP Programme Manager, RMBC
Mrs. H. Anderson	Resident
Ms. R. Barley	Rawmarsh Against Tipping
Mrs. P. Birch	Resident
Mr. and Mrs. Brown	Residents
Mrs. A. Brown	Rawmarsh Youth Centre
Mr. M. Brown	Resident
Mr. R. Brown	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Mr. D. Greenway	Wentworth Central Community Fund
Councillor N. Hamilton	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West) (work commitments)
Mrs. P. Horner	SYLTE
Mrs. G. Sherratt	Resident
Mrs. C. Simpson	Rotherham PCT
Mrs. G. Stones	Resident
Councillor R. Stone	Ward 16 (Rawmarsh East) (Council business)
Mr. D. Toy	Resident
Mr. V. Ward	Resident

34. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Guy Moseley introduced himself and the Positive Activities for Young People project. He outlined briefly the aims of the project but explained that he had only been in post since the 22nd September, 2003.

David Wilde introduced himself as the Local Agenda 21 Community Worker. He would be specifically working with groups on small projects that might come out of the community planning process in conjunction with Richard Brown who was the dedicated worker for Rotherham.

35. MINUTES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July, 2003, be approved as a correct record.

36. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) The Old Rectory, Rawmarsh Hill

Alan Shaw reported that he had been informed by Economic and Development Services that a confidential report was to be considered by the Planning Board on 25th September, 2003. An update was to be given to the next meeting.

- (ii) Haugh Road Bus Service

Pam Horner, SYPTE, was to attend the next meeting to discuss this issue. A request would also be made to Yorkshire Traction for a representative to attend.

(iii) Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

Alan Shaw reported that he had written to John Healey, M.P., regarding the Government's perspective on funding for the Neighbourhood Warden Service. John had sent a note with an accompanying letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister stating that most of the schemes nationally would see an extension of funding up to the end of March, 2005. Rotherham currently had funding until the end of March, 2004.

Liz Booth reported that there was some funding available but unfortunately it had to be matched. A meeting had been held with the Executive Director of Housing and Environmental Services followed up by a letter as to the future of the Scheme. A report was to be submitted the following week but was concerned with funding for 2005 onwards but there was still nothing confirmed for 2004/05.

37. YOUTH UPDATE

Lindsey Gaimster and Precious Moss presented their youth update:-

The update is set out below:-

"Good afternoon. Today we have only a few issues we would like to discuss.

Sound Investment

Following the promotion day on 10th August, which was a huge success, another launch day has now been assigned, which aims to promote music to 16 to 24 year olds. The date for this is the 25th October at the Rawmarsh Snooker and Social Club, where live bands will be playing. Everyone is welcome to go. There will be a small entrance fee, however, families and groups get in cheaper.

External Gallery Group

A lot has happened since the last Area Assembly, in regards to this group. The group has since managed to secure funding, ABC £2,000 and £25,000 through Public Arts, also sites to expand the art project further. There will be one full-time artist working with Philip Padfield to produce other work and work with the group.

As you may have noticed, one site has been completed, this is the wall at the High Street Centre. This is the first site the Gallery Group has completed and we have been overwhelmed by the public's response.

Future plans include designing billboards for the External Gallery to use; these will be done sometime in January, 2004. They will display several images for a period of two months. Another project the External Gallery will be working on is the indoor Skate Park at Kilnhurst. The painting will be underway from this Sunday.

During a tour of Rawmarsh, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will be going to view the wall. It has turned into a well known and recognised feature of Rawmarsh.

Graffiti is also down in the area.

Area Youth Reps.

Due to our final year and pressure of exams, we sadly fear we will not be able to commit ourselves to the youth appeal as strongly as we have done for the last four years.

However, we will be looking for new recruits to carry on from us, and hope to recruit before the next Assembly. If this is not possible then our updates will still be sent in but sadly we will not be able to attend.

We are disappointed that it has come to this, and have felt a lack of support from our fellow peers and certain aspects of the community. Without the support we have struggled to give youth the voice they deserve.

We hope young people will continue to be represented and this will not be the last you hear from the young people of Rawmarsh.

Thank you for listening to our report. The Youth Reps.

Lindsey Gaimster.

Precious Moss."

A contribution was then made by Jade Stephenson on behalf of young people from the Parkgate Youth Centre as follows:-

"Good evening

I am here on behalf of the members of Parkgate Youth Centre.

The upstairs hall at the Youth Centre has problems with pigeons; they have been there for two years. RMBC have been promising for two years to get rid of the pigeons but now the hall has had to close.

With the upstairs closed young people feel there is no room to play sports, dance and have fun and some of them have stopped coming to the youth centre. They now hang about in the park instead.

As a member of the community representing young people in Parkgate I would like to ask that this Assembly help young people to get the Council to remove the pigeons, then young people will come back and use the centre again. It is the only place young people have to go in the winter.

We are putting together a petition that we are going to send to the Council, please give us your support by signing it for us. If you have any other ideas that may help we would be glad to hear them.

Thank you

Jade Stephenson.”

Mrs. Platt stated that on Monday they had been hopeful that there would be funding to carry out the work but that afternoon they had been informed that the budget had been put on hold. The work involved removal of the suspended ceiling to ascertain the condition of the roof and the damage that the pigeons had caused. It was estimated to be in the region of £7,300. Mrs. Platt had carried outreach work in the Park because the young people would not use the building due to the smell.

Agreed:- (1) That Alan Shaw pursue this matter with the appropriate Council Departments for the removal of the pigeons so that the upstairs of the building could be brought back into use.

(2) That Alan Shaw pursue the reasons why it had taken so long for the removal of the pigeons and what the future plans were for the building.

(3) That the Assembly place on record its thanks to the young people for their attendance and contributions and hope they, or other representatives, would continue to attend.

38. STREETPRIDE INITIATIVE

Chris Shaw reported that, following the issue being drawn to his attention, he had contacted the housing developer on Claypit Lane and the trees had now been cut.

Mr. Oxe raised the issue of the wall around Rosehill Park. This matter had been reported some six months previously but had not been rectified. There were now a number of holes in the wall. Chris undertook to investigate the matter.

Agreed:- (1) That Chris be thanked for the update.

(2) That any issues that Streetpride could address be reported to Rotherham 336003.

39. RAWMARSH AND PARKAGE PARTNERSHIP

Mel Durham reported:-

- The refurbishment of the ground floor of the Park Hall was now complete. Once the security measures had been installed to the insurance company's satisfaction, equipment etc. could be moved in. Once in, work would start on refurbishing the upstairs into office space for the Partnership thus allowing the ground floor to be used as a youth area/community asset. Mel was of the opinion that it should be returned to the youth, schools etc. At the last meeting it had been stated that the Partnership was to provide £20,000 but, due to Economic and Development Services putting the work out to a private contractor, that figure had now risen to £32,000. Permission had been received from Objective 1 to increase the funding.
- Sound Investment had been a huge success. There were future plans to run other events in the Park. Negotiations were still ongoing with Education, Culture and Lifelong Learning regarding the reconnection of the electricity supply to the bandstand.
- There was to be a Rawmarsh and Parkgate Planning Event on Saturday, 4th October, 2003 from 11.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m. at the "Fighting Cocks" Field (Claypit Lane) to discuss what local residents wanted to do with that area of land and Hill 60. Groundwork Dearne Valley would then pull plans together in October and start work as soon as possible. There was funding available from Objective 1, Groundwork and the Council and it was hoped there would be a lot of improvements in the next 12-18 months.

Alan Shaw reported that, as a result of a meeting he had had with Malcolm Brown, Chair of the Rawmarsh Hall Sub-Group, a meeting was to be held on 7th October, 2003 for all those who were active within the Sub-Group to formally handover the work to the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership.

- The Partnership was to hold their Annual General Meeting on 22nd October, 2003 at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. in the Dale Road People's Centre.
- The latest edition of the newsletter would be out in December. All small groups that were struggling for funding would not be charged for inclusion of an article. It was hoped it would be a community newsletter and not just for groups/organisations. Anyone who would like to submit an article should contact Mel or Maxine.

40. COMMUNITY PLANNING OFFICER'S UPDATE

Janice Curran presented her report which had been circulated with the agenda. The paper highlighted the key priorities which had come out of the consultation

There was a lot of research and consultation taking place in the area at the present time. An event would take place to report back on all the information that had been collected and consider how that work could progress into a

neighbourhood action plan for Rawmarsh and Parkgate. In Kilnhurst, as a result of an event held during the summer, Janice planned to hold further consultation with a view to getting more community activity involved in the group.

41. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME

Philip Padfield presented the submitted report outlining the complaints running totals up to and including 11th September, 2003.

Members of the meeting raised the following points:-

- Graffiti on the benches, trees and swings in Rosehill Park and bins set alight
- Youths throwing stones from the roof of Rawmarsh shopping centre
- The study tour to America
- Litter on Stocks Lane

Liz Booth reported that she was Chair of the Steering Group that had considered the study tour. The cost of the trip was to be paid by the Neighbourhood Warden Unit. It was an example of networking and sharing good practice to become more effective in doing their job.

Philip had met with the Deputy Head of the Sports College regarding the litter problem. He had spoken to quite a few people but the Wardens could not be there all the time. Information was gathered and passed onto the Environmental Wardens. Liz Booth stated that the matter had been raised in the Action Group and staggered school lunch times had been suggested. It was hoped to have firm plans in place by the end of this academic year whilst ensuring the quality of education did not suffer. Jade Stephenson stated that there were too many people and they would have to queue too long. Precious Moss agreed, indicating they only had 45 minutes so could not go too far. There were food shops at the bottom of the school because they knew they would get trade from the school. It was not just young people that dropped litter.

John Parks reported that he had just come from a meeting where it had been agreed that the match funding would come from Housing Services which accounted for approximately 1/3 of the Scheme. Funding still had to be found for the rest of the Team. A Cabinet report was to be prepared with the outcome being fed to the Area Assembly.

42. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Clean Up Day

Mr. Ross reported that on Wednesday, 8th October, 2003 there would be a "clean up Rawmarsh and Parkgate" day. Bags were available for the litter pick.

(ii) Grants Panel

The Assembly placed on record its appreciation of the hard work carried out by the Grants Panel.

(iii) Bellows Road Shopping Centre

Alan Shaw gave an update on the latest situation regarding the Bellows Road Shopping Centre. Alan Bamforth, Economic and Development Services, had informed him that a Mr. Singh had recently purchased the Centre. As part of the Town Centre Framework Study, contact had been made with the Centre's agent with regard to the future plans. Apparently the new owner did not consider that the Centre could be economically developed and had, therefore, authorised the agent to open up the units on the top storey. Alan Bamforth was not aware of any contact being made with the Planning Service to discuss mixed use. He understood that a service charge of £100 per quarter was being levied and the new owner would like longer leases on small units but it was not what the existing tenants wanted.

(iv) Traffic Calming – Haugh Road

Alan Shaw reported on the latest situation with regard to traffic calming measures on Haugh Road. The scheme had commenced in late June with the removal of the existing pinch points outside the school and it had been hoped that the humps outside the school driveway would then be erected immediately after. However, it had soon come to light that the existing drainage of the road was not sufficient and so the works were suspended until a suitable drainage design of the area was made. This amongst other things involved gaining consent from the school to allow some form of drainage in the sports field. It was therefore decided that the signing and the operation of the pinch points would remain for a temporary period. It was hoped that the design of the drainage could be completed in the school summer holidays but this had not been possible.

In view of the gas works on Stubbin Road and the start of the new school year, it was felt that there may be disruption to traffic and the operation of the school if works were started again in early September. It had also been agreed that, due to increasing vandalism to the signing and coning of the pinch points, that they would be removed to allow free flow of traffic along Haugh Road outside the school as the works could be completed in a short space of time with little disruption.

It had also been agreed with the contractor responsible for carrying out the works that a start back on site would be made in mid-October on the central islands and the cushions that were proposed. The works outside the school would be carried out during the October half term.

(v) Goodwin Avenue

It was reported that the litter situation was as bad as it had been before. Two Environmental Wardens were going to clear the site up. Attempts were now being made to ascertain what could be done with the land. There was a meeting with the Goodwin Trust on 29th October, 2003.

(vi) Financial Services

Mel Durham reported that on 5th March, 2003, he had attended a meeting with the then Leader and Chief Executive and gave them a list of complaints the Partnership had regarding the Council's Finance Department. On 9th April, 2003, Margaret Ball had rung him to find out if he had had any response as she was preparing a report for the Chief Executive. He had not had any. He then received a letter on 19th August, 2003 stating that Chris Mallender would be getting in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss the issues. Chris had now left the Authority. Mel wanted to know who would be taking up the issues raised?

Agreed:- That Alan Shaw ensure the comments raised above be passed onto the new Leader for action.

(vii) First Aid Courses

Free first aid courses were being organised at the High Street Centre.

(viii) Supertram

An exhibition was being held in Rotherham Interchange on 24th and 25th September, 2003 between 1.00-7.00 p.m. There was to be a mobile exhibition bus visiting communities in the autumn for which the programme had not been finalised as yet. The Assembly would be notified in due course.

43. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held at the Manor Farm Community Centre on Wednesday, 12th November, 2003 at 4.30 p.m.