

WENTWORTH CENTRAL AREA ASSEMBLY

Meeting held at the Dale Road People's Centre

On Wednesday 31st March 2004

Present:-

Councillor K. Goult (Chair)	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Liz Booth	Chair, R & P Community Action Group
Dennis Greenway	Chair, WCAA Community Fund
Hilary Cahill	Resident
Sheila Mason	Resident
Elizabeth Wintle	Resident
Phyllis Birch	Resident
Joan Stansfield	Resident
D.E. Matthews	Resident
Aden Bentley	Resident
Mrs. D. Brown	Resident
Councillor Glyn Whelbourn	Ward 17 (Rawmarsh West)
Ruth Fletcher-Brown	Primary Care Trust
Janice Curran	Community Planning Officer
John Smith	Manor Farm TARA
Paul Rowe	Community Development Worker
Paul Jones	Youth Development Co-ordinator
D.L. Jackson	Resident
B. Deakin	Resident
Steph Lowrie	Area Assembly Support Officer
Steve Holmes	Area Partnership Manager, RMBC
Hilda Anderson	Resident
Gladys Sherratt	Resident
Richard Brown	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Jim Staniforth JP	Resident
Andy Pashley	Area Assembly Officer
Betty Turner	Resident
Gwen Gibson	Resident
Ernest Parkin	Resident
Mel Durham	Chair, R & P Partnership
Steve Abson	IDP Manager
Joyce Collie	Secretary, R & P CAG
Ann Brown	Youth Service, RMBC
Lindsey Gaimster	Area Youth Rep.
Stacy Roddis	Area Youth Rep
Alan Shaw	Area Assembly Officer
Martin Green	Neighbourhood Wardens Unit
2 Environmental Wardens Representatives	
Gillian Stone	Resident
Win Billups	Resident

Keith Hockley	Salvation Army
Nora Platt	Youth Service, RMBC
Richard Jackson	Streetpride Manager
Chris Shaw	Streetpride
Margaret Ball	Area Assembly Support Officer

Also in attendance

Andrew Towlerston	RMBC Economic Development Service
David Brentnall	RMBC

77 Apologies

Apologies were received from:-

Mr. & Mrs. M. Heeley	Residents
Ron Hull	Ron Hull Development
Stuart Smith	Ron Hull Development
PC Sarah Cross	South Yorkshire Police
John Parks	Manager, Neighbourhood Wardens Unit
Malcom Brown	Resident
Bob Twynham	Resident
Wilf Farrier	Resident
Mr. J. Darby	Resident
Barry Williams	Resident
Jill Jones	Neighbourhood Housing Manager
Tony Robertson	Neighbourhood Housing
PC Bill O'Sullivan	South Yorkshire Police
Michael Gazur	Resident
Trevor Bolton	Manor Farm TARA
Louise Richardson	RMBC Economic Development Services
Dawn Heald	Youth Service, RMBC
Precious Moss	Area Youth Rep
Peter Brown	Resident
Eileen Reed	Resident
Mr. Oxer	Resident
Mrs. G. Thrustle	Resident
Colette Williams	Area Assembly Officer
Councillor N. Hamilton	
Councillor S. Wright	
Councillor R. Stone	
Councillor A. Russell	

Before the meeting commenced Alan Shaw reported that it had come to his attention that some people had had to go and collect their agenda and minutes from the Post Office and had been charged £1.14. Alan stated he could only apologise for this and anyone who had paid the £1.14 would be re-imbursed if they contact the office or, they could get their money back at the next meeting of the Area Assembly to be held on 5th May, at the Dale Road People's Centre.

78 Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Andy Pashley the present Area Assembly Officer of Wentworth South who, because of Boundary changes, and Alan's pending retirement, would be the new Assembly Officer for this area. Andy stated that the new area would consist of parts of Herringthorpe, Brecks, Listerdale, Dalton, Thrybergh, Ravenfield, Hooton Roberts, Kilnhurst, Parkgate and Rawmarsh (excluding the Manor Farm area which would go into Hoover Ward which was Colette Williams, Area Assembly Officer for Wentworth North). Andy stated he was looking forward to working with the Partnership, Groups and residents of this area.

The Chair then referred to Alan's retirement after 32 years with Rotherham Council and that this was his last Assembly meeting. He went onto say that over the last three years Alan had supported this Assembly, many residents, groups and the Partnership and also supported myself, in the position of Chair of this Assembly, he had also become a friend of many people in Rawmarsh, Parkgate and Kilnhurst. On behalf of this Assembly and those present he wished Alan a long and happy retirement. Mel Durham, on behalf of the Partnership, associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman and thanked Alan for all his help.

Mel also stated that he would like to thank Margaret who was also leaving to go back to Bailey House for all the help she had given to the Partnership and Friends of the Park and wished her well in the future. The Chairman also thanked Margaret for all the help she had given him and this Assembly.

The Chairman concluded by stating that the next meeting would be Wentworth Central Area Assembly's last meeting in its current form and he hoped that those present would support the new Area Assembly to make it as successful as this meeting, and give support to Andy and his team of Janice, Community Planning Officer and Steph the new Support Officer.

79 Minutes of the Area Assembly Meeting held on 11th February 2004

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th February, be approved as a correct record.

80 Matters arising

Minute No - Rawmarsh Rectory

Alan Shaw referred to a conversation he had had today with Louise Richardson, Conservation and Urban Design Officer in Economic and Development Services regarding the above. Louise had informed him that Cabinet had approved that Economic Development Services have in their budget appropriate funding to go through with the implications of serving an Urgent Works Notice and actually doing the work if the owner's default.

Minute No. 56 - Bus Routes

Alan Shaw reported that he had received correspondence from the Operations Manager, Yorkshire Traction which stated they were not prepared to change the bus route Haugh Road/Wilson Avenue. Liz Booth raised the issue of lack of buses, buses not turning up, and lack of the low floor buses in Rawmarsh. It was agreed that Andy Pashley invite Pam Horner to the next meeting.

Minute No. 62(4) - Rosehill Victoria Park Boundary Wall

Alan Shaw reported that no reply had been received from Education, Culture and Leisure. Mel Durham stated there is a possibility of getting funding and they are awaiting quotes to see how much it would cost.

Minute No. 57 - Parkgate Youth Centre

Nora Platt gave an update on the works done and pending work.

Minute 69 - Youth Update - Litter Monkwood Road

Reference was made to the amount of litter outside the school again and to the fact that the Environmental Wardens still patrol the area but the School don't want to take any responsibility. Liz Booth stated that this was raised at the last Rawmarsh and Parkgate Project meeting and the Police were aware.

81 Youth Update

Lindsey Gaimster and Stacey Roddis the Youth Representatives gave the attached Youth update and were thanked by the Chairman. Keith Hockey of the Salvation Army stated he would like to congratulate the Youth Representatives for their reports.

82 Presentation – Warren Vale Community Woodland

The Chair welcomed David Brentnall, Development Officer, Waste Management who had come today to give a presentation on the Warren Vale Community Woodland. David stated that the continuing development of the South Yorkshire Forest is primarily supported by a partnership between the Countryside Commission, Forestry Commission and Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield Councils. With regards to the Warren Vale site 18,000 trees of oak and ash had been planted and 2,000 meters of fencing erected and the total scheme would cost £110k. The Chair thanked David for his enlightening presentation.

83 Presentation - Draft Regeneration Plan 2003 – 2008

The Chair welcomed Andrew Towleron, Best Value and Review who had come today to inform the Assembly of the Draft Regeneration Plan for Rotherham 2003 – 2008. This document aims to set out the Council's long-term strategy for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's contribution to the social, economic and environmental regeneration of the Borough, in support of the Community Strategy. The Chairman thanked Andrew for his presentation and there were no questions asked.

84 Update by Mel Durham, Chair, Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership

Mel gave the attached update and was thanked by the Chairman. He stated that there would be a meeting regarding the future plans for the park which would be brought back to the community. There are areas in the park that cannot be developed because of architectural interest. The next phase is to develop the Baths Hall site and a meeting will be arranged to take this forward. The posts of Youth Outreach Worker and Park Ranger have got to be re-advertised.

The Chairman replied that seeing the problems the Partnership were encountering with the Hall it may be that a meeting ought to be arranged with the Leader of the Council and the Council's Chief Executive before the next Area Assembly Meeting.

85 Neighbourhood Warden's Update

John Parks, Neighbourhood Warden's Manager sent his apologies for this meeting owing to the fact that the service was presently in the middle of an Audit inspection for Repairs and Maintenance and the Warden team were assisting with that. John was thanked for sending a written update which had been circulated with the minutes.

86 Community Planning Officer's update

Janice Curran, Community Planning Officer had done a written update which had been circulated with the minutes. The Chair thanked Janice for this and there were no questions on the report.

87 Streetpride update

Richard Jackson, Streetpride Manager stated that a meeting had been held to prioritise this years work and handed out a copy of the planned work which would cost an estimated total spend of £13,752.00. The Chair thanked Richard for his report.

Liz Booth asked if it was true that next year there would be no community skips available. Steve Holmes, Area Partnership Manager stated there would be no allocation of skips this year through Neighbourhood Renewal funding. The Chair stated other sources of funding were being looked at.

Liz Booth referred to the smashed planters near the Charity Shop on the Bellows Road Shopping Precinct. Alan Shaw replied that these were not owned by the Council but by the owners of the Shopping Centre who had been contacted and asked to clear them away.

88 Gardening Competition

Alan Shaw, in the absence of Bob Twynham due to illness, read out a letter on the above (copy of letter was put in the pack). The Chair stated that this could be raised again at a future meeting when the new Area Assembly met.

89 Any other Business

(1) Community Chest

Dennis Greenway asked that when the new Area Assembly came into being would the Community Chest grants still be operative. Andy Pashley replied that no decision had yet been taken on the Community Chests allocation but he hoped that it would continue in the new Area Assembly.

Alan Shaw stated that he would like to thank Dennis and his team for the efficient way they had administered the Community Chest Grants including evaluation and monitoring on behalf of this Area Assembly. The Chair also, on behalf of this Area Assembly, thanked Dennis.

(2) Plus 50 Rotherham – Better Government for Older People

Hilary Cahill referred to the leaflet on the above and stated that an Open Day/Launch would be held on Monday 19th April 2004 at the Unity Centre, St. Leonard's Road, Rotherham in the afternoon and early evening. There will be speakers from 'Better Government for Older People' office in London and local Older People's Champions.

90 Date, time and venue of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 5th May 2004, at the Dale Road People's Centre, Rawmarsh. 4.00 p.m. for 4.30 p.m. start.

March 31st 2004.

Wentworth Central Area Assembly

Youth Update

Introduction

Good afternoon. We would like to introduce a fellow Youth Representative, Stacey Roddis, who is interested in getting involved in the community.

Recently we attended a meeting at the Parkhall, arranged by Richard Brown from the Groundwork team. Accompanied by fellow members of the Rawmarsh Senior Student Council. We felt that young people should have a recognized say in the future development of the Park and we hope to continue having an input into community projects such as this one. As you know the Youth Representatives have been campaigning for the development of the Park for many years now, and we are optimistic that the developments will be beneficial for the community as well as young people, who at present are key users. We are also eager to back up the proposal of the cellar in the park building being made into a youth space with suitable facilities.

External Gallery Group

The younger members of the group have completed another billboard; this one is on the theme of what used to be around in the area, such as the mining and steel industries. This should be on display shortly.

The older members of the group have been working with Philip Padfield at the Horse and Jockey, and have now completed the mural on the side. These young people have also been to other groups at Kilnhurst and Herringthorpe, by request, to give advice and help to get things moving in these areas. They have given the groups their experiences of how they got started and the problems that they have come across, also how much better it is working legally and not doing any spraying in the community. This is the way to go in future.

Alan Shaw

Finally, we would like to wish Alan a happy retirement, and all the best for the future. We hope that the next person to fulfill your role will be just as helpful and supportive. Thank you for everything.

The Youth Reps.

**Precious Moss
Lindsey Gaimster
Stacey Roddis**

Update - Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership

As you are aware the Partnership have invested a substantial amount of money and time in the development of Rosehill Hall for community use. The Council has placed so many obstacles in our way and has slowed down the process so that the project is still nowhere near completion. We have been negotiating with EDS for more than 12 months to either purchase the building outright or for a 25 year lease. We have been told that the Council will not allow us to purchase the building and the only option is a full maintenance and insuring lease, in other words we will be totally responsible for the building but are not allowed to own it.

Phase I of the project redeveloped the large ground floor room into an office / meeting space at the cost of £40,000, far higher than we had budgeted for. On Tuesday of this week we received a license to occupy the building for 12 months on payment of £750 per year rent for the ground floor room, the IDP team are also based here and they are RMBC employees. How can the Council justify charging rent on a building that 12 months ago was largely derelict and ignore the fact that £40,000 of community money has been spent improving a building they have no inclination or money to improve.

We are now dealing with the fifth Council Officer from EDS and we have to provide yet more information to him to carry the process forward. Information that was requested last July but for some reason was never forthcoming. Nine months later it feels like we are starting again. As Chair of this Partnership I have been involved with Partnership and IDP staff in all the negotiations that have taken place and I can say that we have considered withdrawing our support and funding from the project as so much time seems to have been wasted. We could instead look at the possibility of obtaining premises to carry out our remit to the community without all the constraints that occur when taking over Council owned property. This is still an option that the board may consider.

Our plans for the future of the Hall are well documented. We wish to develop it as a multi purpose asset that the community can enjoy. We were led to believe that when the hall is completed the rent for the whole building would be £6,500 per year but this may be offset by the amount of capital we have invested in the project. As this will amount to £250,000 from New Opportunities Fund and Objective 1 we did not expect to pay any rent for the foreseeable future. Not one penny of Council funds will be used in the re-development, in fact EDS charged us £3,100 for their so called services on the first phase. With regard to the rent being offset we are told that only money that the Council judges to be necessary in the development will count but they can't tell us how to maximize our investment until we have submitted the final plans.

In order to explain to the people of Rawmarsh why progress has been so slow we intend to make this information public via newsletters and the local press so

that the people of Rawmarsh can see that we have tried our best and are still trying to achieve what they requested.

I will finish with one message for the Council – ‘Professionals built the Titanic, Amateurs built the Ark’.

Mel Durham
Chair
Rawmarsh and Parkgate Partnership