

**ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
Held at Woodsetts Sports Pavilion
3rd March, 2003**

Present:-

Rita Alderton	South Anston Resident
Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Alan Yates	South Anston Resident
Peter Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Barbara Justice	ACE Project
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Barry Bott	DART
Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
J. W. Slack	Dinnington Resident
Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Pauline Davies	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Annie Parker	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Roy Newman Group	Dinnington and District Conservation and History
Jack MacKay	South Rotherham Rural Transport Group
Judie Dalton	Dinnington Swimmers Unite
Sue Thomson	Anston Parish Council
Brenda Howarth	Anston Resident
R. H. Kearsley	Dinnington Resident
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Jeanette Hunt	Dinnington Resident
Emma Whitaker	DART
Tim Wells	Anston Resident
Lesley Fletcher	Ryton Credit Unit
Mr. J. Bishop	Harthill Resident
Tom Wakefield MBE	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Fran Blanksby	Disability Action Group
Dorothy Bentley	Anston Resident
T. C. Budley	Anston Resident
T. Gouldthorn	Dinnington Resident
Janet Weatherburn	Dinnington Resident
Barbara Turner	Dinnington Resident
Robin Stonebridge	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1
Derek Bailey	Rotherham Naturalists Society
Margaret Hind	Dinnington Resident
P. Patrick	Dinnington Resident
Norah Kittle	Dinnington Resident
Graham Greaves	Thorpe Salvin Parish Council
Dave Allen	Dinnington Comprehensive School
Alex Wright-Williams	"
David Pingree	"
Richard Steerson	"
Katie Robinson	"

Kayley Worsley	“
Ian Smith	Dinnington Comprehensive School
Cally Martin	“
Stephen Boot	“
Margaret Winks	Dinnington Resident
Susan Michalik	North Anston Resident
Janet White	Dinnington Resident
Sarah Cannadine	Dinnington Resident
Katie Wright	Dinnington Resident
Monica Carroll	Woodsetts Parish Council
Peter Carter	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
P. Collier	Dinnington Resident
Keith Stafford	Woodsetts Resident
M. Oldred	Anston Resident
H. Oldred	Anston Resident
J. Bilton	Dinnington Resident
E. Wallhead	Anston Resident
T. Roberts	Woodsetts Resident
Ken Ackroyd	Woodsetts Resident
Christine Roberts	Woodsetts Resident
Councillor Sid Bennett	Borough Councillor Ward No. 1

By invitation:-

Gillian Charters	Housing and Environmental Services (RMBC)
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Together with:-

Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
David Tyrrell	Principal Democratic Services Officer (RMBC)
Mick Stowe	Community Planning Officer (RMBC)
Wendy Degg	Voluntary Action Rotherham

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Ian St. John (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1); Ken Ward (Woodsetts Parish Council); P. Cogill (Thorpe Salvin Resident), Councillor Clarence Swindell (Borough Councillor Ward No. 18); Brian Cottam (Dinnington St. John's Parish Council); Tessa Pople and Sam Allen (Active Communities Development Officers, RMBC).

85. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair and meeting welcomed Councillor Sid Bennett on his return following his recent serious road accident and congratulated Tom Wakefield on the award of his M.B.E.

86. VANDALISM/THEFT ISSUES

Representatives present expressed their deep concern both at the loss of the local community constables from the area for a period of six weeks for

specified police targetting operations and as to the perceived rise in crime, vandalism and nuisance in the area. Instances were quoted of cars being broken into, both of an evening and in broad daylight on and around Laughton Road and the main car parks in Dinnington, shop windows being broken together with other damage and general youth nuisance. Instances were also quoted in other areas including Kiveton Park and at the Dinnington Comprehensive School and Rother Valley College.

Comment was made as to the total cost including the removal of burnt out vehicles and in repairing bus shelters, quoted as £3,314 for Ward 13 in 2001/02 alone. Houses in East Street, Dinnington, had been set alight not only causing damage but human misery.

There was an overall and deep feeling that parts of the Rother Valley South Area needed concentrated attention not just the city areas.

In response it was explained that the issues raised needed to be addressed by the community as a whole, notably parents, and not just left for the police to respond and that it was believed that the police had started some operations in Dinnington.

Agreed:- That the South Yorkshire Police be:-

(a) asked to give details of the six week targeting operation referred to and on the incidence of reported crime etc. in the Rother Valley South Area during the said period.

(b) informed of the deep concern of the community as the perceived increase of crime and nuisance in the area and asked to respond with a regular police presence.

(c) asked, in view of size of the area and distance between villages/townships to provide community constables with vehicles.

87. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February, 2003, be received and approved.

(b) That arising from the minutes stated:-

(i) the Head of Engineering and Design for the Borough Council be asked to consider the instigation of a Traffic Regulation Order reducing the speed on the "Todwick Bends" section of the A57 in view of the time it would take to implement the road improvements scheme (Minute No. 79).

(ii) a surface water problem was also being caused by a blocked drain near to the Falcon Public House, Dinnington, which required regular cleansing attention (Minute No. 80(i)).

88. RECYCLING IN THE BOROUGH

The Assembly received Gillian Charters of the Housing and Environmental Services of the Borough Council who outlined the present position as to waste disposal and need to address the recycling issue. At present 96% of waste was transported to a landfill site at Doncaster which, following the opening of the new Thurcroft landfill site, will be then deposited there. Therefore only 4% - 5% was currently being recycled.

To effectively meet targets, the Borough should be recycling 10% of waste by March of next year, the support of the public was needed. The 'Blue Bag' Waste Paper Scheme initiated in the centre of the Borough was now being extended to include all parts after the usual collection rounds. Every fortnight on the same days as the bins were emptied paper would be collected. In addition a Garden Waste collection scheme had just commenced and would be visiting e.g. Woodsetts on the first and third Saturday of the month based at the Sports Pavilion car park. It was also hoped to introduce a multi-material collection service later in the year, initially covering some 30,000 households.

A new waste contractor was now managing the North Anston Dump-It Site who was concentrating on recycling which was helping the exercise.

It was made clear recycling was not necessarily a cheap option but recognised that landfill could not be the long term way forward. The Borough Council would incur financial penalties if it did not meet recycling targets.

Again it was emphasised that the assistance of all people was needed in responding to recycling.

The Chair then sought questions/comments with the following issues being raised:-

- The use of incineration – it was explained that the present waste disposal contract ran until 2008 and it was open for the participating Councils to consider the energy from waste option in planning the way forward.
- Reconstituted paper bags should be promoted for use instead of plastic bags.
- Incineration should be supported as the way forward.
- A laundry service for nappies should seriously be considered in view of the amount of disposal nappies now being used.
- The Garden Waste Scheme, whilst fully supported, should be better advertised and be allowed longer in situ at each stopping point.
- Recycling points were to be increased and approaches were being made to Parish Councils to assist in identifying suitable sites.
- Information was given on the contractual arrangements for dealing with materials for recycling. It was explained that plastic bottles/containers still presented a problem.

Agreed:- That Gillian Charters be thanked for her helpful presentation on recycling.

89. FUTURE OF SWIMMING POOL PROVISION IN THE BOROUGH

The Assembly Officer submitted a statement prepared by the Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning, on the Borough Council's Sports Facility Regeneration plan which outlined:-

- Where they were now with facilities, including state of repair, costings, usage and recommended standards.
- Issues which needed consideration when planning for the future.
- Strategic location of new facilities.
- Potential new/refurbished facilities.

The statement then went on and gave detail on the Dinnington swimming pool commenting on structural issues, usage, costings and the high cost in either rebuilding or bringing it up to required standards. It was open for a Trust to take it forward but pointed out they would have to deal with the same problems.

The meeting expressed deep concerns at the loss of swimming provision in the Rother Valley South area and particularly at the loss of such a facility in Dinnington. Strong views were put forward on the subject and the following points made:-

- The facility was originally provided as a learner pool with public support. A Charitable Trust was then set up for school use during the day with Further Education managing evening usage. That ceased in May, 1978, when the Borough Council felt unable to financially support the Trust. The pool then closed for a time and was then re-opened by the Borough Council as a public swimming pool.
- The point was made that none of the proposed swimming pools would be within one bus ride for residents of Woodsetts and many of the villages in the Rother Valley South Area.
- Money was being spent on other facilities i.e. play areas near housing which residents clearly did not want when it could have been used to sustain the existing swimming facilities.
- Proper consultation had not taken place in the area. The swimmers using the pool had not been properly consulted.
- It would make more sense to bring people to an area which is a transport hub.
- It was understood many people from Aston and surrounding areas used Sheffield facilities and it was an easy bus ride into Rotherham. The same could not be said about this area.

- Surely the statistics produced and reflected in the Community Strategy reflect deprivation and car ownership. If the Strategy was to mean anything why was Dinnington to lose a facility at a time when the promotion of Health and Well Being should be paramount.
- Concerns were expressed at the decision making process involved and it was queried if the decision was set in stone and could not be re-considered.

Councillor Wardle outlined to the meeting the Sport England and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) criteria that the Borough Council had to apply in considering the issue.

Following requests for a public meeting to be held, it was noted that a group called “Dinnington Unite” was already attempting to arrange a meeting in Dinnington and that a meeting was being arranged at the Anston Parish Hall on Monday, 17th March, 2003, at 7.30 p.m.

The Chair explained that it was open to all residents to write to the Borough Council to express their views and that if required a further public meeting could be arranged at a suitable large venue such as the Lyric Hall at Dinnington.

90. REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE STANDARDS IN THE BOROUGH

The Assembly received a report from the Principle Officer, Countryside, Country Parks and Forestry, on the standards used for open space provision in the Borough and on the current review of these standards as part of the Best Value Review of Green Spaces.

The framework within which the review was being undertaken was queried.

The view was expressed that the Borough Council did not promote facilities in rural areas assuming that the Parish Councils would do so and yet the residents were paying like Council Tax bills.

In planning facilities, it was recognised that people wanted Toddler Play areas close to houses but areas for older children often used by teenagers slightly divorced. In this context it was queried why swings in Dinnington Park were sited immediately behind the backs of gardens.

Agreed:- That John Rotherham be invited to attend the next meeting to make a short presentation on this matter.

91. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Assembly Officer reported on the following issues:-

- (a) Periodic Electoral Review

The Boundary Commission had now produced its recommendations as to the shape of electoral wards throughout South Yorkshire. The only impact on this Assembly Area would be the loss of Hooton Levitt Parish from Dinnington St. John's to an expanded Maltby Ward.

(b) Community Chest

It was reported that thirty-one applications had been received from community organisations operating within the Assembly Area. The total bid was for almost £8,000 for an available sum of £2,000 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Half of the applications (sixteen) were successful with grants ranging from £67 to the maximum available of £250.

If there was a further allocation of monies available next financial year the improvements in publicity used this year would be applied again with a view to ensuring an even spend of awards.

A thank you was extended to the members of the Grants Panel.

(c) Land to the rear of Shopping Centre, Laughton Road, Dinnington

It was noted that the Borough Council's Environmental Officer was investigating the litter/rubbish nuisance problem to the rear of the above premises.

(d) Environmental 'Hotspot' Fund

Further to the report to the last meeting, it was noted that confirmation was awaited that the outstanding work to provide dog waste bins had been implemented.

(e) Railway Access, Land off Cramfit Road, North Anston

Further to previous reports and discussion on the above matter, it was noted that a steel barrier was to be erected on the entrance to the site hopefully by mid-March, 2003. The Railway Authorities would have access and had undertaken to keep it locked when not on site.

The newly formed fly-tipping removal team had been asked to use any capacity from its limited resources to begin removing waste from the site, but in view of the amount involved it could take some time.

The question of responsibility for dealing with maintenance of Crown owned land was being pursued by Kevin Barron, Member of Parliament for the area.

(f) Heritage Education Project

Further to the presentation by Abi Hackett about the oral history project to the Assembly meeting held on 2nd December, 2002, it was reported a Family History Workshop was to be held at the Kiveton Park Library on 14th March, 2003, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 Noon.

(g) Kiveton Park White City

There was to be a public consultation event to enable residents to comment upon the recently submitted planning application. It was to be at the Wales Festival Hall on Thursday, 6th March, 2003, between 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

(h) Local Transport Day

Details were reported of the above event to be held at the Bailey Suite, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham, on Saturday, 8th March, 2003.

92. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) Accident and Emergency Unit, Bassetlaw District General Hospital – It was explained that despite an extensive campaign in the Worksop Guardian, there were no concrete proposals to close the above Unit. A general review exercise of hospital facilities was being undertaken and any recommendations arising were still under consideration.

Concern was expressed at the distress that had been caused to staff working at the hospital, which was widely used by people of this area.

(b) Lordens Hill Traffic/Road Safety Scheme – Concern was expressed by some residents that the above scheme was being commenced before the Nursery Road, North Anston/Dinnington Scheme had been properly finished and proven.

(c) Rural Transport Grant – It was explained that whilst efforts had been made by local Parish Councils to use some of this funding to benefit the area, they had been advised they were unable to do so unless it was for Community Transport.

93. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

Agreed:- (a) That, in addition to the Review of Open Space Standards in the Borough, the next meeting of this Assembly receive a presentation on Neighbourhood Watch.

(b) That policing issues be considered further at a future meeting.

94. SOUTH ROTHERHAM RURAL TRANSPORT GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 19th February, 2003, were submitted.

95. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held in the Harthill Village Hall on Monday, 7th April, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.

