

ROTHER VALLEY SOUTH AREA ASSEMBLY
held at Anston Parish Hall
2nd June, 2003

Present:-

Councillor Audrey Gilbert	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13 (in the Chair)
Alice Booth	Wales Parish Council
Alan Vickers	Anston Parish Council
Councillor Karl Barton	Borough Councillor Ward No. 13
Brian Cottam	Dinnington St. John's Parish Council
Brian Neely	Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust
Peter Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Councillor David Davies	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Gerald Capper	D.A.R.T.
Beryl Howarth	Anston Resident
Jackie Scott	Anston Parish Council
Councillor Clarence Swindell	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Councillor Philip Wardle	Borough Councillor Ward No. 18
Sue Thomson	Anston Parish Council
Roy Newman	Dinnington and Laughton Conservation Society
Jack MacKay	South Rotherham Rural Transport Group
A. Dowling	South Anston Resident
T. Little	South Anston Resident
D. Little	South Anston Resident

By Invitation:

Lesley Cooper	Rotherham Crime Reduction Programme
Lesley Fletcher	Ryton Credit Union
Linda Murray	Ryton Credit Union
Steve Wibberley	Streetpride, RMBC
Andy Roddis	Streetpride, RMBC

Together with:

Gordon Smith	Area Assembly Officer (RMBC)
David Tyrrell	Principal Democratic Services Officer (RMBC)

1. THE LATE CLIFF PEACOCK

The Chair referred to the recent untimely death of Cliff Peacock, who had been a very active person in the community and particularly supportive of helping young people.

The Assembly stood for a minutes silence as a token of their respect.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Sid Bennett (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1); Mandy Bell (Dinnington Housing Office – RMBC); Fran Blanksby (Community Activist); Barbara Justice (ACE Project); Councillor David Hall (Borough Councillor Ward No. 13); Councillor Iain St. John (Borough Councillor Ward No. 1) and Mick Stowe (Community Planning Officer – RMBC)

3. MINUTES

Agreed:- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May, 2003 be received and approved.

(b) That arising from the minutes stated :-

(i) it was explained that the voids at the former Thurcroft Colliery were due to be completed in June, 2003 and expected the new Tip should then be open during the Autumn of 2003 (Minute No. 106(b)(iv));

(ii) lorries had been noted accessing the North Anston Magilla Waste Disposal Site, but suggested this may have been by arrangement (Minute No. 110(c))

4. RYTON CREDIT UNION

The Assembly received Lesley Fletcher supported by Linda Murray who explained she was the new development worker appointed to assist the Ryton Credit Union Ltd. which was an independent financial co-operative set up for anyone living or working in the area from Maltby to Harthill and Woodsetts to Waleswood. It was a mutual, friendly co-operative which provided low cost, high quality ethical financial services and was regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

They were grant funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and currently had offices at 79 Wales Road, Kiveton Park and 10-12 Barleycroft Lane, Dinnington.

There were obvious advantages for people in that savings could usually be withdrawn in week one and a loan applied for after an initial savings period of 13 weeks. Young people, who could operate a savings account, could particularly benefit in achieving a 3% dividend.

It was a local service for local people.

The Assembly voiced their full support for this initiative expressing the wish that positive steps be taken to include Thurcroft as well as expanding into Maltby.

Agreed:- That the operation of the Ryton Credit Union be welcomed as a positive service for the community.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Assembly received Lesley Cooper who spoke of the remit of the Crime Reduction Programme under the Safer Rotherham Partnership in feeding information up from the Community and down from the various agencies and in helping tackle the crime and community safety agenda. Their intention was to set up local groups which could look at local issues. There was no one answer in dealing with problems and the intention was in attempting to identify, if possible, root causes and through the agencies then tackle the issues, find long term solutions.

One pilot group had already been established in the Rother Valley West Assembly Area and if the interest was there groups could be set up in other areas. Representatives were asked to approach Lesley if they had any such interest.

A question and answer session then ensued with issues raised including :-

- funding for the initiative was through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
- moving a problem e.g. Youth Nuisance was not the answer to the problem it had to be ascertained why they were in a particular area, whether the environment was an issue, what facilities were available and if there were any social reasons
- the experience of the officers involved in the project was outlined
- it was hoped that some 4/5 groups could be established in the first year
- the number of initiatives on this general subject and need to ensure that funding went to the groups/people that needed it
- multi-agency working was seen as the only way forward and statistics did prove it did make a difference
- was it possible for someone to explained what all the various Crime and Disorder initiatives/groups were doing, how they were co-ordinated to ensure added value and were the over arching Safer Rotherham Partnership fitted in
- data protection meant that details of individual cases could not be discussed but general issues could be covered
- all sections of the community would be welcomed on groups, the pilot group established included Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Council representatives and community activists. any training needs would be addressed
- it was felt one of the major problems over the years was the closure of local youth clubs, the removal of real facilities in areas. Targeting of

small numbers of young people for very limited periods was not felt productive or addressing the real issues. Serious efforts must be made to provide services/facilities for young people.

Agreed:- (a) That the presentation be received and Lesley Cooper invited to report on progress on the initiative in approximately six months time.

(b) That in view of the issues raised Tim Hawkins of the Safer Rotherham Partnership be invited to the next or a special meeting of this Assembly to clarify the overall position on Crime and Community Safety issues in Rotherham and particularly this Assembly Area.

6. ASSEMBLY OFFICER'S REPORT

The Assembly Officer reported on the following issues :-

(a) Community Plans Relationship

The relationship between the Community Strategy, Area Action Plans and Community Plans

(b) Community Planning in Rother Valley South

Progress on the development of Community Planning in the Wards and Parishes throughout the Assembly

(c) Community Plan – Future Project

To help move matters forward it was suggested that the establishment of a Community Planning Steering Group could help move matters forward. It could:-

(i) Act as a report and feedback mechanism between the Assembly and lead bodies for Community Planning

(ii) Ensure that progress was driven

(iii) Work with the Assembly staff to review the Area Action Plan and monitor progress in implementation

with a suggested membership put forward of :-

1 x RMBC Member per Ward

1 x Parish Councillor per Ward nominated by the Constituent Parish Councils

1 x Community representative per Ward nominated by the Dinnington Forum (1) and the Rural Priority Area Consultation Form (2)

Community Planning Officer

Area Officer

Agreed:- That the proposals outlined be considered further at the next meeting of this Assembly.

(d) Public Entertainment Licences

Details were submitted of two Occasional Licence applications

(e) Small Business Grants Fund

Details were given of a new funding scheme administered by the Yorkshire Rural Community Council, targeting support to small and medium-sized businesses. The grants advisor was David Mitchell, Tel. No. 01904 645271. Firms based in Anston, Woodsetts and Kiveton Park Wards were eligible to apply.

(f) Rural Transport Update

Details were given of the introduction again of the 'Sherwood Forester' 150/151 Service which would operate between 18th May and 14th September, 2003.

It was also noted that the Rotherham Community Transport had issued a Service Guide which indicated the availability of Shoppabus Services in three zones covering the whole of this Assembly Area. Comment was made that if approached the Community Transport would do their utmost to ensure that mobility scooters were available for village shows and similar.

The minutes of the last meeting of the South Rotherham Rural Transport Group were also submitted.

(g) Saturday Garden Waste Collection Trial Phase 2

Details were submitted of this scheme relevant to South Anston and Harthill. Should any queries arise it was suggested they be directed to the Head of Environmental Health.

7. STREETPRIDE

Steve Wibberley and Andy Roddis attended, affirmed information given at the presentation the previous meeting and advised that both or one of them would be in attendance at each Assembly meeting. The intention would be that they would collect requests/comments either prior to or following each meeting rather than dealing with individual matters during the meeting.

A number of items were raised with them which were noted.

8. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) Community Safety – Further issues were raised which it was felt could best be clarified at a further/special meeting.

(b) Bus Service 767 – Concern was expressed at the reduction in this bus service which was creating real problems for some people in South Anston. It was suggested that the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive should address this matter.

(c) Transportation Grants – Jack MacKay reported that Parish Councils in the South of the Assembly Area had got together and applied for a vital villages grant of £10,000 to assist with rural transport. They had however subsequently learnt that Parish Councils could not access this fund and the scheme had regrettably been dropped.

(d) Todwick Road, Dinnington – concern was again expressed at the condition of this road which it was felt was becoming dangerous.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

Agreed:- That in addition to the Community Plan it be confirmed that Community Safety should be addressed.

10. NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Assembly be held in the Wales High School on Monday 7th July, 2003 at 7.00 p.m.