

CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Venue:	3rd Floor conference room, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham	Date:	Friday, 19 November 2004
		Time:	9.00 a.m.

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y A G E N D A I T E M S

5. Petition - Request for the speed limit through Ravenfield Crossroads to be reduced. (report attached) (Pages 1 - 6)
Schemes and Partnerships Manager to report.
 - to report receipt of a petition and notes of a site meeting.

Appendix A and Appendix B now attached.

7. Minutes of a meeting of the Town Centre Initiative Steering Group held on 14th October, 2004. (copy attached) (Pages 7 - 11)
8. Minutes of a meeting of the Rotherham Local Development Framework Steering Group held on 22nd October, 2004. (copy attached) (Pages 12 - 16)

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Economic and Development Services Matters
2.	Date:	19 November 2004
3.	Title:	Petition – Request for the speed limit through Ravenfield Crossroads to be reduced; Ward 14
4.	Programme Area:	Economic and Development Services

5. Summary

To report the receipt of a petition, requesting the speed limit on roads approaching Ravenfield Crossroads be reviewed and reduced, speed warning lights to be installed in the village, and for the crossroads to be signalised or converted to a roundabout.

The report also includes the notes of a site meeting to discuss road safety and traffic issues in Ravenfield.

6. Recommendations

It be resolved that:

- i) Investigations be undertaken to look into the possibility of reducing the existing 40mph speed limit to 30mph, on all roads approaching Ravenfield crossroads, and to report the findings to Members;**
 - ii) Investigations be undertaken into improving road safety at Ravenfield Crossroads and outside the school;**
 - iii) The petitioner be informed of the proposed investigations;**
 - iv) The outcome of the site meeting be noted.**
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7. Proposals and Details

It is proposed to investigate a reduction of the speed limit on all roads approaching Ravenfield Crossroads from 40mph to 30mph, together with investigating road safety improvements at Ravenfield crossroads and outside the school.

8. Finance

Funding for any works identified will be available from the LTP Integrated Transport Programme for 2005/06.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Not applicable in this instance.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Any proposed scheme would be in line with objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, in conjunction with the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Road Safety and Traffic Management strategies, for improving road safety.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

A 771–signature petition expressing concern about the traffic situation in Ravenfield has been received from Ravenfield Parish Council. In the petition they ask that the speed limit on all roads is reviewed and reduced; speed warning lights are situated in the village, particularly near the school; and that traffic lights or a roundabout are installed at the crossroads. A copy of the covering letter and first page of the petition are attached as Appendix A.

A copy of the minutes of the site meeting between Ravenfield Parish Council, Ward Members and officers from Rotherham's Streetpride Department is attached as Appendix B.

Contact Name : *Andrew Lee, Assistant Engineer, Ext. 2380,
andrew.lee@rotherham.gov.uk*

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Appendix B

Ravenfield Traffic Issues – notes of a site meeting held on 18 October 2004, 8:15am

Present:- Councillor Anne Russell, Councillor Pat Russell, Councillor Paddy Burke.

Together with representatives of Ravenfield Parish Council

And

Andy Pashley, Wentworth South Area Assembly Officer
Richard Jackson, Streetpride Area Manager (Wentworth)
Stuart Savage, Streetpride Highways and Traffic Group Section Engineer,
Andrew Lee, Streetpride Highways and Traffic Group Assistant Engineer

Matters Arising

The meeting was called by Ravenfield Parish Council and Ward Councillors to discuss concerns about road safety and traffic issues at Ravenfield cross-roads and outside the school on Moor Lane North.

Ravenfield cross-roads

The number of accidents occurring at the junction since it was modified approximately 3 years ago was discussed along with possible reasons for this. It was felt that the modifications had improved the safety and ease with which pedestrians can cross the road. However, the speed of traffic on Moor Lane North/South had not been reduced and this was contributing to the number of accidents involving vehicles turning into/out of Braithwell Road and Hollings Lane. Another contributory factor is vehicles parking on the area of land on the corner of Moor Lane North/Braithwell Road (outside the garage) obstructing visibility for vehicles emerging from the side road.

Possible solutions for reducing the speed of vehicles were discussed ranging from reducing the speed limit to 30 mph to introduction of vehicle activated electronic signs. It was pointed out that the police would not support the lowering of the speed limit without the introduction of supporting traffic calming measures such as speed cushions.

Resolved:- (i) That the provision of bollards be investigated to prevent parking on the area of land on the corner of Moor Lane North/Braithwell Road.

(ii) Solutions be investigated to reduce the speed of traffic and improve road safety at the junction and the outcome be reported back to the Area Assembly/Parish Council/Ward Members.

Moor Lane North outside Ravenfield school

Observations were made of the traffic situation outside the school at the time when parents were dropping off their children. It was noted that the footpath from Ravenfield cross-roads to the school is narrow and does not encourage parents to walk to school with their children. This results in parents driving to the school and creating parking/congestion problems.

A suggestion was made to introduce a part time 20 mph speed limit outside the school during arriving/leaving times. However, it was thought this would have little effect as the presence of parked cars at these times means that vehicles are already travelling slowly. It was agreed to look into other possible improvements although it was considered these were limited in scope. It was mentioned that it is already intended to renew the school sign triangles on the carriageway on each approach to the school although this may have to wait until next spring as it is not advisable to apply these markings when the road surface is wet/damp/covered in salt.

The number of HGVs travelling on Moor Lane North/South was noted. In view of the area wide environmental weight restriction in the Ravenfield area which includes these roads Streetpride officers will contact the police to ask them to take action to discourage HGVs using these roads.

Resolved:- (i) Options for improving road safety outside the school be investigated and the outcome be reported back to the Area Assembly/Parish Council/Ward Members.

(ii) South Yorkshire Police be asked to take action to discourage the use of Moor Lane North/South by HGVs.

**TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVE STEERING GROUP
THURSDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2004**

Present:- Councillor G. Smith (in the Chair); Councillor Walker.

together with:-

Terence & Pauline Barker	Access Liaison
Colin Scott	Chamber of Trade
Chris Stanbra	RCAT
P.C. Paul Gray	South Yorkshire Police
Guy Kilminster	Manager, Libraries, Museum & Arts
Colin Knight	Streetpride
Zulfiqar Manzoor	Caprice
Phil Woodward	Yorkshire Water
Julie Roberts	Town Centre, Tourism and Markets

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor R. S. Russell	Chair, Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
Sarah Crossland	Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative
Karl Battersby	Head of Planning & Transportation Service
Srg. Chang	South Yorkshire Police
Patrick Middleton	Development Surveyor

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND JULY, 2004

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd July, 2004 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Three Cranes, High Street

Colin Scott asked if there was a current planning application for these premises.

It was reported that the shop was no longer tenanted and that there was no knowledge of any further planning applications.

(ii) Domine Lane Car Park

Colin Knight reported that cleansing had been carried out over the last two weekends and the issue of cleansing at weekends would be investigated further.

Colin Scott asked if the issue of cars parking without tickets had been

looked into.

Colin Knight agreed to follow this up.

(iii) Pavement Repair – Eastwood Lane

Chris Stanbra reported that no action had been taken to repair the broken slabs

Colin Knight reported that they had been checked and were within the Council's tolerance. He added that if at the end of the year there was any funding available he would look to see if they could be replaced through the Area Assembly's devolved budget.

(iv) Town Centre streetworks

The Chairman referred to the temporary tarmac repairs in the town centre and asked how long it would be before the setts were put back.

Colin Knight reported that it was taking a long time because work was only being carried out on Sundays but the setts had been stored and would be put back into place.

4. EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER

Julie Roberts reported that an appointment had been made and Dawn Runciman would be joining the Local Authority on 18th October, 2004. Reference was made to her previous work experience in town centre management, tourism and economic development services.

An outline of Dawn's expected role was given.

P.C. Gray extended an invitation for Dawn to visit the Planning and Event Department at Maltby Police Station.

5. TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

Julie Roberts distributed copies of the draft Action Plan which had incorporated the Group's previous comments.

She explained that the document was a three year rolling plan, and contained ten main objectives:-

- to create a welcome, safe and clean environment
- to establish a Town Centre Safety Task Group
- to provide excellent visitor services and facilities
- to conserve the character of the town centre, and enhance the heritage of Rotherham
- to improve accessibility and car parking within the town centre
- to increase visitors via an innovative events programme

- to develop a high quality retail offer
- to market the town centre as a destination
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and performance of the town centre on an annual basis

Julie added that she proposed to organise a conference to look at what Rotherham could do differently.

Members referred to the need to ensure that enforcement action was taken in respect of the abuse of disabled parking. The potential impact of the creation of Business Improvement Districts on smaller town centre businesses was also highlighted.

The Group's input into the final document was requested and comments etc should be forwarded to Julie by 31st October, 2004. The finalised document would be submitted to the Group's November meeting.

6. ROTHERHAM RENAISSANCE - UPDATE

Julie reported that at the last meeting on 22nd September, 2004, the draft Master Plan was presented. The draft had now been sent to the LDA. Copies were provided for members of this Group.

The Chairman outlined the current position regarding Tescos and informed those present of other options for, and interest in, various town centre sites. He pointed out that there was an increasing interest from developers for investment in Rotherham.

7. FUTURE ROLE OF THE STEERING GROUP

Julie presented members of the Group with a schematic diagram of the proposed new set up of the various town centre support groups under the Rotherham Renaissance umbrella.

Guy Kilminster provided further more detailed information about the function and remit of each of the following:-

- Town Centre Strategy Team (at the core)
- Town Team
- RMBC Regeneration Core Team
- LSP Economic Spoke
- Town Centre PR & Marketing Team
- Town Centre Planning Team
- Town Centre Management Team (to replace this Group)

The comment was made that a member from the Chamber of Trade should be included in the membership of the LSP Economic Spoke.

It was proposed that the next meeting of this Group be its last, and that the report author, Adam Wilkinson, Executive Director, Economic and

Development Services, be invited to present the proposed role, remit and new membership.

The Group congratulated officers on the proposals which were felt to be an excellent transition for this Group.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN CENTRE SAFETY TASK GROUP

P.C. Paul Gray reported on the discussion that had taken place on the issue of tackling town centre safety and the decision to form a Task Group to look at violent crime in the town centre, shoplifting, nuisance etc along with an overview of the operation of CCTV and the Shop Link Radio network.

It was explained that it was proposed to hold two meetings in one, with the first part of the meeting being an open forum, which would then go into closed session to discuss issues raised and possible solutions.

9. CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Julie reported that she had been working with staff in Culture and Leisure Services to group activities in order to promote them as a Winter Wonderland Festival in the town centre, involving an advertising campaign and Radio Hallam and Magic FM.

The programme would commence on Switch on Night on 18th November and include extended opening hours, new Christmas lights scheme, snow machine, ice statues, Frosty the Snowman in All Saint square, brass bands, Christmas Market from 10th to 11th December and Santa's Grotto.

In addition she had been working with the LSP to have a Memory Tree in the concourse of the bus interchange. The possibility of a children's lantern parade was also being explored.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Toilets in All Saints Square

Colin Scott asked if the 20p charge was covering the cost of operation.

Julie replied that there had been no complaints about the charge and that it was necessary to help the staffing costs, cleaning and upkeep of the facility.

(ii) Young people with cars congregating outside the Town Hall

P.C. Gray asked for people's views on this issue and for ideas for possible action.

Those present discussed this issue and P.C. Gray noted the views

expressed.

(iii) Children working in the town centre with the cleansing operatives

Colin Knight reported on the success of this scheme.

(iv) Campaign against cigarette stubs

Colin Knight reported that a bid for funding had been made so that plastic stub holders could be provided. It was pointed out that the fine was currently £50, and that the bus station was now a No-smoking area.

(v) Rotherham Rugby Club

P.C. Gray reported on the valuable work being undertaken by the Club with young people from Clifton and Maltby Comprehensive schools.

(vi) Performance of the Town Centre

Julie distributed a bar chart which illustrated the results of the footfall count in the town centre over the past year and she highlighted various trends along particular streets.

(vii) Town Centre Business of the Year

Julie reported that Hambys, High Street, had won this award.

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed:- That the next meeting of this Steering Group be held on THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2004 at 6.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

ROTHERHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP
Friday, 22nd October, 2004

Present:- Councillor G. Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Ellis, Hall, Pickering, Walker and Wardle.

together with:-

Phil Turnidge	Senior Planner
Ken Macdonald	Service Solicitor
Ken Wheat	Transportation Unit Manager
Steve Holmes	Community Involvement Manager
Alison Penn	External Affairs Manager

13. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

Councillor G. Robinson, Cabinet Member, Community Planning
Phil Gill, Greenspaces Manager
Bob Crosby, Head of Environmental Health

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th September, 2004 be approved as a correct record.

15. MATTERS ARISING

The following issues were raised:-

(i) The Northern Way Growth Strategy

Information from the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – Regional Planning and Infrastructure Commission’s agenda on 14th October, 2004 - regarding this issue was distributed to those present. The paper was an update on the progress of the strategy and aimed to highlight some of the implications for the Regional Spatial Strategy. Members were asked to note the implications for the production of Rotherham’s LDF and spatial study.

It was noted that to date there had been little information about this Strategy. A regional seminar/conference was due to be held, to involve local authorities and partner organisations.

(ii) Local Development Framework – component parts

A diagram from the ODPM was distributed which illustrated the documents comprising the LDF.

(iii) the Babbie Study

It was reported that this Study, which looked at the sustainable credentials of the individual settlements throughout South Yorkshire, would be completed shortly. The results of this study would be vital in compiling Rotherham's Core Strategy.

A report on the outcomes of the Babbie Study would be submitted to a future meeting of this Steering Group.

(iv) Continuation of the current Unitary Development Plan

It was pointed out that in the interim material from the current UDP would be saved until it was ultimately replaced by relevant parts of the Local Development Framework.

It was likely to take more than three years to completely replace the UDP. Consequently many parts of it would remain relevant. Planning applications would need to be considered according to what stage the documentation had reached and what weight was attributed to the particular document at that time.

Saved parts of the UDP needed to be specified in the Local Development Scheme. Although there was no statutory requirement for formal consultation on the Local Development Scheme it was proposed that the draft would be made available on the Council's Website in order to keep the public informed of what was happening.

(v) Local Strategic Partnership

Reference was made to the Government's emphasis that there should be closer working with stakeholders, the LDP and corporately within the Council.

It was reported that a further approach had been made to the LSP Spoke Managers to nominate representatives to sit on the Task Group to deal with the LDF, the LTP and the review of the Community Strategy. This was seen as an important vehicle.

(vi) Consultees

It was noted that the Statement of Community Involvement would identify discreet groups e.g. Parish Councils, Area Assembly Chairs etc, with whom consultation would take place.

16. FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR 2005

The following dates for future meetings in 2005 were agreed:-

Fridays, all at 10.00 a.m. at the Town Hall

28 th January	22 nd July
25 th February	August – propose no meeting
1 st April	23 rd September
29 th April	21 st October
27 th May	18 th November
24 th June	16 th December

17. NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN SYSTEM - GLOSSARY

The Glossary for the new Development Plan System was received for future reference.

18. FEEDBACK FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SEMINAR ON 12TH OCTOBER, 2004

A paper was distributed which set out the significant points from the seminar that would influence how Rotherham would go about producing some of the documents.

The Government was changing the culture of planning and putting planning in a more central position in relation to the Community Strategy, spatial planning, sustainable places, empowering inclusive participation, community involvement etc.

Information from the Seminar was given on the following:-

- Regional Spatial Strategy - Reference will need to be made to this document when considering planning applications and should be declared on searches.
- Local Development Scheme - It was reported that the deadline for submission to GOYH was now 28th February, 2005 and not 28th March. The minimum submission would include: Core Strategy and Policies; site specific allocations; Proposals Map; Statement of Community Involvement; Annual Monitoring Report and Local Development Scheme.

It was emphasised that the submission had to be realistic and submitting the LDS on time had implications on the receipt of Planning Delivery Grant.

- Milestones - It was pointed out that these milestones would need to be co-ordinated with Council meetings.

- Supplementary Planning Documents – it was envisaged that producing a document would be a year long process. The documents would be subject to sustainability appraisal but not public examination.
- Statement of Community Involvement – this was required in the first submission. It was essential that the approach to consultation was clearly recorded and that there could be budget and staffing implications. Reference was made to the tensions between the requirement to consult and the creation of a speedier planning system.
- Front loading – the need to consult stakeholders and the community from the onset of the process was emphasised and this was likely to lead to less opposition at later stages in the process.
- Annual Monitoring Report – the first report would be required by 31st December, 2005. This would need new data management systems and the streamlining of numerous Performance Indicators. This would be a major challenge.
- LDF/Community Strategy – the role of the Community Planning Officers was discussed. It was pointed out that community planning needed to be embedded into all local authority processes and that this required a cultural change.
- Sustainability Appraisal – this also had significant implications for data collection and management in establishing a baseline against which the effects of the LDF would be judged.
- Soundness – there was a presumption from the outset that a DPD would be sound unless proved otherwise in evidence at the Examination. The Planning Inspectorate would be publishing Soundness Guidance in November.
- Public examination – a Public Examination Guide was expected in March 2005.
- Previous UDP work – It was pointed out that provision was made under the Transitional Arrangements Regulations to use earlier UDP Review Issues material, but these would need to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal. The more prominent issues would need to be related to spatial options arising out of the RSS, Babbie Study and the SY Spatial Study.

Resolved:- (1) That following consideration of the Local Development Scheme by this Group, the document be referred to the Cabinet for approval.

(2) That the Corporate Management Team be asked to discuss the following issues:-

- (i) the extent and resourcing of LDF consultation.
- (ii) Performance Indicators which had the most benefit for the Council related to the LDF, Community Strategy and Sustainability baselining.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were raised:-

- (i) Scope of the draft Local Development Scheme

It was proposed to submit a first draft of this to the next meeting of the Steering Group and the recommended content was a Core Strategy, Development Control Policies (new policies for housing – including HMR Pathfinder), economic (including retail and transportation), Site Specific Allocations, Proposals Map and Statement of Community Involvement.

- (ii) Regional Spatial Strategy

It was confirmed that the new legislation would require the Council to consult the Regional Assembly on major planning applications and their compliance with the Regional Spatial Strategy.

- (iii) Feedback

Members of the Group were asked to provide feedback to the Forward Planning Team on any of the issues raised at this meeting or contained within the working papers.

- (iv) Further involvement of Members/officers and dissemination of information

Resolved:- (1) That as part of the Planning Board Training a session on the LDF be included for other Members, and that the Senior Planner and Area Partnership Manager discuss the most appropriate ways of briefing Community Planning staff.

(2) That a draft of the LDS be submitted to the next meeting of the Steering Group for consideration.

20. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham LDF Steering Group be held on FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2004 at 10.00 a.m. at the Town Hall.