

**PARISH LIAISON
TUESDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 2012**

Present:-

Councillor Smith (in the Chair) along with The Mayor (Councillor Pickering).

Also in attendance:-

Mr. M. Gazur	Anston Parish council
Mr. C. Jepson	Anston Parish Council
Mr. S. Thornton	Anston Parish Council
A. A. Armitage	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
Mr. B. Bartholomew	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
Mr. A. Hodkin	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
Mr. A. Cater	Catcliffe Parish Council
Mr. B. Jolley	Catcliffe Parish Council
Mrs. K. Amies	Dinnington Town Council
Mr. D. Barker	Dinnington Town Council
Mr. A. Stewart	Maltby Town Council
Mr. D. Rowley	Ravenfield Parish Council
Mr. A. Scholes	Ravenfield Parish Council
Mr. D. Bates	Thrybergh Parish Council
Mr. P. Hubbard	Ulley Parish Council
Mr. J. Swann	Woodsetts Parish Council

Officers in attendance:-

Mr. K. Battersby	Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services
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Apologies for Absence:-

Mrs. P. Davies	Dinnington Town Council
Mr. K. Stringer	Maltby Town Council

17. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

The Chairman introduced those present and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2011

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th October, 2011 be received as a true record.

19. UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY REVIEW

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director for Environment and Development Services, gave an update on the Library Services Review that was currently taking place and which would be presented to Cabinet on the 21st November, 2012.

The review was originally requested by Cabinet on the 23rd November, 2011 and hopefully would deliver a comprehensive and efficient library service for all.

Following a period of consultation a revised service model had been developed, which took account of many factors including the responses to the consultation, local need, areas of deprivation, current performance and use, demographics, equalities analysis, and closer working with Customer Service Centres. The Library Service was clearly valued by the public, which had resulted in over 1700 forms being submitted, many emails and eighteen drop in sessions.

The proposed new service model which was to be presented to Cabinet took account of the public consultation, listened to the views put forward by the public and their representatives and either recommended a change to opening times or proposals to close some provision, but in the main would create a greater range of services. It was noted that six of Rotherham's libraries had already received significant investment.

Discussion ensued on the mobile library provision and it was confirmed that some areas would receive a mixture of mobile provision, but services received currently by the elderly and infirm would continue.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

20. ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILS

The following items were submitted by Parish Councils prior to the meeting:-

- (a) Restoration of Highfield Lane, Community Gain and Resources from the Waverley Development

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, gave an update on the current position with regards to the restoration of Highfield Lane and the reasons why it had not taken place previously. What had been agreed as part of the revised application was that a red shale public right of way would be erected for pedestrians and others for a safe walking route where Highfield Lane was previously. The restoration of Highfield Lane would then be undertaken incrementally as the development progressed.

A representative from Catcliffe Parish Council pointed out that a surveyor working on the Waverley development had indicated that Highfield Lane would not be restored as a road, which was actually incorrect.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, also provided information on Community Gain which formed part of the original Section 106 Agreement, which was part of the planning application. Copies of the Section 106 Agreement could be provided if this was felt appropriate.

A representative from Catcliffe Parish Council expressed some concern that some villages surrounding Waverley such as Treeton, Woodhouse Mill, Handsworth and Orgreave received some monies, but none was provided to Catcliffe and asked if this could be revisited as it appeared to

be unfairly proportioned.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, confirmed that the Community Gain details could not be revisited, but was based on an assessment of need and sums of money were identified to fund gaps and to provide facilities to the areas identified.

One significant investment for Catcliffe had been around flooding and the development work that had since taken place to mitigate risk to the area.

A representative from Catcliffe Parish Council also referred to the negotiation of funds from British Coal relating to the open casting on the site and asked why there was no bid on behalf of Catcliffe.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, referred to the planning application which had been approved by the Planning Board, the need for regeneration and what could be achieved in planning terms regarding the impacts on provision and the discontent this had caused in Catcliffe.

Another representative from Catcliffe Parish Council was of the view that Catcliffe had been overlooked completely and argued about the quality of provision, such as play in Catcliffe, and whether this was adequate.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services referred to the many sessions about Waverley that were held and open to members of the public and the ample opportunities that Catcliffe Parish Council could have aired their views. He pointed out that there would be a range of access to better facilities, not just in Catcliffe, and that the public open space would be freely available for anyone to use. It was suggested that if there were concerns about provisions in Catcliffe such as play, then a relevant officer could be invited to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss concerns.

A representative from Anston Parish Council did not feel that the distribution of the Section 106 monies had been done fairly and could see even more problems occurring once the Core Strategy for further housing developments across the borough were approved.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, pointed out that there had been some Government changes to the rules around Section 106 requirements and there was now a requirement for the Local Authority to adopt its own local scheme about its infrastructure needs.

Further discussion ensued about the new development tax, where there were no defined rules, and whether this could be extended into other areas of the borough and not those just immediately within the development area or adjacent, for example traffic calming in smaller rural areas who suffered from traffic congestion.

(b) Highway Network Maintenance Programme 2013/14

A representative from Ravenfield Parish Council drew attention to the

invitation to submit requests for priority highway maintenance in certain areas. Three areas were identified, but notification had been received to indicate that the areas put forward would now be delayed beyond 2013/14. It was acknowledged that the Council was having to face some hard times, but road repairs were a matter of some importance.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, provided information on the current budget provision for the Highway Network Maintenance Programme 2013/14 and the guidelines on filling potholes and on other areas of cost.

A representative from Thrybergh Parish Council confirmed that areas had been selected in their area and whilst some weight had to be given to some routes, Park Lane had been identified as one needing development.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, confirmed that this would be looked into further.

A representative from Anston Parish Council drew attention to the scheme that had been adopted by Sheffield City Council which would see major investment into the highway network across that area.

A representative from Ulley Parish Council noted the comments above, but pointed out that Ulley had not received any representations, but was aware of concerns surrounding Carr Lane, off Penny Hill Lane.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, confirmed he would look into the areas that had been selected as priority for the 2013/14 Highway Network Maintenance Programme and would report back to individual Parish Councils in due course.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The Chairman advised that free parking on a Saturday had now been approved on the run up to Christmas.
- (b) A representative from Ravenfield Parish Council asked about the Local Development Plan and the timescales for implementation and was advised that the next round of consultation would take place early in the new year. The plan setting out Rotherham's proposed housing target was due to be lodged this month with the Government. The number of properties had been significantly reduced and work was continuing on the responses received as part of the consultation process.

It was intended to do further work on individual sites and to assist in the process it was suggested that a further Parish Liaison meeting be arranged early in the new year to look at the next steps and consultation process/timescales.

Discussion ensued on the allocation of sites, the consultation process and how, having listened to local people, some sites had been altered.

A representative from Dinnington Town Council pointed out that the objections in Dinnington were around the use of Greenfield sites as

opposed to brownfield sites and it was pointed out that there was insufficient brownfield sites to fulfil the housing need. With negotiation some Greenfield sites would have to be released and Dinnington had significant development potential in an urban area.

A representative from Anston Parish Council was aware that some developments in Dinnington had stalled due to some developers not wish to develop on brownfield sites.

Karl Battersby, Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services, pointed out that the policy around Section 106 agreements was changing and each site that came forward would be judged on whether it was an economically viable prospect for development.

- (c) A representative from Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council asked about the proposed charges for grounds maintenance and was informed that further information would be sought and this would be circulated with the minutes.

22. CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Smith thanked the Parish Councils' representatives for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.05 p.m.