

ROTHER VALLEY WEST AREA ASSEMBLY
Treeton Primary School
Monday, 21st January, 2008

Present:-

Cllr. J Swift	Borough Councillor (in the Chair)
Cllr. G. Smith	Borough Councillor
Cllr. J. Austen	Borough Councillor
Cllr. Boyes	Borough Councillor
Mick Fellowes	Treeton Parish Council
A. Lyne	Treeton Resident
M. Rhodes	Brinsworth Resident
Bryan Sought	Press
Maria Watts	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Trevor Wilson	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Jeff Walker	Ulley Parish Council
Pat Wade	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
G. Cooper	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
Martyn Weir	Streetpride
Caroline Simpson	Rotherham PCT
Richard Baker	Treeton Parish Council
Mick Firth	Aston Resident
Sandra Dyson	NRF Warden
Tracie Seals	Neighbourhood Investment Team

Also Present:-

Andrea Peers	Area Partnership Manager – Neighbourhoods R V West
Julie Barnett	Community Planning Officer
Kyley Taylor	Community Support Officer (Minutes)

Apologies:-

Cllr. R. Littleboy	Borough Councillor
Cllr. H Jack	Borough Councillor
Insp. R Scholey	SY Police
Pam Horner	SYPTTE

160. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd December, 2007 be approved as a true record.

161. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Austen stated that the minutes from 3rd December meeting did not give a true record of attendance as many of the attendees were parents who just stayed for the

Christmas Carols and left afterwards. It was agreed that in future there would be 2 attendance sheets made available on such occasions.

162. CO-ORDINATING GROUP – AREA CHAIR FEEDBACK

Cllr. Swift gave a brief overview of his report. A full copy of the Chair's report was made available to the meeting.

Cllr. Swift reported that following the consultation process the priorities identified for Rother Valley West were:-

1. Activities for young people
2. Crime
3. Clean Streets
4. Activities for young children
5. Improvements to Roads and Pavements
6. Sports and Leisure Facilities
7. Affordable Housing
8. Community Activities
9. Level of Congestion
10. Job prospects

The RVW Co-ordinating Group Meeting was held on Monday, 7th January, 2008 which included:-

- Footpaths and Anti-Social Behaviour – Task and Finish Group set up
- Streetpride Devolved Budget – most schemes now complete
- Responsive Youth Work Project – residential trip to London
- Police Bikes – 3 bikes and equipment to be purchase before March 08
- Junior Warden Scheme – commenced in Thurcroft
- Rother Valley West Parish Council's Network Meeting – two major issues raised were grounds maintenance and traffic at Aston Fence J&I School.

163. TREETON PARISH PLAN & PARISH PLANNING: PRESENTATION BY MICK FELLOWES, COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKER AND JULIE BARNETT, COMMUNITY PLANNING OFFICER

Mick was invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the current position of Treeton Parish Plan and how it was progressing. Mick explained that a Community Action Plan(CAP) was done some time ago which was delivered by Treeton Partnership. The parish plan will continue the good work previously undertaken by CAP. The parish plan will be a living document which will be continually monitored and Mick encouraged all the people of Treeton to get involved. Mick stated that the Parish Plan will also form the basis of future funding applications. YRCC have agreed to fund £2,500 for the production of the plan.

Community consultation has been delivered by Parish Councillors and Area Assembly through community events/roadshows. At the moment they are looking at a 23% return. A separate consultation has been done with young people which will feed into the Parish Plan.

The presentation included:-

- Why have a Parish Plan?
- What is a Parish Plan
- Getting Started
- Community Consultation

Once the plan is complete they hope to produce a plan similar to Ulley's. Both Aston-cum-Aughton and Ulley's plans were made available to the meeting.

Julie then went on to update the meeting on other Parish Plans being undertaken in RVW:-

- Aston - published their plan in Spring 2005 and did a refresh in Spring 2006.
- Ulley - plan has just been published.
- Treeton - currently working on.
- Brinsworth - currently working on.
- Thurcroft/Catcliffe & Orgreave still to be done.

A question was raised asking if the plans would feed into Borough Plan? AP reported that they will feed into RVW Area Assembly Plan which feeds into Community Strategy pulled together by Rotherham Partnership. Both public and environmental issues were strongly reflected in consultation but not reflected in Community Strategy so it is important to look at these issues at a community level.

Agreed: Mick and Julie were thanked for their informative presentation. A full copy of the presentation is available via the Area Assembly Office, Tel: 01709 702897.

164. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: UPDATE BY TRACIE SEALS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING OFFICER, NEIGHBOURHOOD INVESTMENT TEAM

Tracie Seals was welcomed to the meeting to talk about the Affordable Housing Interim Planning Statement. It is anticipated that the new policy will be effective from April 2008.

What is Affordable Housing? This is housing enabled by the Council, specifically for eligible people who are not able to afford suitable housing available locally on the open market. These homes include rented accommodation, shared-ownership homes and some discounted for sale properties.

Tracie explained that in August 2006 a Strategic Housing Market Assessment of the Borough was undertaken to find out what the housing needs of the communities were. They found that an additional 792 new homes, of all tenure types, should be built in the Borough, per year. 411 of those homes should be affordable to people on lower incomes.

Until recently developers were only required to include affordable housing if their scheme included 25 or more new homes. This threshold was reduced to 15 on the 1st December 2007 and in line with the new Interim Planning Statement on Affordable Housing, as from April 2008 (*subject to Cabinet Approval*) under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act for any new build developments of more than 15 properties in Rotherham a quarter will have to be affordable.

Tracie requested to come back to a future Area Assembly Meeting to talk about shared ownership homes in addition to what the Neighbourhood Investment Team hope to achieve in the future for those people in housing need.

The following questions arose following Tracie's update:-

Q. 106 Agreement – does it apply retrospectively ie Wimpey development?

A. The new threshold will be applied to all planning applications for housing developments of 15 or more units received on or after 1st December 2007. The new IPS policy for 25% affordable housing will only apply to planning applications received once the policy has been approved by Cabinet. Planning applications approvals made before the 1st of December will not be subject to more stringent requirements.

Q. Will this include opencast site?

A. Yes more than likely as the application has not yet been submitted and so after April 2008 (*subject to Cabinet Approval*) a quarter of houses will have to be affordable housing.

Cllr. Smith also stated that where houses are sold at a discount, the owners would not be able to sell at a higher price.

Agreed: that Tracie be thanked for her update and be invited to a future Area Assembly Meeting.

165. TRANSPORT – UPDATE ON BUS SERVICES

Pam Horner was unable to attend the meeting due to sickness but a report was made available to the meeting regarding the recent bus service changes in the Rother Valley West Area which will come commence from 27th January, 2008.

It was reported that the Area Assembly had received various emails and letters from residents of Brinsworth regarding the forthcoming changes to bus routes 132/133. A copy of all the correspondence has been sent to Pam Horner, SYPTE.

Various concerns were also raised at the meeting around bus services 24, 26, 87 and 88 as it was unclear of routes and no timetables being available

Agreed that Pam Horner to be invited to next Area Assembly meeting.

166. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Q. Why hasn't the Hail Mary Wood footpath been identified on the definitive map which is currently under review?
- A. Will contact Andy Savage to ask why this hasn't been included. AS is also going to supply a list of footpaths within the RVW Area.
- Q. Concern around the amount of dog fouling taking place in Treeton Church yard and surrounding pavements.
- A. Site visit to be arranged to Church yard.

Pat Wade would like to congratulate 2010 who have referred a number of people to Smoking Cessation Service.

167. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Boyes reported that flooding was less serious in this area but is being constantly monitored. Ulley is being monitored and is regarded as safe. A fire appliance has been sent to Catcliffe to reassure residents.

It was reported a Stress Management Course will be running from Thursday, 7th February, 2008 until 6th March at Treeton Village Community & Resource Centre. The sessions are for adults with mild mental health problems and will run in the mornings - 9.30 am until 11.30 am. A representative from the Mental Health Team said so far they have 30 people signed up for the course but they are looking for 80 adults to take part. Evening courses will be held later in the year.

Andrea Peers informed the meeting that Community Celebration Awards will be held at the next Area Assembly Meeting to be held on Monday, 3rd March, 2008 at Brinsworth. There will be 4 categories in which to nominate someone you know who isn't afraid to get involved and deserve recognition for their work. The closing date for nominations to be received by the Area Assembly Office is Friday, 18th February, 2008.

Awards to nominate are:-

1. Area Chair's Award
2. Community Champion
3. Outstanding Young Person (Up to age 19 years)
4. People's Champion

168. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held on Monday, 3rd March, 2008 at Brinsworth Pavilion – 6.30 p.m.

The public will have the opportunity to meet with the Councillors after the Area Assembly meeting.