

ROTHERHAM NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY
Tuesday 16th October 2007
at 6.00p.m. at the Town Hall, Rotherham

Present:-	Coun. Jahangir Akhtar	RMBC
	Coun. Colin Barron	RMBC
	Brian Beeley	Friends of Barkers Park
	Chris Brown	Richmond Park TARA
	Sgt Richard Collingwood	RMBC
	Simon Currie	Resident
	Pippa Dodgshon	Wingfield School
	Coun. Keith Goulty	RMBC
	Dawn Heald	RMBC
	Mary Jacques	Blackburn Community Partnership
	Coun. Lindsay Johnston	RMBC (Chair)
	Ian Jones	Richmond Park TARA
	Jill Jones	2010 Rotherham Ltd
	Tracey Jones	Richmond Park TARA
	Coun. Barry Kaye	RMBC
	Helen Leigh	Henley Action Group
	Martin Lowe	RMBC Rotherham Warden
	Jean Macreadie	Richmond Park TARA
	Pat Michael	RMBC
	Barry Morton	Wingfield / Munsbrough
	Ian Patterson	GMRW Partnership
	Bryan Picton	Wingfield School
	Jeanette Reed	RMBC Winterhill Young Peoples Services
	Paul Rollinson	RMBC (Minutes)
	Coun Terry Sharman	RMBC
	Kath Sims	Resident
	Tanya Stanley	RMBC
	Michelle Sowray	RMBC Rotherham Warden
	Coun. Sheila Walker	RMBC
	Terry Varnam	Resident

Apologies were received from:-

None.

31. Welcome and Introductions (Apologies for absence)

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Area Assembly. The theme for the meeting is to celebrate the achievements in Rotherham North and to set future priorities.

The Chair made reference to a RMBC Scrutiny Questionnaire which was circulated to all in attendance.

The Assembly were made aware that photo's were to be taken and no objections were raised.

32. Minutes of the previous Area Assembly meeting

Agreed: Approved as a true and correct record.

33. Co-ordinating Group, Task and Finish Group and Area Chair Feedback

(a) Area Plan Update

Tanya Stanley, Area Partnership Manager stated the Area Assembly will be consulting on the priorities for the updated Area Plan for 2008-2009.

The feedback from the current Area Plan included:

You said there is a need for increased representation and a voice from young people.

We did:

- Formed a Young People's Task and Finish Group and the terms of reference have been agreed. Young people will be asked to be part of the group.
- Objective 1 funding was allocated to fund Detached Youth Workers to work closely with young people. A scrap book is being produced with the young people at Greasbrough which illustrates young people's local needs and priorities.
- The Area Assembly will be linking into the youth cabinet.
- The Area Assembly has allocated NRF funding for Swamp Circus to run a programme of activities for young people.

You said there was a need for increased support for parents

We did:

- Work closely with extended schools and cluster management group to improve accessibility of schools by local communities.
- Developed a pilot Family Matters project which will be delivered by Home Start to support parents in Kimberworth Park. The project is funded by Kimberworth Park Partnership and NRF.

You said there was a need for increased police response

We did:

- Purchased 7 mountain bikes to mobilise the PCSO staff team. This will increase visibility and response rates in Rotherham North.

You said there were hotspots in Rotherham North

We did:

- Task and finish group targeted multi-agency resources in Henley to address and resolve the problems. A six months action plan was produced coordinating the work of Neighbourhood Wardens, Neighbourhood Champions and PCSO's.
- A trench was dug and bollards erected to prevent access to green spaces and private land by 4x4 off road vehicles.
- A family fun day was held in Henley to celebrate the area.
- Henley is now no longer a NAG priority

What Next

- Area Assembly will continue to work with young people.
- We will build on the family matters project with the view to acquiring funding to extend and continue the project in the Rotherham North area.
- To promote and publicise the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team
- Further meetings of the Front Line Workers
- Explore ways of engaging communities of interest so they have an influence in their communities.
- Promote effective partnership working and structure through the Coordinating Group, Neighbourhood Action Group and Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Tanya Stanley thanked everyone for getting involved with the Assembly to improve the Rotherham North area.

Coun. Sharman requested at a future meeting a presentation of the outcomes and what have been done. Complaints are still being reported. The Chair stated that the work is ongoing and agreed to provide feedback to the Area Assembly.

Further comments at discussions focused on the following:

- Coun. Kaye suggested further development of the schools especially with PFI Schools in engaging with the community. The Chair referred to the Horticultural project at Wingfield School and how this has enhanced the reputation of the school in the community. Tanya Stanley mentioned the work to involve Winterhill School with the Swamp Circus Project. 20 young people as part of their studies for a GCSE in Citizenship will be taking part in the Swamp Circus programme teaching community leadership.
- Brian Beeley commented on the need for effective school security as part of making school facilities more accessibly to local communities.
- Coun. Akhtar stated that he is involved in a RMBC Scrutiny Panel which will carry out a Borough wide review of school buildings. The accessibility and use of schools by communities is recognised by the Council and the Scrutiny Panel will produce recommendations will be made aimed at addressing these issues.

34. Celebrating Achievements in Rotherham North

(a) Wingfield School in Partnership – Building tomorrow today together

Pippa Dodgson, Head Teacher at Wingfield School gave a presentation to the Area Assembly on Wingfield School in Partnership – Building tomorrow today together. Wingfield School is at the heart of the community. The School has benefited from partnership with the local communities at Kimberworth Park Community Partnership and Greasbrough, Munsbrough, Rockingham and Wingfield Partnership Partnership, Young People's Services and with PC Paul Gray, SY Police School liaison officer. The presentation included the following points:

- **The rationale**
 - Broadening opportunity for our students
 - Raising expectations
 - Challenging perceptions (School is open to community)
 - Being good citizens (Student voice / youth service)
 - Optimising a high quality resource (Through partnerships, finance, human resource, buildings and facilities).

- **The Action**
 - Theatre (state of the art facility funded through SRB and Fairshare)
 - Horticulture (working with Kimberworth Park Community Partnership, used by young people and visited by different schools as part of vocational qualifications).
 - Construction Centre (teaching vocational skills and qualifications)
 - Enterprise (bid to be a business and enterprise school)
 - Widening participation (Promoting facilities within local community)
 - Networking

- **The Vision**
 - Image and perceptions (Aim to improve image of young people and change perceptions in communities)
 - Learning
 - Participation (Young people have ability to be a leader in communities)
 - Cohesion (Working with a wide range of partners and people which a shared purpose to improve things).

- **The Challenge**
 - Translating the network into outcomes (Burden of extra work on school staff)
 - Efficiency of resources (Physical and human)
 - Intelligent, accountable expenditure (Effective conduit to deploy people, resources and to effectively allocate funds)

- Maintaining a map of activity
- Promoting a focussed debate

Further comments and discussions focused on the following:

- Coun. Sharman explained about the Government White Paper on devolution of Council resources to communities and commented on the positive role of schools in the community.
- Coun. Akhtar asked about sport activities. Pippa Dodgson explained the sports activities that take place at Wingfield School e.g. use of football pitches.
- Wingfield School is a secure site with CCTV in operation.
- Coun. Sheila Walker congratulation the work done, but highlighted transport problems to access the facilities. Pippa Dodgson acknowledged the problem and explained the school has a bus and driver.
- Coun. Barry Kaye enquired how people access information on what is available locally. A Rotherham North Area Assembly Directory of Service has been produced which contains a wide range of contact details ranging from community organisations, health centres, libraries and neighbourhood offices. The electronic version is continually updated, however paper copies are expected to be updated annually. The Directory of Services is available from the Area Assembly website or copies can be requested from the Area Assembly on 01709 336951.

The Chair thanked Pippa Dodgson for the presentation.

(b) Young peoples Services Presentation

Dawn Heald, Senior Youth Worker and Jeanette Reed, Unit Leader from RMBC Young Peoples Services gave a presentation on the Young People's Services to the Area Assembly. The presentation included the following points:

- Provision in Rotherham North
 - Chislett Young People's Centre
 - Wingfield Young People's Centre
 - Winterhill Young People's Centre
 - Thornhill Young People's Centre
 - Voice and influence detached project
- We offer:
 - Weekly sessions
 - Intermediate clubs (ages 11-13)
 - Senior clubs (ages 13-19)
 - Girl Groups
 - Young Staff Groups
 - Project nights

- Residential opportunities
- Lunch clubs
- Ramadan club
- Fishing club
- We work with:
 - Work closely with Wingfield and Winterhill with 1:1 student support for vulnerable young people (at risk and underachieving academically)
 - Work with school groups to offer pieces of work where young people can gain accreditations through ASDAN, OCN, AQA, etc.
 - Worked with young people on a BMX Track at Winterhill School
 - 21 Riders complete at national level racing
 - 1 Club member competing at European and World level.
 - 13 young people completed the D of E award
- Young People achievements:
 - Cooking from different cultures
 - Snap Happy Photography
 - Communication Skills
 - Peer Mentoring
 - Baby Stop Think
 - Weights & Measures
 - Bugs in The Kitchen
 - Craft Taster
 - Bugs in The Kitchen
 - Craft Taster
 - Residential Experience
 - Introduction to Voluntary Youth Work
 - 1 Star Kayaking
 - First Aid
 - Food Hygiene
 - Driving & Road Skills
 - DJ Industry Skills

Further comments and discussion focused on the following:

- The need for parental support to children education and development
- Schemes need to meet young people interest.
- Schemes need to target young people at risk from Anti-social behaviour.
- Jeanette Reed stated that young people enjoy coming to the young people centres and activities are led by the young people. Young people staff the shop and run activities as well as support a voice in the community.
- Young people need transport to access the facilities.
- Simon Currie highlighted the need for role models for young people in the family, community, and schools etc.

- Coun. Sharman commented on the deprived areas of Rotherham and its effect on young people e.g. disengaged politically and in the communities. This has led to young people gathering in large gangs, creating a fear of young people and perceptions of fear of crime.

The Chair thanked Dawn Heald and Jeanette Reed for the presentation and welcomed all the work and achievements made with young people by the young people services.

(c) Duke of York Award winners 2007 – Richmond Park Tenants and Residents Association

The Chair congratulated the Richmond Park Tenants and Residents Association on being awarded the Duke of York Award. The group were presented with the Duke of York Award on the 12th October 2007 by Prince Andrew in Conisborough. The Chair on behalf of the Area Assembly presented the group with a framed certificate in recognition of the award.



The Chair stated that this award is in recognition of the group's hard work and achievements made in the Rotherham North. The Chair acknowledged and paid tribute to the many other local groups and partnerships in Rotherham North in the areas of Blackburn, Greasbrough, Kimberworth Park, Thorpe Hesley and Scholes.

Simon Currie explained how he got started in politics when he was nominated as a Governor at Winterhill School. Simon Currie was encouraged by Coun. Aubrey Senior to get more involved which led to being elected to the Council in 2007 for the Valley Ward.

Ian Jones, Chair of Richmond Park Tenants and Residents Associated stated it was an honourable experience to receive the Duke of York Award from Prince Andrew. Ian Jones thanked the community and partners including the Council, Primary Care Trust and SY police for their support in making a difference for Richmond Park.

Ian Jones stated the biggest impact was from the Area Assembly and Pat Michael, Community Planning Officer was in attendance at the award ceremony at the request of the group. The Chair and Pat Michael were each presented with a bunch of flowers by Richmond Park Tenants and Residents Association.

Coun. Goulty commented on the need to listen and learn and stated that the Rotherham Advertiser is not interested in good news stories or is miss-reported. The Chair agreed for the Area Assembly to write an article to be placed in the Council's Rotherham Matters newspaper.

35. Area Plan 2008/2009 – Setting community priorities

Tanya Stanley, Area Partnership Manager stated the Assembly is updating the priorities for the Area Plan 2008/2009. A questionnaire was circulated to all in attendance to be completed. Completed questionnaire could be handed in to the meeting or to the Area Assembly Office.

36. Questions from members of the public (up to 20 minutes)

(a) Bowling provision in Rotherham North Area Assembly

A resident of Kimberworth reported on the current condition of bowling provision and asked about the future plans for bowling in Rotherham. There were comments on the decline of provision at Ferham Park and Barkers Park. While there is provision at Bradgate Park and Greasbrough, the residents felt there were problems due to the lack of permanent attendant situated in the park.

The Chair commented on the developments made to parks and the support provided to bowling at Greasbrough Park. The Chair mentioned the financial support to the bowling club at Greasbrough to replace the equipment lost when the park building was burned down.

Coun. Goulty added bowling is a popular activity and suggested that young people be encouraged to play bowling.

The Chair agreed for the Assembly to arrange a meeting with the bowling club members, Officers from RMBC Greenspaces and the Assembly team to discuss the concerns.

(b) Greenspace at Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley.

A resident of Thorpe Hesley brought the Area Assembly's attention to proposals to install a planted area to prevent young people playing football at Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley. The residents on Sough Hall Avenue and the Thorpe Hesley and Scholes Community Forum were unaware of the proposals and have not asked for the changes. The resident made concerns of repercussions from young people who may damage the planted area and cause anti-social behaviour problems. There are fears it will lead to the Council selling the site for housing development.

The Chair stated the project was funded through the Streetpride Devolved Budget which is allocated to the Area Assembly. The Chair stated that there are no plans for the sale of the land and the project was approved by the Coordinating group based solely on the previous reports of youth nuisance and to enforce the no ball game sign on site. The Chair commented the Assembly would consult residents as part of larger projects to allow them to have a say.

The Chair thanked the resident for highlighting the issue and agreed for the Assembly to work with Streetpride to produce a flyer informing residents of the proposals. The Chair commented on how successful these schemes have worked in other areas to deter young people from playing football and there has not been any repercussions following changes of this kind.

(c) Questions from members of the public

Coun. Akhtar asked the Chair to bring forward Questions from members of the public to agenda item 3 following Minutes from the previous Area Assembly meeting. The reason for this is to allow attendees to ask questions at an earlier stage of the meeting.

The Chair stated that the Agenda format has been agreed by the Council. This issue was considered and it was felt it is beneficial for attendees to experience a full Area Assembly meeting and would reduce the disruption of people leaving halfway through the meeting.

(d) Paul Rollinson – Community Support Officer

The Chair informed the Area Assembly that Paul Rollinson, Community Support Officer is leaving Rotherham Council to start a new role with Doncaster College. The Chair thanked Paul for all the work and support to the Area Assembly. He has always worked in a courteous and professional manner in dealing with

members of the public, Council Officers and Elected Members. Coun. Akhtar supported the comments and joined in the Assembly wishing Paul all the best in the new role.

(e) Community Awards

The Area Assembly is staging community awards which recognise the contributions and achievements of people in the communities of Rotherham North. A nomination form was circulated to the meeting. The deadline for nomination is the Friday 16th November 2007. Completed forms can be emailed to rotherham.north@rotherham.gov.uk or posted to the Area Assembly Office.

(f) Barkers Park

The Barkers Park opening is taking place on Saturday 20th October 2007 from 10.00a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The Mayor of Rotherham will be officially opening the proceedings at 11.00 a.m.

37. Date, time and place of next meeting

Tuesday 18th December 2007 in the John Smiths Room, starting at 6.00p.m.