

WENTWORTH NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY
Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2009
Swinton Civic Hall at 5.00pm

Present

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| Councillor Alan Atkin | Ward 19 – Wath - (IN THE CHAIR) |
| Mal Briggs | Victim Support |
| V Bryan | RMBC Neighbourhood Partnership Manager |
| Steve Copp | South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue |
| Mike Dawes | 2010 Rotherham Ltd |
| Mrs E A Dodson | Local Resident |
| Councillor John Doyle | Ward 16 – Swinton |
| P Drabble | Local Resident |
| K Drabble | Local Resident |
| Andy Fawdry | RMBC Streetpride |
| Elizabeth Frost | Local Resident |
| PCSO Neil Entwistle | South Yorkshire Police |
| Harry Harrison | Swinton Resident |
| A Harwood | Swinton Resident |
| Marc Hill | RMBC Transportation Unit |
| W Hopwood | Local Resident |
| S Hoyle | South Yorkshire Police |
| G Hydes | Local Resident |
| B Jones | Local Resident |
| A Law | Local Resident |
| Rita Leary | Swinton Library |
| Ian Lomas | Wentworth Parish Council and Harley Village Partnership |
| Lee Peace | South Yorkshire Times |
| Gillian Picker | Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership |
| Jill Ratcliffe | Wentworth North Community Support Officer (MINUTES) |
| Lucy Reader | Wentworth North Community Involvement Officer |
| John Straw | Local Resident |
| K Swanwick | Local Resident |
| C Taylor | Local Resident |
| Clive Taylor | Local Resident |
| Harry Tooley | Area Housing Panel |
| D Wadsworth | Local Resident |
| Brian Walker | Local Resident |
| Mr & Mrs Weatherley | Local Residents |
| V Whitehead | RMBC YPS |
| J Wordsworth | Charles Street Community Centre |
| Councillor Ken Wyatt | Ward 16 – Swinton |

1. Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Atkin welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He informed everyone present that the meeting would be minuted, so if anyone wanted to say something that they wished not to be minuted would they please make it known. Councillor Atkin added that if anyone had any issues they wished to raise with officers they would be available following the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

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|----------------------------|--|
| A Barber Lomax | Fitzwilliam Wentworth Estates Office |
| Craig Cornwall | RMBC Wardens |
| Councillor A Gosling | Ward 19 – Wath |
| Councillor Jane Hamilton | Ward 7 – Hooper |
| Councillor Frank Hodgkiss | Ward 7 – Hooper |
| Dianne Hurst | Wentworth North Area Partnership Manager |
| Councillor Neil License | Ward 16 – Swinton |
| Karen Milner | 2010 Rotherham Ltd |
| Councillor Richard Russell | Ward 7 – Hooper |
| Joyce Maleham | Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership |
| Karen Milner | 2010 Rotherham Ltd |
| Councillor Alex Sangster | Ward 19 – Wath |

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14th September 2009

Agreed: - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September be received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Matters Arising

An action checklist with updates from issues raised at the previous meeting was available to all in attendance.

3. QUESTIONS FROM OPEN FORUM

3.1. A local resident enquired if anything could be done about the junction of Mill Lane with Rotherham Road/Packman Road, as it is a very busy exit and difficult for drivers to see whether or not the road is clear. This is partly due to the vegetation at each side of Mill Lane.

The same resident also asked if some type of bollards with light reflectors could be erected on the approach to Blackmoor Road from New Stubbin/Upper Hough as it is difficult to see the junction at night.

Action - Andy Fawdry to make enquires and see if anything can be done.

3.2. A member of staff from the Swinton Community Library reported that there had recently been a couple of bike thefts from outside the Library.

Action – Marc Hill to look into the possibility of installing secure bike racks outside the Library.

3.3. A local resident stated that St Mary's Crescent should have had new street lights over five years ago and that nothing had yet been done.

Andy Fawdry stated that new lighting heads were put in three years ago and should be adequate, but he would go on site and take a look.

3.4. A local resident asked if representation could be made to Stagecoach by the Area Assembly for them to use the Interchange again.

Councillor Wyatt stated that it was his understanding that they were not using the Interchange whilst the improvement works were ongoing.

Action – Councillor Alan Atkin informed the meeting that he would look into the matter.

3.5. A local resident asked if it would be possible to have an update on the Brampton Business Units as parts of the building is being vandalised, although the pharmacy looks secure.

Action – Councillor Alan Atkin informed the meeting that he would look into it, although the building is not in RMBC ownership.

3.6 A local resident expressed concern regarding dog walkers using the field behind the Brampton Centre and not clearing up after their dogs.

William Padfield informed the meeting that a sting is currently in operation in that area, which should eliminate the problem.

3.7. A local resident stated that residents living around the canal area of Swinton have had a block of flats forced on the area and everyone as different concerns, one of them being drug dealing. The Ship Inn is now empty and people are getting in through the roof.

He added that he had been threatened that his house would be burned down. He also stated that he had reported problems of litter and broken bottles to one of the Ward Councillors and that nothing had been done.

Action - Sgt Hoyle requested that she be given the incident numbers of the reported incidents so that she could look in to the matter further. She added that all reported incidents are logged and there had been less calls from the public since the closure of the Ship Inn.

Sgt Hoyle then informed the meeting that the police had recently been called to an incident where fireworks were being set off in the middle of the road. The police had responded within three minutes of receiving the call.

Sgt Hoyle provided a telephone number and urged everyone in attendance at the meeting to ring the police when they were having problems.

3.8. Another resident stated that she was experiencing a lot of problems arising from the petrol station, such as anti-social behaviour and noise from the car wash.

Councillor Atkin informed the meeting that a site visit had taken place that morning around Dunn Street where residents had complained about parking problems which we are currently looking in to. He added that the Ship Inn has been purchased by Housing Market Renewal.

Councillor Doyle added that there is an area under the canal bridge that is owned by British Waterways, however a litter pick around the area has already taken place.

Councillor Wyatt added that the Ship Inn was acquired by Housing Market Renewal as a strategic site, and he would like to see it be the best that it can be.

Action - Councillor Atkin informed the meeting that he would be attending the Housing Market Renewal Steering Group Meeting the following day, and would try to obtain answers to the questions raised around problems with the Ship Inn.

Councillor Wyatt informed the meeting that talks had taken place with British Waterways many times, and at the end of November they will commission their own contractors to remove some of the weeds from the canal.

3.9. A local resident stated that he had been complaining for around seven years regarding noise levels from the Jet Garage car wash. He added that the police can't do anything and he has been informed that he would have to take out a private prosecution.

Action – Councillor Atkin stated that he would look into the matter and see if there were any restrictions in place.

Sgt Hoyle stated that the police would commit to patrol the area as an SNT.

3.10. A local resident enquired about the times of the forthcoming estate walkabouts.

Lucy Reader informed the meeting that the next 2010 walkabouts will take place on the following dates.

Highfield Road area - Thursday 12th November at 10.00am.
Meeting at Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School Gates.

Hatherley Road area - Thursday 26th November at 2.00pm.
Meeting at the Cresswell Public House.

3.11. A local resident asked if a clean up could be done of the footpath from Queen Street via the allotments. He added that a lot of dog walkers use the area and a bag

on a pole has been there since 2007 as a makeshift dog litter bin. A permanent dog litter bin is needed.

Action – Councillor Atkin informed the gentleman that he would look into the possibility of having a permanent dog litter bin installed.

3.12. A local resident asked if anything could be done about the traffic on Brampton Road by the old vicarage and the old church yard as traffic parking is causing an obstruction.

Action – Marc Hill to investigate.

3.13. A local resident stated that a security light was shining straight through his bedroom window.

Action – Councillor Atkin to investigate.

3.14. A local resident stated that he parks his car on Princess Street but to access Queen Street he has to go over the white lines to see if there is any oncoming traffic.

Action – Marc Hill to obtain further details and investigate.

3.15. A local resident asked if there was a possibility of having a combined litter/dog bin near the site of the Wood Street Allotments.

3.16 – A local resident stated that wagons are continually getting stuck under the railway bridge in Swinton. He added that there were plans to raise the road and asked how many more wagons were going to get stuck when the waste recycling plant goes ahead at Manvers.

Councillor Atkin stated that he was not aware of any proposals to raise the road, and if the proposed waste recycling plant were to go ahead then the Lorries would be the usual size.

3.17. A local resident stated that trees growing on civic area land and onto Highcliffe Drive with the junction of Station Street require pruning.

Action – Andy Fawdry to look in to the matter.

3.18. A local resident asked if there would be an increase in the volume of traffic through Swinton if the recycling plant at Manvers goes ahead.

Councillor Atkin informed the meeting that a traffic management plan would be implemented if the site goes ahead.

4. YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES

Vicky Whitehead, RMBC Senior Youth Worker introduced herself and explained her role within Young Peoples Services.

She informed the meeting of the work of the Early Intervention Team, agencies who come together to support young people. She added that if anyone had any concerns about a young person and would like to make a referral they must first make sure that the young person is aware that they are being referred, we will then work it through with them. We can also provide a lot of activities that some young people would not usually have access to, as a result of this:-

One young person has started volunteering
One young person is now taking control of her life
Some young people have now taken up fishing
We are getting young people to take responsibility for themselves

Vicky added that both of the local Comprehensive Schools refer people and young people can also self refer. Referral forms were available at the meeting and Vicky asked that anyone who would like further information contact her on 01709 760817.

5. AREA CHAIR / AREA PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS REPORT

Lucy Reader, Community Involvement Officer for Wentworth North gave an update on the progress and development of issues since the last meeting which included;-

The Swinton Fitzwilliam Group

The group continues to meet and work with the community to try to improve the quality of life for those living on the estate. During the October half-term break a recycling fun day event was held in order to promote recycling and reuse after a survey indicated low levels of activity on the estate.

Lucy informed everyone that if anyone would like to get involved, they could contact her on 01709 334604.

Skate Park

The Skate Park and children's play area situated on the Recreation Ground at Wath has been the centre of activity following complaints from users about broken glass, overgrown shrubs and damage to street lights. Detached youth workers have begun work with the users of the site and orders have been placed to repair the lighting. Alongside this, Green Spaces officers have organised a day of activity during this month where users, wardens and Remedii will work together to remove glass and wind blown litter and shrubs surrounding the area will be taken back.

Wath Community Partnership

The Wath Community Partnership held its quarterly open meeting during October at which a number of concerns were raised around the clarity of road signage in Wath Town centre, nuisance activity in the gennel next to the Yorkshire Bank and other issues which are being pursued.

Flower Beds in Swinton Civic

Shoppers using the Swinton Civic will have noticed a difference in the last couple of weeks. Pupils and staff from Swinton Community School and the Fitzwilliam Primary School were out again working hard to give the whole community something to enjoy and be proud of when they replanted the beds with winter flowering pansies.

Area Assembly staff, Wardens and PCSO's were also out helping with the planting and sharing in the compliments.

The Area Assembly team has been collecting Morrisons "Lets Grow" vouchers to contribute to the schools horticultural ambitions and have amassed over 1200.

A local resident asked if the Area Assembly could write and thank the Schools.

Action – The Area Assembly to write to the two Schools involved thanking them for all their hard work.

Harley

Assembly staff was out and about in Harley at the end of October, working alongside the Village Partnership and Rotherham Community Transport to gauge support for a pilot community transport service in the village.

Brampton

During the last two weeks of October, Assembly, Warden and 2010 staff conducted a one in ten survey in Brampton in order to identify what residents think of their community and help to deliver against the NAG priorities.

For further details about the projects above, take a look at our website on www.areaassemblies.gov.uk or contact Lucy Reader on 01709 334603.

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Work continues on the NAG Priorities for 2008 and 2009, these are: the Swinton Fitzwilliam estate and Valley Road area and Brampton.

PACT priorities for the area will be changed at this evenings PACT meeting.

Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Activity

Works to improve the public realm, environment and access have continued in Wath Montgomery Square. The "pocket park" development is due for completion in early December.

An officer from this service is available here tonight in order to answer any questions you may have.

Street Pride Devolved Budget

A programme of activity for this year's devolved budget has been agreed and a delivery schedule is being worked up. The Area Assembly has taken up two projects undeliverable through this programme and they are now in contract.

Area Assembly Devolved Budget

The Devolved Budget for the financial year 2009 – 2010 has now been exhausted. Following the decisions taken at the last Area Assembly, where a project has been

unable to deliver, resources have been reallocated to other existing projects as contract extensions. The Fire and Rescue Service has been unable to deliver both the Embedded fire-fighter and ASDAN awards projects because of industrial action. These monies have been reallocated to the Wood Street allotments project, Detached youth work projects and to extend the Cook and Eat project into Swinton schools. A raft of projects is being held by the Assembly in order to allow for speedy contracting should other projects be at risk of under spending.

Dates of meetings for 2010

The dates of the meetings to be held during 2010 are available at this meeting tonight.

6. PARTNER UPDATES

Updates were circulated to everyone present from:-
Karen Milner - 2010 Rotherham Ltd
Andy Fawdry – RMBC Streetpride.
Craig Cornwall – Rotherham Warden Supervisor

Copies of any of the above reports are available by contacting the Area Assembly Office on 01709 334604 or via email - wentworth.north@rotherham.gov.uk

7. PACT – Partners and Community Together

Sergeant Sarah Hoyle – South Yorkshire Police, gave a report regarding the crime statistics for the previous month, a copy of which is available by contacting the Area Assembly Office on 01709 334604 or via email - wentworth.north@rotherham.gov.uk

Sergeant Hoyle then explained to everyone what a PACT is and then went on to discuss the PACT priority areas.

The PACT is part of the National Policing Pledge, full details of which can be found on the South Yorkshire Police Website. Under this pledge South Yorkshire Police commit to holding monthly meetings in the community, six of which will form part of the Wentworth North Area Assembly meeting, and a further six will be identified using the opportunities provided by other community fora. Thereby identifying a number of short term priority areas which will be subject to a 60 minute response time. Meetings will be advertised on the Safer Neighbourhood Website.

These are small local priority areas and are not the same as Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) priorities.

Last month's identified priorities were:-

- 1. Montgomery Square, Wath**
- 2. Denman Road, Wath**
- 3. Fitzwilliam Street/Highfield Court, Swinton**

Sergeant Hoyle asked the meeting if priority areas 2 and 3 could be signed off, but keeping an eye on the priority 3 area, keeping priority area 1 on for a further month.

Agreed

A full update of the pact priority areas can be found on the South Yorkshire Police website @ www.southyorks.police.uk or by contacting the Wentworth North Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01709 832485.

Marc Hill – RMBC Traffic Liaison Officer, informed the meeting any misunderstanding as to what the road signs in Montgomery Square meant has now been cleared up. All signage will be improved and made easy to understand.

A brief discussion followed to identify new priority areas, and the following areas were agreed.

This month's identified priorities are:-

- 1. Montgomery Square, Wath**
- 2. Canal Bridge Area, Swinton**
- 3. Masefield Road, West Melton**

There were no further discussions and Sergeant Hoyle informed the meeting that she would give the next PACT update on Tuesday 8th December 2009, 7.00pm at the St James Rooms, Wath upon Dearne.

Councillor Atkin thanked Sergeant Hoyle for her report.

PC Dawn Murry then addressed the meeting, stating that one issue she had picked up on recently was "Who is at your Door?"

This is an initiative to combat bogus callers, if you see anything or anyone acting suspiciously then please complete a door step check list which is available at this meeting. If you smell a rat, fill in the form.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was requested that an update be given at the next meeting regarding grass and hedge cutting.

Action - Councillor Atkin stated that the contract will shortly be coming back to RMBC, and he would have more information at the next meeting.

It was also requested that an update/progress report be given regarding the new developments in Manvers.

Agreed – that the Area Assembly would try and get representatives to attend the January 2010 Meeting.

A local resident requested that a copy of the Policing Pledge be made available at future meetings.

Sgt Hoyle assured the meeting that she would bring copies to the next meeting. They are also available on both the South Yorkshire Police Website and the Wentworth North Area Assembly Website.

A local resident stated that during the three years that Matt Jukes has been in post, he has raised a lot of money for Bluebell Wood.

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th January 2010, 7.00pm @ Wath Community Library