

Area Assembly Minutes for 11 September 2008

Meeting Group: **Wentworth Valley Area Assembly**
Meeting Date: **Thursday 11th September 2008**
Meeting Time: **4.00 pm**
Meeting Venue: **Bramley St. Francis Church Hall**

Chair: **Cllr. Peter Thirlwall**

Present:

Darren Smithson	-	Wentworth Valley Area Assembly Partnership Manager
Cllr. Peter Thirlwall	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Wickersley Ward 20
Cllr. Martyn Parker	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Wickersley Ward 20
Cllr. Chris MacMahon	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Wickersley Ward 20
Cllr. John Turner	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Hellaby Ward 5
Sam Rowley	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Streetpride
Paul Atkinson	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Warden
T. Greaves	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Warden
C. Hart	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Neighbourhood Investment
Vera Trimmer	-	Rotherham Advertiser (Bramley District Correspondent)
Lynne Rowan	-	2010
R. Scholey	-	South Yorkshire Police
Alice Rodgers	-	Maltby Local History Society
Kevin Hall	-	Maltby News
David Guest	-	Wickersley Resident
Brenda Abou El Ola	-	Friends of Little London
P. Stirling	-	Bramley Resident
J.W. Gunn	-	Wickersley Allotments
Sue Ellis	-	Wickersley
Donald Buxton	-	Wickersley
R. Foulds	-	Bramley Action Group
Dennis Hardwick	-	Bramley Business Resident
Leslie Carr	-	Bramley Business
Neil Fulcher	-	Chair of Bramley Parish Council
Ted Kelsey	-	Bramley Parish Council
Jim Moore	-	Bramley Parish Council
M Brown and E. Brown	-	Bramley Residents
W. Lidster	-	Bramley Resident
Keith Burrell	-	Bramley Resident
Glynn Eyre	-	Resident
G. Beckett	-	representing E.H. Beckett

Apologies were received from Janice Curran, Cllr. Amy Rushforth, Andy Wright, Shaz Maxwell, Pat Drake, Kerry Epton, Graham Sinclair, Pam Horner, Peter Scholey, Mike Brown, Alan Tyler

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
Councillor Peter Thirlwall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor MacMahon as the new Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Councillor for Wickersley.	
2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising	
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record, with the following points.	
After a complaint was made regarding the usage of acronyms in minutes, it was agreed that for a trial period the next minutes would have all names used in full the first time and thereafter an acronym.	

Page 2

Councillor Thirlwall tried to take the Bramley Task & Finish Group Traffic Report to Cabinet. He went to the meeting and asked if the chair of the Task & Finish Group could bring the traffic report via Area Chairs and onto the Cabinet. However the Area Chairs did not want to listen to this suggestion. Councillor Thirlwall thought it would be a good idea if Councillor Akhtar had an invite to the next Area Assembly Meeting so that he could suggest a method of getting the traffic report to the Cabinet.

Everyone present at the Area Assembly Meeting was all in favour of inviting Councillor Akhtar.

David Guest asked Darren Smithson if the website training was complete as the website is still not up to date.

Darren Smithson replied that the first part of the training programme has started, however the second stage of the training for more complicated tasks is still to take place. Once all training is completed it is hoped to hold a website meeting once a fortnight to discuss items to be included on the site.

David Guest was also concerned that the previous Area Assembly Meeting Minutes had not yet been published on the website.

Councillor Thirlwall explained that they were not published until they had been ratified at this meeting.

David Guest asked if the Co-ordinator Minutes could also be published.

Darren Smithson replied that this will be looked at.

Don Buxton wanted to know if the minutes could be published in draft form on the website before they were ratified.

At the next Co-ordinator's Meeting it will be discussed when is the best time for Area Assembly minutes to be published on the website.

Page 5

Councillor Thirlwall thanked the Area Assembly Meeting for all their support in trying to thwart his removal as Chair of the Area Assembly; an article had also appeared in the Star, Maltby News and the Bramley Advertiser.

Darren Smithson also sent letters of support for Councillor Thirlwall to Councillors Roger Stone, Mike Cuff and Tim Mumford. He has received an acknowledgement from the Chief Executive Councillor Mike Cuff.

Councillor Thirlwall went on to say that he thinks this will be his last Area Assembly meeting, as the next Council Meeting will take place on 8 October and this is the meeting where he believes he will be removed as Chair.

Don Buxton thought that this would be a tragedy for the Area Assembly, Wentworth Valley and especially Bramley Village, after the way he has looked after the residents.

A member of public thought Councillor Thirlwall should continue as Chair, as the Area Assembly was a public meeting and therefore it should be the public who decide who is going to be their Chair and not the Council.

Alice Rodgers asked why a Borough Council member needed to be a Chair and suggested that a Parish Council member be considered

Councillor Thirlwall went on to explain that the position is appointed each year in May, and is not usually removed during the year only under exceptional circumstances. He went on to say that "I appreciate your views, I will inform them of the wishes of the community, but it won't change the constitution."

Don Buxton thanked Councillor Thirlwall for chairing the meetings and supporting the community and went on to ask Councillor McMahon if he will support Councillor Thirlwall.

Councillor McMahon replied that the constitution is that the Council appoint, but he said that he would support Councillor Thirlwall.

Don Buxton asked if Councillor McMahon could decline the position leaving it for you (Councillor Thirlwall) to continue.

Councillor Thirlwall declined to answer.

3. **Bramley Traffic Scheme – alternative idea prior to consultation**

Councillor Thirlwall said a meeting had taken place between himself, the Chief Executive, Councillor Martin, Councillor Smith and Karl Battersby. Four alternative traffic schemes had been put forward. Three of these were hopeless as they would not have worked, however the fourth suggestion Option D although not perfect was the best idea as it could be workable with a few modifications but would need police approval before any work could take place.

Councillor Thirlwall said he would have to describe Option D as he was not allowed to have the report; this was to stop the press getting hold of it and making it public before approval had been granted.

Option D

- a) Turn Main Street back into 2 way
- b) No left turn to be allowed from Cross Street on to Main Street
- c) Remove cycle lane
- d) Remove both of the roundabouts at each end of Main Street

With this scheme the people from Bramley Grange Estate will be able to access both the A631 and also turn right to go to Ravenfield.

The scheme will be taken to delegated powers on the 29th September and to Councillor Smith for permission for consultation when either the existing scheme will remain in place or Option D will be chosen.

Councillor Thirlwall thought Option D was better than the existing scheme subject to modifications.

A member of public commented that this as by passed the community and even a drawing has not been seen.

In reply Councillor Thirlwall said he had asked for them to send a Traffic Engineer to the Area Assembly meeting but they refused saying there was too much work to do on it at present.

David Guest asked for an Extraordinary Meeting to be called and invite Mike Cuff and any other Councillors who are involved with the scheme.

Councillor Thirlwall replied that there would not be enough time to organise this as the consultation is due to take place on 29 September.

A Member of Public said that if Option D did not get Police approval it would be a no goer before it even gets started.

Councillor Thirlwall remarked that the Police did do a Safety Audit on the current scheme and it had proved no safer than the previous scheme. Councillor Thirlwall asked Inspector Scholey to make it clear to the Police that the wishes of the Community are very strong on this matter.

Councillor Turner pointed out that since the scheme was implemented the traffic has intensified and it is very dangerous to turn right on to A631 and whatever modifications are made they should be on a temporary basis.

Councillor Thirlwall said it would not be possible for the modifications to be temporary, as he had already asked that the "no left turn on Cross Street" be on a trial period but this was declined.

Councillor Thirlwall said that Church Lane would act as a bypass for people not wanting to drive through the village. There are problems with HGV's travelling towards the M18 along the Main Street but this problem could be alleviated by placing a sign outside Spar stating HGV's turn right.

Alice Rodgers suggested having a consultant to do a computer programme model of Option D, similar to the one that was done for Maltby High Street.

Councillor Thirlwall said this had already been done once and therefore would not be repeated.

Sue Ellis proposed reconstituting the Bramley Task & Finish Group, this was seconded by David Lidster and everyone was in favour.

Councillor Thirlwall asked Kathryn Royston to type up the minutes as soon as possible in order that he can send them to the Engineers. He then asked everyone present what they would like to see included in the scheme before it went to delegated powers on the 29 September.

Parking outside the parade of shops reinstated.

Environmental improvements and aesthetics of the village

Parking and loading facilities outside the shops (lack of these were causing a dying village)

Flashing neon signs to ensure that HGV's turn right, as there are too many and they are causing structural damage to properties on Main Street.

The kerbs at the bottom of Church Lane need dropping and retain the existing zebra crossing to make better access to the shops especially for young people and the elderly.

Implement a 20mph speed limit through the village centre. Inspector Scholey pointed out that unless a 20mph speed limit is used in conjunction with traffic calming measures it has been proven to be ineffective and as a result would be unlikely to be approved. Councillor Thirlwall thought that just a flashing speed sign would work as a reminder.

There is difficulty trying to exit from Ranworth Road especially in the morning as traffic is travelling too fast. Also there is no footpath on one side of the road making it very dangerous for pedestrians.

A member of public pointed out that many HGV's have out of date Sat Nav systems and are turning into Howard Road by mistake and then struggling to exit.

Councillor Turner commented on the difficulty of the parking places on Cross Street and thought that they should be perpendicular to the kerb as he was struggling to drive into them.

Councillor Thirlwall pointed out that he was not supposed to drive forward into them, but drive past and reverse in.

A member of public thought that the crossroads on the A631 needed sorting and possibly a large roundabout may be a good solution to the problem or even a right handed filter light from Cross Street.

Councillor Thirlwall said he would put this idea forward.

A member of public thought that there may be less traffic on the A631 junction if Bramley Grange Estate were not forced to use it.

A summation of all the comments made is as follows:-

- a) To re-instate the parking outside the parade of shops, to replace the lost parking on Main Street.
- b) To incorporate substantial environmental improvements to the street scene.
- c) To install a sign on Main Street instructing HGV's to turn right onto Cross Street when heading along Main Street in a South/Easterly direction
- d) To install a flashing speed check sign outside the church on Main Street for traffic heading in a South/Easterly direction.
- e) To consider imposing a 20mph speed restriction in the village centre.
- f) To try their very best to include some loading and parking provisions on the proposed two way section of Main Street even if this provision is time limited.
- g) Consider the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Church Lane with dropped kerbs.
- h) Provide turn right only filters at the traffic lights for traffic turning onto the A631 from Cross Street and Flash Lane.

4. Other Local Traffic Issues

David Guest told the meeting that the Bramley Traffic issue is having a knock on effect in

Wickersley as the area is experiencing a significant increase in traffic, particularly on Northfield Lane this is largely due to Plane Drive being closed off to “Right Turners” Dalton Lane is also very hazardous because HGV’s are using this narrow winding road. In general the area is having problems with large volumes of speeding traffic and poor signage.

Councillor Thirlwall replied that an HGV sign at Fleming Way as been requested in order to stop HGV’s accessing Dalton Lane. He then asked Inspector Scholey if spot checks could be carried out on Dalton Lane, Inspector Scholey replied that this may be difficult as the speed as to reach a certain threshold, however they will action it for HGV’s on Dalton Lane and also co-ordinate checks on Main Street, Bramley from time to time.

Alice Rodgers said that Maltby had an urgent traffic issue created by the opening on Monday 15 September of the new Joint Service Centre and that no one had been told that the access had been altered from Manor Road to Braithwell Road. She also complained about cars skidding on the loose chippings on Braithwell Road.

Darren Smithson said he would send an email to find out the answer.

Sam Rowley added that the loose chippings on Braithwell Road were a redressing, as the work had been done 2 years ago but was not done correctly. She said that she would address this issue the next day.

A member of public commented on the lack of liaison with the community and said it needs to be better in future.

5. Any other business

Councillor Thirlwall reminded everyone at the meeting that on all future agendas there will be an item of “themed item for next meeting”.

A member of public suggested as traffic was used as a theme for this meeting it would have been a good idea to invite Highway Engineers.

Councillor Thirlwall said he had asked them but they had refused.

Member of public said that they could have at least come and listened to our ideas.

It was suggested that “Democracy in the Community” would be a good theme for the next meeting.

Councillor Thirlwall asked if we can make this the theme for the Wickersley Meeting in January, as the theme needs to fit the area. The next meeting is in Maltby and therefore a theme for Maltby is required.

Alice Rodgers suggested a linked theme Any issues with the Joint Service Centre and The Emergency Plan for Maltby.

In reply Councillor McMahon pointed out that Parish Council minutes had been sent out today which included the Emergency Plan.

Lynne Rowan had a copy of the 2010 reports which she explained to the attendees. Copies were made available.

	<p>Darren Smithson made available copies of the summary of the Area Plan Document.</p> <p>The Service Directory will be available on the website, please let the Area Assembly know if there is any updates or corrections, so the directory can be kept as up to date as possible.</p>	
	<p>Cllr. Peter Thirlwall thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 6th November 2008 at 4pm.</p> <p>Edward Dunn Memorial Hall, Maltby</p>	