

**Rotherham North Area Assembly**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008**  
**6:00pm Town Hall, Rotherham**

Present:

Cllr Lindsay Johnston (Chair)	RMBC Elected Member (Wingfield)
Cllr Terry Sharman	RMBC Elected Member (Wingfield)
Cllr Barry Kaye	RMBC Elected Member (Keppel)
Cllr Sheila Walker	RMBC Elected Member (Keppel)
Cllr Colin Barron	RMBC Elected Member (Keppel)
Cllr Jahangir Akhtar	RMBC Elected Member (Rotherham West)
Cllr Gerald Smith	RMBC Elected Member
Sgt Richard Collingwood	South Yorkshire Police
Tom Kelly	RMBC Director of Inclusion Voice and Influence
Phil Rogers	RMBC Director of Culture and Leisure
Steve Hallsworth	RMBC Leisure & Green Spaces
Charles Hammersley	RMBC Project Officer
Katharine Boyes	RMBC Townscapes Heritage Initiative Project Officer
Helen Leigh	Henley Community Group
Alan Ramsden	Millmoor Juniors
Ian Jones	Richmond Park TARA
Mary Jacques	Blackburn Partnership
Ray Davies	Resident
Trevor Lilley	Resident
Brian Beeley	Friends of Barkers Park
Caroline Boyle	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Tanya Stanley	RMBC Area Partnership Manager
Pat Michael	RMBC Community Involvement Officer
Helen Banerjee (Minutes)	RMBC Community Support Officer

Apologies: Cllr Keith Goulty, Haji Abdul Rehman

**1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

**2. Herringthorpe Leisure Site Proposals Presentation**  
**Steve Hallsworth & Phil Rogers**

The key points of the presentation were:

- Herringthorpe Leisure Centre will be closing in the autumn but the stadium and playing fields will remain in operation.
- There are proposals to use the land where the leisure centre is currently placed and where the pavilion is placed for development which will generate funds for improvements to be made to the playing fields and stadiums.
- Proposed improvements include better drainage and maintenance for the playing fields, new pitches and a new grandstand which will provide seating, storage and changing facilities.

- The benefits are improving the surrounding area as a whole, provision of first class outdoor facilities and new community facilities.
- Consultation is being carried out with Area Assemblies, sports clubs/groups, local Schools, Hospice and leaflets are being sent out to local residents.

Cllr Barry Kaye asked if there were any timescales available. Steve confirmed that a report will be sent to Cabinet in May and further detailed work may be requested as a result of this. He predicted a decision would not be made before Christmas 2008.

Cllr Colin Barron asked how many 5 a side pitches would be on the site. Steve responded that this will be decided at a later date following the consultation.

Brian Beeley asked if this idea was going to be continued at other sites across the Borough. Steve confirmed that this is part of the Playing Pitch Strategy and other sites will be improved in the future. Phil Rogers added that outdoor facilities were being brought in line with indoor facilities at 5 key sites and they are working closely with the Football Associations. There will also be 28 improved play areas across the Borough.

Cllr Jahangir Akhtar asked the minutes to record that the consultation and improvements to Herringthorpe and the wider improvements were welcomed.

Cllr Lindsay Johnston thanked Steve Hallsworth and Phil Rogers for the presentation. If anyone would like a full copy of the presentation, please contact the Rotherham North Area Assembly office on 01709 336951.

### **3. Public Realm Strategy**

#### **Charles Hammersley and Katharine Boys**

The key points of the presentation were:

- A masterplan was created a few years ago and a strategy is now being produced by Gillespies to provide the best in architecture, urban design and public spaces.
- A consultation event was held in All Saints Square in September 2007 and the formal consultation period is 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008.
- Issues identified by Gillespies have included the dated road infrastructure, loss of town centre retailers and the buildings not facing the river.
- Opportunities for improvement include quality buildings and views, current development initiatives and feature lighting effects e.g. lighting the weir at Tesco's.
- Improvements are planned for Westgate, Minster Yard and High Street.
- An interim planning statement will be produced in autumn 2008.

Cllr Barry Kaye asked how meaningful the consultation would be if people have not seen examples in other towns/cities. He also asked if the river was going to be cleaned as there is a lot of debris and pollution in it. Charles responded that there are a number of examples of other schemes from throughout Europe within the full document which people can look at. Charles also confirmed that river cleansing is the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

Cllr Colin Barron asked if access was going to be improved e.g. taxi ranks and bus station. Charles confirmed that several proposals had been submitted for the bus station however he did not have any information regarding taxi ranks.

Cllr Sheila Walker asked if the character of the town would be retained. Charles confirmed that buildings would be improved in line with the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Cllr Terry Sharman asked how new public spaces would be policed. Charles confirmed that this issue will be addressed and a working group has been established to focus on this.

Cllr Lindsay Johnston thanked Steve Hallsworth and Phil Rogers for the presentation. If anyone would like a full copy of the presentation, please contact the Rotherham North Area Assembly office on 01709 336951.

#### **4. Street Surgeries and Traffic Meeting**

##### **Tanya Stanley**

##### **4.1 Street Surgeries**

These will be held in each of the priority areas:

- Meadowbank – 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Kimberworth (Fellowsfield Way) – TBC June
- Kimberworth (St.John's Green) – TBC July
- Thorpe Hesley – Part of the Thorpe Hesley Gala 12<sup>th</sup> July

Partners will be attending with information and hopefully the Fire Service will be able to provide some activities for young people. Crime Surveys have been produced by the Area Assembly Team and these will be completed by members of the public at each event. Publicity for the Street Surgeries will be done.

##### **4.2 Traffic Meeting**

A meeting has been held but some residents were unable to attend. There were concerns about parking at Thornhill Primary and Meadowview Primary. Tanya will ask PCSO's to patrol these areas around school time and also look into requesting School Keep Clear signs painting on the road. Consultation has begun around the installation of a zebra crossing at Winterhill School and a speed survey will be carried out to see if traffic calming measures are required. Some people had requested double yellow lines on Clough Road and Roger Street however residents need to be able to park outside their homes.

Cllr Jahangir Akhtar stated that the issue has been raised by residents and there are only issues for 10/15 minutes at the start and end of the school day however there is no room for a car park.

Cllr Terry Sharman stated that the zebra crossing outside Winterhill School needs to be placed near to the shops otherwise it will not be used. Cllr Sheila Walker confirmed that there has been a delay as the bus stop is being moved.

Tom Kelly informed the meeting that there has been a fatality on a road outside a school in Rotherham since the last meeting. Transport Plans for most schools have been completed however Meadowview Primary is outstanding.

Cllr Barry Kaye confirmed that residents living near Thorpe Hesley J&I cannot get in or out of their drives for 15/20 minutes every day. Travel plans need to be implemented for them to work efficiently.

**Action: Tom to discuss parents parking with the schools.**

**Action: Tanya to ask PCSO's to patrol near Thornhill Primary and Meadowview Primary around school time.**

Brian Beeley asked who was responsible for the state of the roads. Cllr Sheila Walker confirmed that the finance for highways had been reduced by the Government and roads are repaired in priority order however emergency repairs will be done.

## **5. Questions from members of the public**

Cllr Barry Kaye asked when the requests for the Streetpride Devolved Budget would be needed. Cllr Lindsay Johnston confirmed this would be after elections. Mick Greenwood added that projects can be submitted now but the amount has not yet been confirmed. Proposals can be sent to Rotherham North Area Assembly Team or you can discuss this further with them by contacting 01709 336951.

Brian Beeley raised an issue with the Playing Pitch Strategy for Rotherham North. Cllr Lindsay Johnston confirmed that this document was produced by Sports Development and covers the whole of the Borough. For further information contact Chris Sidall on 01709 382121.

Cllr Lindsay Johnston informed the meeting that a letter has been received from Sheffield City Council Environment and Leisure regarding consultation on flood management at the Blackburn Meadows site. The information is available on the Sheffield City Council website and comments can be added there. Cllr Jahangir Akhtar informed the meeting that he had been invited to a consultation event in Sheffield and had requested consultation be carried out in the area but has not received a response. He requested a copy of the letter.

**Action: Rotherham North Area Assembly Team to provide Cllr Akhtar with a copy of the letter from Sheffield City Council.**

**Date and time of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008, 6:00pm  
Rotherham Town Hall**