

Rother Valley South Area Assembly Meeting
3rd December 2007, 10:00am
Anston Parish Hall

Present;

Cllr Jenny Whysall (Chair)	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Jane Havenhand	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Robin Stonebridge	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Iain St.John	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Phil Wardle	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Jacquie Falvey	RMBC Elected Member
Insp. Richard Scholey	South Yorkshire Police
Rebecca Atchinson	Rotherham PCT
Stuart Savage	RMBC Transport and Planning
Andrew Lee	RMBC Transport and Planning
Phil Harris	RMBC Environmental Control Officer
Owen Swift	RMBC Sports Development
Garry Kemp	RMBC Streetpride
Brian Cottam	Dinnington St.Johns Town Council
Pauline Davies	Dinnington St.Johns Town Council
Annie Parker	Dinnington St.Johns Town Council
Trevor Stanway	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council
Clive Pantry	Todwick Parish Council
Rita Alderton	Anston Parish Council
Sue Thomson	Anston Parish Council
Ian Lloyd	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
Mike Eggerton	Firbeck Parish Council
Pete Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Cllr Malcolm Hindley	Thurcroft Parish Council
Wayne Henshaw	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Lynne Rowan	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Helen Parnham	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Graham Bell	Laughton Common TARA
Peter Lee	St.Joseph's Court TARA
Roy Mugglestone	High Nook TARA
Brian Roe	Howard Street TARA
Colin Savage	Resident
Beryl Howarth	Resident
Darren Hughes	Resident
Mrs Watson	Resident
Barbara Turner	Resident
Nosober Latif	RMBC Area Partnership Manager
Andrea Mason	RMBC Community Planning Officer
Helen Banerjee (minutes)	RMBC Community Support Officer

Many thanks to Anston Brook Primary School Choir who sang a variety of songs including Christmas Carols as people arrived for the meeting.

1. Apologies;

Alan Vickers, Keith Ayling, Julie Wilkinson, Rachel Clarke, Debbie Brashaw, Paul Blackwell, Cheryl Cocking, Margaret Marshall, Audrey Gilbert, Gill Shaw, Monica Carroll, Felicity Roe, Derek Harrison

2. Minutes of 06/08/07;

The minutes were passed and agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising;

Beryl Howarth pointed out that she was present at the last meeting in October.

Action: Amend the October minutes accordingly.

Rebecca Atchinson informed the meeting that the Patient Liaison Group have had one meeting and the group is made up of residents, Parish Cllrs and Ward Cllrs. The date of the next meeting is to be arranged.

Rebecca also informed the meeting that she has spoken to the Practice Manager at Dinnington Surgery regarding the issues with repeat prescriptions. He confirmed that this was due to staff leave and sickness.

Action: ALL to inform Rebecca Atchinson of any further problems.

Stuart Savage informed the meeting that they have observed the junction of Leopold Street in Dinnington and have not yet seen anyone turning right however they will continue to monitor this.

Stuart confirmed that a speed activated sign has been approved for Laughton Common and will be placed outside The Gallows pub. They are currently carrying out consultation, this will be followed by the presentation of a report to the Cabinet Member for final approval. Malcolm Hindley informed the meeting that there have been 2 more accidents and as there will be a Co-op and 32 flats built in the area they would like a pedestrian crossing. Cllr Wardle suggested the speed activated sign be placed before the bridge and confirmed that the planning consent for the Co-op had been granted last week with no conditions regarding section 106 monies.

Stuart informed the meeting that a speed survey will be carried out on Penny Piece Lane and Insp. Scholey confirmed that he has passed the issue onto the Road Policing Group to look into weight limits and speeding.

Nosober Latif informed the meeting that a representative from the Planning Section had attended the last Co-ordinating Group Meeting. RMBC have not taken as much advantage of section 106 as they could have however this is now being addressed. Where there is 50 or more properties section 106 is considered, for example, the planned play area in Laughton Common will be funded from Section 106 monies.

Stuart informed the meeting that there are plans to update the speed activated signs on Swinston Hill. This will be discussed with the Parish Council and consultation will be carried out in due course.

Stuart has made a request to Safer Rotherham Partnership for the location of the speed camera to be varied.

Cllr Whysall informed the meeting that that the criteria for placing a pedestrian crossing is based on the number of vehicles and the number of pedestrians. Wales primary is not considered suitable due to the low number of people crossing out of school hours. The criteria is set by the Government and a special case would need to be presented if the criteria is not met but other issues need to be taken into account. Cllr St.John informed the meeting that there have been issues in the past with motorists getting used to crossings not being used and therefore speed bumps are preferable. Malcolm Hindley informed the meeting that Laughton Common doesn't qualify as there are not enough pedestrians but this is due to people being too afraid to cross the road with young children. Cllr Stonebridge pointed out that this is an area wide issue and Woodsetts is affected by heavy traffic when there are problems on the A57.

Rita Alderton suggested the use of rumble strips however Stuart confirmed that these cannot be placed too near to houses due to the noise.

Pete Blanksby informed the meeting that a car had not stopped at Kiveton School crossing and he had passed the registration number to the police.

Action: RVS Area Assembly to set up a working group to look into all these issues.

Stuart informed the meeting that residential parking controls were currently being reviewed and the town centre and Eastwood have been prioritised. Residents only parking will be introduced on an area basis and Barleycroft Lane is on the list.

Nosober Latif informed the meeting that Keith Ayling has now received a response from RMBC.

Cllr Whysall informed the meeting that there are borough wide issues with recruiting school crossing patrols. Wales Primary are having particular problems because it is considered a dangerous road and a crossing patrol has been hit by a car before.

Action: The working group to look into this issue.

Garry Kemp informed the meeting that the issue with the street lights on Rockfield Drive and Scholey Avenue at Woodsetts is a YEB fault and they are looking into it. Cllr Stonebridge pointed out that it is usually a YEB fault and suggested that we look at their performance targets.

Action: Cllr Stonebridge to look into YEB performance targets.

Colin savage asked what duties PCSO's could undertake. Insp. Scholey responded that they have an ever growing list of duties. They can detain people, issue fines and acceptable behaviour contracts and provide high visibility patrols throughout the area.

Action: Insp. Scholey to provide a report that lists PCSO duties.

Graham Bell confirmed that there is now a bus service running to Doncaster through Laughton Common and requested we write to SYPTE to thank them.

Action: RVS Area Assembly to write to SYPTE to thank them for this service.

4. Feedback from the Chair

The Co-ordinating Group met on 5th November and the following issues were discussed:

- The Co-ordinating Group agreed that the Area Assembly should focus on getting more people with disabilities involved in the process and agreed to undertake awareness training which will take place in the New Year;
- The group also received a presentation from 2010 highlighting the changes that were made to the service in October 2007;
- The findings from the recent Area Plan consultation that was carried out by the Area Assembly Team were presented;
- The Co-ordinating Group received 2 reports from the Planning Department which were linked to area plan actions for the current year, the first was regarding a Rother Valley South Design Statement and the second focused on environmental improvements linked to planning applications, including the influence the Council has over developers and the opportunity to use Section 106 to provide further facilities;
- The group received feedback from the consultation carried out over the summer on Access to Health Provision.

Copies of both planning reports are available from RVS Area Assembly, by request.

The Young Peoples Task Group meets monthly, current activities include:

- Monitoring of the NRF projects;
- Developing and reviewing a programme of activity during Local Democracy Week, the group planned a Take your Cllr to School day, a visit to the Houses of Parliament and a Young People's Question Time Event.

Progress on the Neighbourhood Action Group priorities;

- Scarsdale Street, Leicester Road and surrounding streets – This area continues to be a hotspot area for crime and anti-social behaviour. Housing Market Renewal are currently developing plans for Alleygating and environmental improvements. The local SNT provide regular patrols in the area. A letter has also been distributed to all households

in the area notifying them of the contact details of the agencies operating in the area.

- Laughton Road, Dinnington – The Dispersal Order will end on the 10 December. The order has had an impact on the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area however we are aware that in some cases problems have moved else where. Crime and anti-social behaviour has reduced on a Monday night in particular this is due to the Youth Café which opens at this time.
- Kiveton Park – Youth nuisance is still a problem around the railway station and the Co-op. The SNT are carrying out operations in the area including increasing patrols during peak times for incidents.
- Parking issues outside Wales Primary – Consultation is currently underway to implement a range of measures. We are still hoping to have the traffic calming measures in place by the end of March 2008.
- Main Street, North Anston – The NAG is also progressing a number of concerns raised by residents around the Main Street area, this includes youth nuisance, speeding traffic and the lack of a footpath.
- Laughton Common – This continues to be a hotspot area. A mobile CCTV camera has been placed in the area. The Young People's Task Group have also agreed to support youth outreach work in the area.

The current edition of the RVS Area Assembly newsletter is now available. The Area Assembly will also be launching its own website in the New Year, this will provide details of all meetings, minutes, good news stories etc. We will provide you with further details at the next Area Assembly meeting.

The temporary Youth Shelter was moved from Nursery Road in October. The Youth Shelter project group met to consider feedback received on the impact and use of the shelter. All feedback was positive and the group agreed that funding for a permanent shelter should be sought.

Brian Cottam asked if the Dispersal Order will be extended. Insp. Scholey confirmed that this will not be extended but they are currently looking at other options. There have been reports of youths being displaced to Laughton Common however the majority of youths are actually travelling from Thurcroft. The police are liaising with SYPTE regarding youths travelling into the area at night. There has been an increase in incidents in Dinnington recently, it has been difficult to find the resources to police the Dispersal order.

Malcolm Hindley informed the meeting that underage drinking is the biggest issue in Laughton Common and the worst time is between 1am and 3am. One resident counted 43 youths at midnight and when the police were called it was a young female police officer that was sent. Insp. Scholey informed the meeting that it would be response teams answering calls at that time of night and resources are particularly stretched around that time due to the number of people in the town centre. The calls will also be prioritised and youth nuisance would be lower priority than some other issues such as burglary. Cllr Whysall pointed out that it is also the responsibility of the parents. Insp. Scholey added that extra patrols have been made at night and the Safer Neighbourhood Team are doing the best they can with the resources they have. The issues are also being discussed at the Neighbourhood Action Group and the Young

People's Task Group. Nosober Latif urged residents to keep reporting incidents to the police.

Graham Bell informed the meeting that the lighting is poor in Laughton Common and it would be beneficial if this was upgraded.

Malcolm Hindley informed the meeting that residents have seen young people aged 14 buying Vodka from the local garage but they are afraid to report it.

Action: Insp. Scholey to look into the sale of alcohol at the garage in Laughton Common.

5. Health Services in the Rother Valley South area

Cllr Stonebridge informed the meeting that a senior member of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) was expected at the meeting to discuss health issues in the area however no representative had turned up.

Cllr Stonebridge presented the following information:

The PCT are responsible for commissioning health services in Rotherham and GP's, Dentists and Pharmacists are all contracted to the PCT. They also have contracts with local hospitals who are the main providers of secondary care. National priorities are set out by the Department of Health and local priorities are set out through agreement with the Local Strategic Partnership.

The budget in Rotherham is £250million per year however half of this is spent on medication and 10% of medication is not taken or courses of medication are not completed. Lifestyle issues can also contribute to healthcare needs of an area and there is currently a national issue with obesity.

Life expectancy in Rother Valley South has risen by 2 years however there is a national problem between affluent and deprived areas and this can affect life expectancy.

Health in general needs to be improved and it is not just the responsibility of the PCT. People also need access to exercise and a good diet.

A resident asked if there were any updates from the South Anston surgery as people are being told they must use North Anston. Rebecca Atchinson responded that the Patient Liaison Group are looking into this issue and it will be on the agenda of their next meeting.

Action: Rebecca Atchinson to liaise with the Practise Manager to arrange a date for the next meeting of the Patient Liaison Group.

Cllr Stonebridge informed the meeting that the number of people living in South Anston is considered large enough to support 2 surgeries however GP's do not work for the NHS, they are private businesses contracted to deliver medical services and they can chose the hours which they open.

6. Open Question Time

Mike Eggerton asked why some Doctors surgeries were using 0845 numbers which are expensive. Cllr Stonebridge responded that there is a Department of Health directive which asks Doctors not to use premium rate phone numbers.

Action: Cllr Stonebridge to look into this issue.

A resident sent a question to the RVS Area Assembly team by e-mail explaining that she required a home visit from a Doctor recently and was very pleased that someone came to see her however she was later rushed to hospital and it is only when she arrived there that she was given a full examination. Cllr Stonebridge responded that it is difficult to comment on individual cases. GP's have approximately 5 minutes to see each patient and they have to give their clinical judgement. Rebecca also pointed out the GP's are not specialists in any area.

Cllr St.John suggested that residents speak to the Practice Manager if they are not satisfied and if this doesn't lead to anything they can make a formal complaint.

Action: RVS Area Assembly Team to respond to the residents e-mail advising them to contact the Practise Manager.

Graham Bell asked how much precept money from Thurcroft Parish Council should be spent in Loughton Common. Nosober Latif confirmed that this is worked out based on boundaries and population. She suggested Graham contact Tim Mumford at RMBC to feed his comments into the Parish review and that John Walker would be able to help with the Parish precept query. Graham responded that he has tried to ask John Walker and Tim Mumford but he is still awaiting a response.

Action: RVS Area Assembly to find out how much precept money is generated from the Loughton Common area.

Colin Savage informed the meeting that Rotherham are currently bidding for lottery funding for footpath improvements in Rother Valley South and the replacement of styles with gates to provide access to the canals and asked everyone to support the bid.

Beryl Howarth asked if residents were allowed to leave wheelie bins on the footpath as there are some residents doing this and it is causing obstruction. Insp. Scholey asked Beryl to report this to RVS Area Assembly and we will pass the information onto the Environmental Enforcement Team.

Action: Beryl Howarth to inform RVS Area Assembly of which properties are leaving bins on the pavement.

Beryl also informed the meeting that she has asked Cllr St.John to look into getting a sign on Sikes Road to inform drivers that it is a cul-de-sac.

7. Area Assembly Awards 2007

Cllr Whysall presented the following awards:

Outstanding Young Person Award 2007

Runner-up prizes were awarded to April Blackwell, for her ongoing contribution to Dinnington Youth Forum and for all the things she achieved for her own personal development during the visit to the Houses of Parliament and Local Democracy Week, and Tom Bowes for the numerous hours he has voluntarily spent coaching young people in the area, regularly giving up his own holidays.

The winner was Hannah Edebiri for her involvement in Dinnington Youth Forum and the contribution she makes to the group and on an individual basis. Hannah also helped with the organisation of the Dinnington Youth festival and was heavily involved in Local Democracy week, she was one of the young people who volunteered to take a Cllr to School. She also took part in the visit to the Houses of Parliament, where she made a positive contribution to the group.

Community Achievement Award 2007

The winner was Annie Parkes for the work she does with the Lyric Theatre Junior Players providing drama and dancing based activities once a week for young people aged 6-15 from Dinnington and the surrounding area. Annie aims to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour and tries to benefit the wider community by organising shows in local Nursing Homes and Community centres.

8. Any Other Business

Rebecca Atchinson informed the meeting about Arts Pulse which is running sessions in the area through to August 2008. The project aims to bring arts activities to the people in the south of the borough to improve health and well-being. For further information please contact Rebecca Atchinson, Andrea Mason (RVS Area Assembly) or Owen Swift (RMBC).

Date and time of next meeting

4th February 2008

2:00pm – 4:00pm, The Lyric Theatre, Dinnington