

MINUTES OF THE WENTWORTH SOUTH
AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING
Held on MONDAY 8th February 2010
At
The Bailey Suite, Bailey House.

Present

Cllr Paul Lakin (Chair)	-	Valley Ward Member
M Ardron (Minutes)	-	Wentworth South Area Assembly
V Bryan	-	Wentworth South Area Assembly
D Owens	-	Wentworth South Area Assembly
J. Colley	-	Wentworth South Area Assembly
Cllr A Russell	-	Silverwood Ward Member
Cllr P Russell	-	Silverwood Ward Member
Cllr D Pickering	-	Valley Ward Member
Cllr S Currie	-	Valley Ward Member
Cllr S Wright	-	Rawmarsh Ward Member
Cllr G Whelbourn	-	Rawmarsh Ward Member
Cllr N Hamilton	-	Rawmarsh Ward Member
M Kimber	-	RMBC Chief Executive
A Hutson	-	Streetpride
R Kearney	-	SYP
S Tattershall	-	SYP
P Brewster	-	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Alan Bamforth	-	RMBC Forward Planning
A Evans	-	Groundwork Dearne Valley
A Newton	-	RMBC project officer
L Shepherd	-	RMBC
T Richardson	-	ASBU
M Sudnikowicz	-	ASBU
J Morgan	-	Extended Roth PCT
G Holmes	-	Victim Support
A Scholes	-	Ravenfield Parish Council
V Twigg	-	Friends of Valley Park
C Shaw	-	Friends of Valley Park
L Andrews	-	Dalton Foljambe Primary
Z Rasool	-	RUCST
M Cummins	-	RUCST
Z Davies	-	Shield
G Hall	-	Habinteg Housing Association.
B Turner	-	Resident
J Turner	-	Resident
S Oxer	-	Resident
F G Eastburn	-	Resident
M Eastburn	-	Resident
S Whelan	-	Resident
C Booth	-	Resident
P Fenner	-	St Nicolas Ryecroft
J Darby	-	Resident
V Burgess	-	Ravenfield Parish Council
A Scholes	-	Ravenfield Parish Council
D J Rowley	-	Ravenfield Parish Council
W Billup	-	Resident
D Sneh	-	Resident
D Copley	-	Resident

G Thrustle	-	Resident
N Brayshaw	-	Resident
M Liversidge	-	Neighbourhood Watch
S Birkett	-	Thrybergh Neighbourhood Watch

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Lakin opened the meeting; he explained that the Town Hall was under refurbishment therefore the Bailey Suite was being used as an alternative venue for some of the Area Assembly meetings. He introduced Diane Owens; the new Area Partnership Manager for the Wentworth South Area Assembly Team.

Cllr Lakin explained that the Area Assembly Office had received a number of telephone calls from residents of Rawmarsh, who had heard rumours that plans were underway to develop a substantial gypsy/travellers site in the Warren Vale area. He understood a number of residents were attending today's Area Assembly meeting to raise their concerns regarding this. For this reason Alan Bamforth, RMBC Forward Planning Officer had been invited to attend the meeting to clarify the situation and answer any questions. Cllr Lakin proposed that this issue be dealt with first, before any other agenda items.

Alan explained that previous consultation carried out by the Forward Planning Team identified a need for around 10 to 15 pitches in Rotherham. Neighbourhood Investment Services originally considered around 2,000 potential pieces of land. However on further investigation only 3 sites in the south of the borough were deemed suitable, but there is currently no further plans to develop any these sites largely due to the lack of funding available. Alan also explained that should any such development be considered in the future, normal planning conditions would apply including consultation with local residents.

Peter Fenner asked; if there was funding available in the future, would the land at the side of Bradley Rise be considered for future development? Alan explained that the site at Bradley Rise/Warren Vale was not considered for gypsy and traveller accommodation. Peter thanked Alan and the Chair.

Alan was asked if there were any plans for development of any type at the Warren Vale site. Alan explained that the Forward Planning Team would be putting together their recommendations and plans would be available for public consultation in June/July 2010. He said the site was not currently one of the preferred sites for housing development.

Cllr Wright thanked the Area Assembly for inviting Alan to attend and answer questions, he hoped residents felt reassured that these were in fact rumours and there were no plans to develop a site at Warren Vale. Cllr Wright advised residents that if they wanted to share their concerns in the future they could do so by attending one of the Rawmarsh Ward Councillor's surgeries which take place every Saturday at 10.30am at Rawmarsh Library.

2. Devolved Budget Presentations

Vanessa Bryan, RMBC Neighbourhood Partnership Manager gave a presentation on the Wentworth South Devolved Budget, giving an overview of the amount allocated for projects and outlining the diversity of the projects being delivered.

She introduced the following partners who gave presentation on their particular projects

- Alex Evans – Groundwork Dearne Valley who received funding to carry out a number of environmental projects in the area.
- Mark Cummings – Rotherham United Community Sports Trust who received funding for their 'Play it safe" project. The project is a 26 week pilot delivered 3 times a week in hot

spot areas of Dalton and Thrybergh. It aims to reduce anti-social behaviour by using sport as a diversionary activity to engage 'hard to reach' young people and promote community safety.

- Andy Newton – RMBC Project Officer. Funding was received to restore the World War II Memorial gardens at Rawmarsh. Andy explained that as part of the restoration work, funds were being raised to relocate the memorial plaque in memory of Ian Ferguson Wilson, a young pilot from the area who died in a plane crash over Rawmarsh in March 1959.
- Rawmarsh Junior Wardens DVD– there was insufficient time to show this DVD, but attendees were given a brief overview of the project: Funding was allocated to the Rotherham Wardens to develop a junior Wardens scheme in the area, 15 young people have signed up and are undertaking an ASDAN accredited module.

Cllr Lakin explained that there had been over 50 projects funded through the Wentworth South Area Assembly Devolved Budget and these projects were being delivered by a large number of partners. He invited everyone who had received a grant to join him in a cheque presentation and photograph.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from, Cllr Stone, Mr and Mrs Broadhead, G Trickett , C Williams, V Trimmer, J Staniforth, Ms Dearden, K Reeder and N Wright.

4. Minutes from the Area Assembly meeting held on the 7th December 2010

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Updates from the last minutes

Ms Deardon reiterated her concerns regarding the lack of provision of flood defences and future planning for erosion of the riverbanks. She felt that sandbags should be stored locally in Kilnhurst for residents to access them easily in an emergency. The sandbags are currently being stored at Greasborough and Bramley depot which would be difficult to get if the roads were flooded.

David Burton – Director of Streetpride explained that sandbags had to be stored in a safe and dry place and although arrangements were currently in place he would contact Graham Kaye who could answer some of the technical questions regarding the possibility of sandbags being stored in Kilnhurst.

Action – David Burton to follow this up with Graham Kaye and contact Ms Deardon to discuss the possibility of the storage of Sandbags in Kilnhurst.

Response – pending

It was reported that at around 3pm at the same area (Former Silverwood Colliery site) a white van was arriving containing around 10 dogs, the driver was letting them all out to roam around, this was causing an issue and it was asked if anything could be done.

Matthew Finn explained, the land was privately owned and that if permission had been given from the land owner then little could be done, although fixed penalties may be issued.

Action – Matthew Finn to get someone from his team to look into this.

Response - Wardens have visited this area on four separate occasions at the time specified but there have been no sightings of this gentleman

6. Agencies Reports

Rotherham Wardens The following report was available at the meeting, During the period 01.12.2009 to 1.2.2010, Rotherham Wardens dealt with over 110 reports in the Area Assembly.

Reports of interest include:

- 20 x Fly-tipping with particular issues on Lady Oak Road
- 2x defective streetlights
- 1x graffiti on Steadlands, Rawmarsh - investigated and removed
- 5x drug litter complaints – 2x on Roundwood Grove, Rawmarsh

Anti-Social Behaviour complaints include:

- Youths throwing objects on Bridleway, Rawmarsh
- Verbal abuse on Broad Street
- Youths congregating on vulnerable tenant property creating nuisance on Evelyn Street
- Warreners Drive – Thrybergh – youths congregating creating noise nuisance
- Wheely bin set on fire on Monkwood Road
- Greenfield, Rawmarsh – elderly resident suffering from nuisance

GENERAL INFORMATION

The team undertook a week long recruitment drive for the imminent Youth Warden scheme to be run from Rosehill Park, in partnership with Rawmarsh Comprehensive and South Yorkshire Police.

Numerous coffee morning/activities were attended with elderly/vulnerable residents to give safety advice over the festive period

The team took part in two rogue trader operations in the area

And have completed dog fouling stings, including delivery of warning letters in Roundwood Grove/Ash Grove area

2010 Rotherham Ltd

The February report from 2010 Rotherham Ltd was available at the meeting. The report contained information on Estate Action Days, Estate Walkabouts, Local Community Surgeries, Area Housing Panels, a performance summary and staff contact details.

Any enquiries please contact the team of Customer Service Advisers on 0300 100 2010

7. Questions from the public

Traffic Calming on Broom Avenue /Middle Lane South

Concerns were raised again regarding speeding vehicles and dangerous driving along Middle Lane South and Broom Avenue. It was asked if this area could be reassessed and if it was possible to put a 30 miles per hour traffic sign on Middle Lane.

Action – Matthew Lowe, RMBC Traffic Management, to be invited to attend the next Area Assembly meeting to give feedback.

Action – As issues around traffic management in this area have also been raised at the Rotherham South Area Assembly, **Diane Owens** to contact them to find out if they have an update on any work that may have been carried out

Response – The Area Assembly Team have spoken with the Rotherham South Area Assembly Team and with Matthew Lowe, RMBC Traffic Management. Matthew will provide a written update on the traffic calming measures which are being implemented on Middle Lane. The Area Assembly Team will forward this information onto the resident who raised this issue – additional copies are also available, please contact the Area Assembly Team 01709 33 6772

Police Community Support Officers (PSCO's)

Can we have a list of who our PCSO's are with Photographs and contact details, and can these be sent out with the minutes?

Action – Area Assembly to work with the SNT to look into ways of producing and distributing this information.

<p>Response – The Area Assembly Team and SNT are in the process of compiling this information.</p>

2010 Rotherham Ltd

A number of questions were raised relating to the 2010 Ltd report and answered by the 2010 representative Paul Brewster. As follows:

Q. Why is there £1.2 million in rent arrears in the area?

A. Wentworth South has some of the most deprived areas in Rotherham, 2010 Ltd have a policy in place to reduce the rent arrears, ultimately tenants who do not pay their rent are taken to court, but due to the recession courts are more lenient. However RMBC do have a debt recovery system for people who can't pay, as opposed to the people who won't pay.

Q How many evictions have you carried out due to rent arrears?

A. Paul estimated around 8 to 9 this year.

Q It takes an average of 25 days to get an empty property ready to re-let, how does this compare with the national average?

A. The national average is 30 days.

The team have subsequently provided answers to the questions below, which were also raised:

Q. Do we have comparative figures from other authorities and if so how do our figures match up? (Relates to rent arrears as raised in question 1)

2010 are currently in the top quartile for rent collection, all Almo and local Authority figures are collated by the TSA (Tenants service Authority who replaced the Department of Community and Governance)

Q. Why does it take so long to get a property ready to re-let?

There can be various reasons inclusive of Decent Homes. The key reasons are usually repair based e.g. the property could need a kitchen or plaster works, the works will then have to be programmed in. There could also be major structural works required.

Q. What does LPI stand for in the report and can the information given be free from acronyms/Jargon?

LPI - Local performance indicator.

Action – Area Assembly Team to make this request to 2010 Ltd

Cllr Currie explained that he sat on the 2010 Ltd. Board and welcomed questions from the public. He said that, where relevant, he would take questions along to the meetings; anyone with any further questions could send them to the Area Assembly office who will record them, and where relevant pass them onto Cllr Currie to take to the Board meeting.

Cllr Russell explained that she was the Vice Chair of the Sustainability Scrutiny Panel, and received reports each month outlining the number of empty properties in the area. She said that Elected Members were working with 2010 Rotherham Ltd and partner agencies to look at ways to reduce the number of empty properties.

7. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) and Crime Report

Cllr Lakin handed over the meeting to Inspector Steve Tattershall, he announce that this was to be Inspector Tattershall's last meeting as he was retiring from his position with South Yorkshire Police after being the Inspector in Rawmarsh since 1998 and the Wentworth South SNA

Inspector since the inception of Neighbourhood policing in September 2005. He thanked Steve for his invaluable support and contribution to the area over the past years.

Inspector Tattershall gave the following updates

CRIME REPORT

Compared to this time last year we are seeing an 14% reduction in overall crime (380 less crimes)

- Burglary dwellings have reduced by 19% (29 less crimes)
- Burglary others have reduced by 18% (40 crimes)
- Vehicle Crime reduced by 7% (22 crimes)
- Drugs Possessions reduced by 23% (15 crimes)
- Violent Crime reduced by 20% (94 crimes)
- Criminal Damage reduced by 25% (190 crimes)

Around 2700 crimes have been committed the police have detected around 30% (800)

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Compared to this time last year ASB incidents have fallen 8% (200 incidents)

Rowdy/Nuisance behaviour fallen by 7% (240 incidents)

NEWS STORIES

- DNA was recovered from a car cleaning unit at Rawmarsh. A local man was arrested and also admitted to 5 further burglaries to sheds in the area. He was charged with the offence and is awaiting sentencing
- A Kilnhurst garage was attacked overnight and 3 Land Rovers were stolen. One was individual was identified from CCTV and another through DNA. They have both been charged with burglary.
- An East Herringthorpe man on remand and awaiting sentence has admitted 14 burglary dwellings in the East and Herringthorpe area.
- Following a burglary at Herringthorpe the police tracked footprints in the snow to an address on Laudsedale Road. A man was arrested for burglary. We also recovered a quantity of heroin from the address. He will be charged following analysis of the substance.
- Following a burglary on The Lanes at East Dene a local man was identified from CCTV evidence. He admitted the burglary, a further 14 burglaries in Herringthorpe, 2 theft from vehicles and a criminal damage. He is in prison awaiting sentence.
- A persistent offender from Herringthorpe has been arrested for theft from vehicles. He has admitted 14 offences in the Brecks/Sunnyside/Woodlathes area. He is remanded in prison.
- We have executed a couple of warrants and recovered 40 cannabis plants from an address at Kilnhurst and 20 cannabis plants from a Parkgate address. A total of 4 people have been arrested.
- The police tried to stop a vehicle on Hounsfild Rd and the driver fled on foot. We found him moments later in the front of a Ford Transit. The back was full of cannabis. The 3 occupants all from Bradford were detained.
- A Rawmarsh man arrested over the weekend breaking into a shop has been charged with that offence. He has also admitted breaking into 25 sheds and 29 vehicles.
- The SNT have completed 3 motor bike operations. 2 bikes have been seized and 13 warning notices issued since the last PACT meeting.

PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting

Inspector Tattershall gave an update on the previous PACT Priorities which were Rosehill Park including Park Grove and Schoolfield Drive, Meadow Close Dalton and Chaucer Road & Browning Road Herringthorpe.

To find out further details of all operations carried out in these areas please visit the following website;

<http://neighbourhood.southyorkshire.police.uk/rotherham/north/wentworthsouth>

NEW PACT PRIORITIES – were agreed as follows:

1. Thorogate Shops – Rawmarsh
2. Chaucer Road – Herringthorpe
3. Park Lane – Thrybergh

The next PACT meeting will be on Wednesday 17th March 2010 at Thrybergh Parish Hall at 6.30pm.

Inspector Tattershall reported that the Wentworth South SNT had won the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire award for partnership working. The award had been presented today at an event that took place at Rotherham Police Station.

Cllr Lakin closed the meeting and made everyone aware of the change of venue for the next Area Assembly Meeting, it would now be The Bailey Suite and not the High Street Centre.

Time, Date and place of next meeting

**Monday 19th April at 6pm.
The Bailey Suite, Bailey House.**