

Rotherham South Area Assembly
Held in the Town Hall Council Chamber
Tuesday 2nd February 2010

ATTENDEES:

Members

Councillors (Cllr) Dodson (Chair), McNeely (Vice Chair), Ali, Wootton, Gilding and Mannion

Officers

Shaun Mirfield	RMBC Area Assembly Team
Kay Bacon	RMBC Area Assembly Team
Lindsey Gibson	RMBC Area Assembly Team (Minutes)
Rupert Chang	South Yorkshire Police
Ady Antcliffe	RMBC Streetpride
Ayuba Lawan	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Michelle Hill	Town Centre Safety Manager
Charlotte Bailey	RMBC EDS

Public

K. Millns	Clifton Community Partnership
L. Russell	Clifton Community Partnership
M. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
M. Beedham	Clifton Community Partnership
C. Charlton	Eastwood & Springwell United
G. Holmes	Eastwood & Springwell United
F. Sultan	Eastwood & Springwell United
C. Purvis	Greystones Action Group
G. Riches	NHW
R. Duke	Streetpride Champion
L. Lindley	Streetpride Champion
D. Straw	Whiston Parish Council
E. Shaw	Whiston Parish Council
C. Booth	Resident
S. Sowden	Resident
J.S. Martin	Resident
E. Humphries	Resident
K. Harrison	Resident
B. Johnson	Resident
I. Johnson	Resident
K. Beaumont	Resident
K. Reader	Resident
M. Cooke	Resident
D. Jones	Resident
J. Whyke	Resident
N. Whyke	Resident

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced himself and colleagues.

Herringthorpe Playing Fields

Cllr Dodson informed attendees that Herringthorpe Playing Fields would not be discussed at this meeting as the Cabinet Member and relevant Officers will be at the next Area Assembly meeting to provide a full report on developments.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kirk and Hussain, Ann Carver, David Dobbs, George Skinner and Chris Eyre

3i MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2009

The minutes were approved as a true record.

The Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Ali expressed his thanks to the Chair for organising December's celebratory event. Councillor Ali said what a wonderful evening it was and that such a new and enjoyable experience should continue on an annual basis. This was echoed by the Chair, his colleagues and Area Assembly attendees.

3.ii MATTERS ARISING

a) Flood Alleviation – item 4 ii a

Following September's presentation, the Eastwood Village residents affected by the previous floods reported that, although they had a brief chat with Greg Lindley at the Water Wildlife Reserve opening, they have still not yet been contacted formally.

Action: Greg Lindley

Response .

b) Middle Lane Consultation – item 7 a

Shaun Mirfield reported that revised plans will be fed back to the community either at the end of February or at the beginning of March 2010.

c) Boston Castle Restoration – item 7 b

Elaine Humphries congratulated Boston Castle Park for their successful funding bid to Heritage Lottery. The Chair thanked the Friends of Boston Castle Park for their invaluable contribution to the success of the bid.

d) Parking on Queensway – item 6

Councillor Gilding asked for a progress report in respect of parking on Queensway. Rupert Chang and Shaun Mirfield reported that:

- Parking issues still ongoing
- Problems also on Hallam Road and in Broom
- Police still actively issuing tickets
- Partners working together with Planning & Transportation progressing as fast as possible
- Rotherham Hospital have made changes to visitors parking with 1st hour free

e) Maynard Road Play Area – item 6

Rupert Chang provided Councillor Mannion with a progress report in respect of dog attacks on Maynard Road.

Councillor Mannion also asked for a progress report in respect of Maynard Road Play Area more generally. Rupert Chang and Shaun Mirfield reported that:

- There have been no recent reports
- But SNT patrolled area last week and found a number of cans
- SNT working with a number of young people from the area

Councillor Mannion expressed his concerns over the amount of litter on the play area. It was explained that as the play area is owned by Taylor Wimpey it is their responsibility to maintain the play area. The Area Assembly team is awaiting an update from Taylor Wimpey's.

f) Speeding on Wickersley Road

Following previous questions from John Martin and Terry Walls, Shaun Mirfield reported that South Yorkshire Police ran Operation Ominous from October 2009 to January 2010 and included speeding on the A631 and Wickersley Road. As a result a number of motorists were both prosecuted and sent on speed awareness courses in relation to exceeding the 40mph limits.

4. COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTERS PRESENTATION – STEVE PARRY

Due to unforeseen circumstances Steve Parry sent his apologies to this meeting. The presentation will now take place at a future meeting.

5. PRESENTATIONS BY AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO:

i) SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE – RUPERT CHANG

The following comments & question were raised:

a) The issue of drug dealing on Eldon Road Playing Fields was raised as a concern. It was explained that South Yorkshire Police are aware of the issue and are implementing an operation in partnership with other forces.

ii) 2010 – AYUBA LAWAN

Ayuba Lawan updated attendees on the work of 2010;

- 2010 Properties
- 2010 Walkabouts
- Estate Action weeks involving all partners
- Local Community Surgeries
- Tenancy Verifications on all 2010 properties
- Weekly updates to Elected Members
- Work with Key Choices – Every applicant has a unique number attached in order to bid for a property and all applicants are vetted as part of the bidding process
- 2010 Staffing – currently operating under capacity
- Area Housing Panel

The following comments & question were raised:

a) It was asked how 2010 monitor the standard of Council Housing stock when letting properties out. It was explained that when 2010 let a property out it must be the minimal lettable standard. 2010 take photos of the property before letting it out to ensure it is in a no worse state when tenants leave. 2010 also undertake tenancy verifications every year.

b) It was asked what happens when tenants are evicted. It was explained that tenants can report themselves as homeless to RMBC and it is RMBC's responsibility to rehome homeless people.

c) It was asked if there are any controls over evicted tenants going to private landlords. It was explained that there are no controls over evicted 2010 tenants going to private landlords however SNT/RMBC now have new powers to evict private tenants if causing nuisance.

d) It was asked how an area gets a local lettings policy. It was explained that the local lettings policy is reviewed periodically.

iii) STREETPRIDE – ADY ANTCLIFFE

Ady Antcliffe updated attendees on the current situation with potholes.

- There are safety issues with footways and carriageways particularly after the recent spell of bad weather. Streetpride are prioritising the main roads.
- Potholes are being temporarily repaired before patching
- If potholes meet the criteria then work should be completed within 24 hours

The following comments & question were raised:

a) G. Riches asked if the verge opposite 6/7/8 Summerfield could be cleared. Ady explained that this work has been ordered as a Grot Spot and Streetpride will notify Mr Riches 2 days before commencement in order for the area to be cleared of cars.

Action: Ady Antcliffe

Response

This task was completed without notification of Mr.Riches – area not obstructed.

b) A comment was made about repairs on the turning circle of Flat Lane. It was explained that the wearing course warrants reconstruction and is on the list for scheme of works.

c) A comment was made about the smell of gas near within Clifton Park play area.

Action: Andy Lee

Response

There is a gas supply pipe that used to feed the café in Clifton Park up to the early 1970's. This pipe is now redundant and capped off. The pipe was uncovered during work last year and checked for leaks. It was found to be safe and was re buried. Greenspaces will inform Transco of the reported smell.

d) Clifton Community Partnership thanked Ady for the handsweep on Middle Lane however the streets were just as bad following the school lunch break.

6. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT) PRIORITIES

Rupert Chang gave a presentation on Rotherham South's PACT priorities.

North Road / Mowbray Street

- WCCTV redeployed to junction North Road / Mowbray Street
- PCSOs have started a reading group at Mowbray Gardens library
- PS3 Club being rolled out and young people with ABCs are encouraged to attend

- 3 motorcycle operations taken place
- Removal of nuisance tenant at Far Place
- Spike in burglaries before Christmas – target hardening and reassurance visits

Eldon Road / Selborne Street

- WCCTV positioned to junction Eldon Road / Hatherley Road
- 3 drugs raids with over £20k drugs recovered
- Operation targeting volume crime

Lillian Street / Warwick Street

- ABCs issued
- Multi agency action plan produced

The meeting agreed that these continue to be the PACT priorities.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) The Chair explained that due to elections, May’s Area Assembly meeting is cancelled. The Area Assembly team will instead be arranging a tour of Devolved Budget projects.

b) It was asked what the process for implementing traffic calming was and if the number and severity of accidents had any bearing.

Action: Matthew Lowe

Response

Traffic calming in the form of road humps is used where there is an injury road accident problem combined with inappropriate traffic speed. Other forms of traffic calming, such as flashing signs, changes to road markings and pinch points are used where there is an identified problems such as excessive speed or injury road accidents.

c) Elaine Humphries updated attendees on the completion of Clifton Park. Tenders are currently out to complete the work and work should hopefully start in Easter.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 2nd March 6.00pm, Bailey House – Please note new start time and venue change