

Rotherham South Area Assembly
Held at the Town Hall Council Chamber
Tuesday 3rd March 2009

Members:

Councillors Dodson (Chair), McNeely, Ali, Wootton, and Gilding.

Officers:

Shaun Mirfield	RMBC Area Assembly Team
Kay Bacon	RMBC Area Assembly Team
Lindsey Gibson	RMBC Area Assembly Team (Minutes)
Ady Antcliffe	RMBC Streetpride
Sgt Rupert Chang	Safer Neighbourhood Team
Michelle Hill	RMBC – Town Centre
Charles Hammersley	RMBC – Townscapes Heritage
Katharine Boyes	RMBC – Townscapes Heritage
David Burton	RMBC – RCP
Tim Brannen	RMBC – Archives and Leisure Studies
Asif Akram	RMBC – Culture and Leisure

Public:

M. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
A. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
M. Beadham	Clifton Community Partnership
K. Millns	Clifton Community Partnership
D. Millns	Clifton Community Partnership
J. Russell	Clifton Community Partnership
L. Russell	Clifton Community Partnership
C. Charlton	Eastwood & Springwell United
G. Holmes	Eastwood & Springwell United
B. Holt	Eastwood & Springwell United
P. O'Keeffe	HVFC
G. Riches	NHW
D. Willoughby	Rotherham South Area Housing Panel
L. Lindley	Streetpride Champion
M. Jeffs	Streetpride Champion
C. Eyre	Whiston Parish Council
G. Skinner	Whiston Parish Council
D. Straw	Whiston Parish Council
C. Purvis	Greystones Action Group
K. Cronk	Resident
F. Suttan	Resident
E. Humphries	Resident
K. Harrison	Resident
J. Jeffs	Resident
D. Waudby	Resident
M. Hoggard	Resident
K. Reeder	Resident
Mr Fawcus	Resident
N. Wright	Resident

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced himself and colleagues.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clarke and Kirk, Howard Westoby, Mrs Qureshi, J. White, John Martin, Ann Carver, Mr Chance and David Dodds.

3. ALL SAINTS MINSTER YARD PRESENTATION

Charles Hammersley and Katharine Boyes gave a presentation on the proposed All Saints Minster Yard redevelopment. The Yard will be redeveloped with floodlighting and landscaping through £0.5m of Yorkshire Forward funding. Consultation has raised issues with the proposed width of new steps. Two schemes have been developed; wide steps which would require approx 12m of boundary wall removing which have been opposed by English Heritage, and narrow steps which involve removing only a small section of boundary wall.

The Chair asked attendees for a show of hands to give an indication of support:

- 7 voted for wide steps
- 10 voted for narrow steps
- 4 voted for steps not to be altered

The Chair reiterated that the redevelopments would be subject to a majority vote of the Planning Board.

The following questions were raised:

a) A question was asked regarding the cost of electric used to floodlight the Church. It was explained that RMBC would contribute a nominal sum to the cost.

b) A question was asked regarding the main steps on Church Street. It was confirmed that the steps were closed due to Health and Safety reasons.

c) A question was asked regarding the gravestones at the front of the Minster. It was confirmed that the gravestones would not be touched.

4. BOSTON CASTLE PRESENTATION

It was announced that the former manager of Clifton Museum, Steve Blackbourn, had sadly passed away. The Chair sent condolences to his wife and family on behalf of Rotherham South Area Assembly.

Tim Brannen and Asif Akram gave a presentation on the proposed Boston Castle redevelopment. It is hoped the redevelopment will be part funded through £590,000 of Heritage Lottery Funded. So far the scheme has got through the first round and is now in the process of being worked up for the second round (by Sept 2009).

Proposed redevelopments include:

- Restoration of the 'box'
- Rescuing the interior (including new conference facilities)
- Knocking down the old toilet block
- Separating pedestrian traffic and vehicular traffic
- Putting a car park where the current Coronation Gardens are

The following questions were raised:

- a)** A question was asked regarding the start date for the project. It was explained that the start date depends on the outcome of the next round of funding.
- b)** A question was asked regarding the listed building sections. It was confirmed that none of the listed building would be removed.
- c)** A question was asked regarding floodlighting the castle. It was confirmed that this floodlighting was included in the proposal.
- d)** A question was asked regarding traffic management on Boston Castle Grove. It was explained that consultation had taken place with TRC and Safer Neighbourhoods and that a residents parking scheme was being looked into.
- e)** A question was asked regarding staffing/security of Boston Castle. It was confirmed that there is provision in the bid for a Centre Manager and whilst there will be increased security, no one will be on site 24/7.
- f)** A question was asked regarding publicising the heritage of Boston Castle. It was confirmed that a new book was being worked on over the next few months and that older books are currently on sale.
- g)** A question was asked regarding the bowling green. It was confirmed that the project does not extend to the bowling green.
- h)** Questions were asked regarding the proposed new car park. It was explained that the new car park will provide immediate access through the gates, be disabled friendly, provide parking for 1-2 coaches and reduce the traffic impact on Boston Castle Grove. They will continue to look into the best place for a car park and all proposals are subject to planning.

5i MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 08

The minutes were approved as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- Add Elaine Humphries to the list of attendees
- Add Councillor Ali to the list of apologies

5.ii MATTERS ARISING

a) Stan Crowther – item 5 ii d

The Chair confirmed that Stan Crowther will become a Freeman of Rotherham.

b) The Walk – item 5 ii c

The Chair confirmed that fencing will be re-installed at The Walk.

c) Middle Lane Review - item 5 ii a

Shaun Mirfield confirmed that the results of the counts undertaken during the review have been submitted to the Clifton Community Partnership. The intention is to present them to the Area Assembly. This will be done sometime after the event which is being held on Thursday 26 March with key stakeholders to focus on options for accident reductions measures. Mary Burgin offered to help with disseminating the outcome from this event to the wider Clifton community.

d) Badsley Moor Lane – item 6 f

Ady Antcliffe informed attendees that the work to drop the kerbs has been ordered and will be done during the week commencing 9 March. The kerbs will be dropped outside both Breathing Space entrances.

e) Funding of Area Assemblies – item 6 g

Shaun Mirfield read out a reply from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing Services explaining that the HRA budget will be set following the approval of the revenue budget by the Council. A review of the funding of Area Assemblies will be included in that process.

In terms of the wider Council budget, the Chair informed attendees that this has not yet been agreed. Shaun Mirfield said that he was trying to arrange a meeting with colleagues in Finance to discuss a possible presentation to a future Area Assembly.

Action: Area Assembly team to arrange a meeting with Finance

f) Worrygoose Lane – item 6 h

It was reported that the single yellow line was still painted on Worrygoose Lane.

Action: Area Assembly team to contact Planning and Transportation

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

STREETPRIDE

a) Potholes

Attendees informed Ady Antcliffe about a number of potholes; Moorgate Road, Milton Road, Garages at The Lanes, Newman Road, Rencliffe Avenue and Spinneyfield. Ady explained for information that the Highways Authority's Code of Practice is followed with Cat 1 potholes patched in 24 hours and Cat A potholes patched in 4 hours

Action: Ady Antcliffe to follow up

b) Badsley Street

Ady Antcliffe confirmed that the work has been ordered to resolve the bad dip and will start in the new financial year.

POLICE

c) Confiscated Bikes

Sgt Chang explained how confiscated bikes can be bought back.

d) East Dene Police Box

Sgt Chang informed attendees that no further progress had been made on reinstating a Police Box in East Dene.

e) Whiston Cinema Club

Sgt Chang and the SNT team were thanked for their support

ANY OTHER

f) Responsible Dog Owners Scheme

Attendees asked for further information on the responsible dog owner's scheme.

Action: Area Assembly Team to obtain further information

g) Rotherham Children's Policy

Following recent incidents in other areas in South Yorkshire, attendees wanted reassurance that this would not happen in Rotherham.

Action: Area Assembly team to arrange a presentation at a future meeting

h) West Bawtry Road

A resident asked for a progress report on traffic controlling measures on West Bawtry Road

Action: Area Assembly team to contact Planning and Transportation

i) Herringthorpe Stadium

A resident informed attendees that they were now being charged full price to hold a Charity Cup on Herringthorpe Stadium.

Action: Area Assembly team to contact Green Spaces

j) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Process

It was asked if public questions could be sent to the Area Assembly prior to the meeting and a list of questions could be sent out with papers. A request was also made for the Surgery Forms to be available at future meetings.

Action: Area Assembly team to look into the process

Events and Promotions Survey

What were the results and why were the age categories restricted to 25 and below.

Action: Area Assembly team to look into

Community Safety

Can a presentation be delivered at a future Area Assembly on Community Crime Fighters.

Action: Area Assembly team to contact Steve Parry

Do we know yet what the views on people doing community service, wearing high visibility vests with the words 'Community Payback' on the back, are

Action: Area Assembly team to contact Steve Parry

An attendee said that in the press recently it was reported that a new system is to come into place with a company working for the Government in buying and setting up Bail Hostels. These will hold 3 people who are either on bail or early released tagged prisoners. The company has been instructed to provide 600 places, mostly in privately rented houses. This means that these could be in residential areas, near schools etc. Apparently, no public or Council consent will be needed. Residents will therefore have no right to protest against these hostels. Can we find out what the Council's views are on this subject? If one of these was to be in Rotherham, would the Council inform residents?

Action: Area Assembly team to contact Steve Parry

7. AREA PARTNERSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

Shaun Mirfield gave a presentation on the Area Assemblies Devolved Budget. Projects approved for funding from 2008/09 were presented along with the process and timetable for 2009/10. Attendees were encouraged to take away the Forms and Guidance Notes. Attendees welcomed the budget and the opportunity for communities to get involved.

The Chair thanked the Area Assembly team for their hard work.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Area Assembly Devolved Budget Event – Tuesday 7th April, 1.00pm, Town Hall

Area Assembly Meeting - Tuesday 7th April , 6.30pm, Town Hall.
