

**Rotherham South Area Assembly**  
Held at the Town Hall Council Chamber  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members**

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

**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
Michelle Hill	RMBC Town Centre Team
Ayuba Lawan	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Ady Antcliffe	RMBC Streetpride
Tim Brannen	RMBC Boston Castle Restoration
David Burton	RMBC Boston Castle Restoration
Paul Hewitt	Architects - Boston Castle Restoration

**Public**

M. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
A. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
K. Millns	Clifton Community Partnership
D. Millns	Clifton Community Partnership
C. Purvis	Greystones Action Group
G. Riches	Neighbourhood Watch
G. Skinner	Whiston Parish Council
E. Shaw	Whiston Parish Council
D. Straw	Whiston Parish Council
C. Eyre	Whiston Parish Council
L. Lindley	Streetpride Champion
M. Jeffs	Streetpride Champion
J. Jeffs	Resident
M. McGrother	Resident
M. Chance	Resident
J. Whyke	Resident
N. Whyke	Resident
M. Hoggard	Resident
K. Reeder	Resident
N. Wright	Resident
S. Ahmed	Resident
E. Humphries	Resident
K. Beaumont	Resident

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair introduced himself and colleagues.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hussain and Clarke, Barry Gow, Martyn Green, Keith Harrison, Laura Russell, Ian Russell, Margaret Beedham, Janet White, David Dobbs, Colin Booth, Shaun Pilley, Sarah Kelly, Derek Waudby and Danny Wilhoughby.

### 3i MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 09

The minutes were approved as a true record.

### 3.ii MATTERS ARISING

#### a) Stan Crowther – item 3 ii a

Mick Hoggard announced that the presentation will be made on 25 June to Stan Crowther and Councillor Clarke. Best wishes were sent to Councillor Clarke.

#### b) Middle Lane Review – item 3 ii b

Mary Burgin reported that the young people who attended the event fed in some very good suggestions.

#### c) Funding of Area Assemblies – item 3 ii c

Mick Hoggard asked for a progress report in respect of the funding of Area Assemblies.

**Action: Shaun Mirfield**

#### Response

At the meeting of the Area Assembly on 3 June 2008, it was reported that 65% of the cost of Area Assemblies comes from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the remainder from the General Fund. It was explained that when Area Assemblies were first established the funding split was based on an estimated balance of enquiries that would arise from Council tenancies. The funding split also reflected 2010's role within the Area Assembly model where they provided support to the neighbourhood management function and administration of the Area Assemblies. Now that the Council has taken on a bigger role in the delivery of the Area Assembly / Neighbourhood Management agenda it may well be time to review the funding split to determine whether it is still appropriate and recommend amendments if appropriate. Finance report that the funding split is now 50% - 50% between the General Fund and HRA.

#### d) Armed Forces Day - item 4 a

It was asked if there is any further information on Rotherham's celebrations of the first national Armed Forces Day on 27 June.

**Action: Area Assembly Team**

#### Response

It was reported in Rotherham Matters that Rotherham veterans are to be honoured on 22 June at Magna. The raising of the official flag at the Town Hall will take place in the morning with an afternoon presentation of badges, and displays, exhibition, light refreshments etc to follow. Anyone who has served is entitled to apply for the HM Armed Forces Veterans lapel badge, launched by the Government in May 2004 to raise the profile of veterans. Applications are open to all, including volunteers and regular reserves. If you are a Rotherham resident and wish to be included please call the Council on 01709 822733 or 01709 822710 or email [sue.finch@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:sue.finch@rotherham.gov.uk) So far, around 200 veterans have come forward with their details for us to present to the MoD, so that we can receive the badges in time for the event.

#### e) Yorkshire Regiment – item 4 b

It was asked if there is any further information on the Yorkshire Regiment parade through Rotherham.

**Action: Area Assembly Team**

#### **Response**

The Yorkshire Regiment Parade is to be on 3rd August 2009.

#### f) Rotherham Leisure Complex – item 4 d

George Skinner asked for a progress report in relation to the condition of Effingham Street.

**Action: Andrew Mangham**

#### **Response**

A meeting is to be arranged with D.C Leisure/operator/developer to highlight the problem and to address issues in respect of the landscaping scheme that appears to have not been fully implemented. A further update will be provided.

### 4. BOSTON CASTLE PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Paul Hewitt and David Burton who gave an update on the early proposals for Boston Castle.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- a) A question was asked in relation to the glass extension. Paul Hewitt said that there was no room for a disabled lift inside the original building.
- b) A question was asked on provision of maintenance for the building. It was confirmed that 5 years management and maintenance were built into the bid. A business plan will be put together in conjunction with Greenspaces and all maintenance costs will be built into the business plan.
- c) A question was asked regarding the tendering process. It was confirmed that a competitive tendering process took place and RMBC were invited to tender. It was an open procurement process with the decision based on 50% price and 50% quality.
- d) A question was asked regarding the flat roof of the extension and whether it would give easy access for vandals. The architect is strongly aware of this issue and is something they have to take into account. They will be consulting with Sergeant Chang and the SNT on security measures.
- e) A question was asked regarding security provision. It was confirmed that the building will be staffed during the day and arrangements will be made for evening security.
- f) A question was asked regarding the projected cost of the restoration. It was confirmed that they are projecting a cost of £1.7m with £600k from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Chair thanked Paul Hewitt and David Burton for the update and said he looked forward to future presentations.

## 5. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT) PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Shaun Mirfield and Rupert Chang who gave a presentation on the introduction of PACTs within the Area Assembly meetings. It was explained that as well as the NAG priorities, the community would have an opportunity to determine monthly priorities and task officers, including the police, to tackle them through the PACTs.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- a) A question was asked regarding positive results from the present NAG priorities. It was explained that criminal damage and nuisance youths in East Dene and Eastwood were decreasing at a faster rate than the borough average. In particular, a nuisance youth action plan in East Dene has seen positive results however enforcement action is still taking place when needed.
- b) A question was asked regarding the inclusion of Longfellow Drive into East Dene. It was explained that Longfellow Drive is part of the officers beat that cover East Dene and it is also high on the incident list.
- c) A comment was made that PACTs are a really good idea and that we need to spread best practice from the communities where its worked.
- d) A comment was made regarding graffiti tags appearing on electric boxes in Clifton, including in the park. Rupert Chang said that the SNT take photos of tags to try and find out who is responsible.
- e) A comment was made regarding young people purchasing alcohol. Rupert Chang said that test purchasing operations are in place and those who have repeatedly failed will be subject to action by Trading Standards.
- f) A question was asked regarding the policy for dogs being kept on leads in Clifton Park and the enforcement procedures. It was explained that there are notices stating that dogs must be kept under control.

**Action: Richard Bramall**

### **Response**

At the meeting of the Area Assembly on 1 July 2008, it was reported that in respect of dog control policy, the Council was in the process of consultation. The outcome was expected from September 2008.

- g) In light of Boston Castle proposals, a question was asked regarding the level of crime in Canklow. It was explained that CCTV is installed in strategic locations and it has improved over the past 12 months and the SNT will be part of the working party overseeing the Boston Castle restoration.
- h) A comment was made regarding flytipping on country lanes and in villages and whether RMBC could allow vans to use public tips. It was explained that vans can use public tips but need to acquire permits in order to so.

The following suggestions were put forward for the PACT priority:

- Nuisance Youths on Herringthorpe Playing Fields, especially at the back of properties on Broom Road
- Speeding on Broom Road
- Various anti social behaviour on Worrygoose Lane

The meeting **agreed** that the number one priority would be Herringthorpe Playing Fields. Action will also be taken to address the other two issues.

**Action: Rupert Chang**

**Response**

Progress reports to be provided at the meeting.

**QUESTIONS FOR STREETPRIDE**

- i) A question was asked regarding the renewal of yellow lines on Cambridge Street. It was explained that this is scheduled into a programme of renewal.
- j) A comment was made regarding Streetpride operatives tipping leaves at the back of Boston Castle Park.

**Action: Ady Antcliffe**

**Response**

- i) Awaiting ring back from Street Lighting.
- j) Grounds Maintenance said that these were leaves collected from the park and were tipped here in order to rot down.

- k) A comment was made regarding overflowing bins outside Davian's chip shop on Middle Lane.

**Action: Ady Antcliffe**

- l) A comment was made regarding overflowing bins outside Davian's chip shop on Middle Lane.

**Action: Ady Antcliffe**

**Response**

- i) Enviro Crime said that Davians have a responsibility to clean-up their immediate area, not to empty bins or pick up litter if bins overflow. Streetpride empty the bins on a daily basis and litter pick on a daily basis Monday – Friday excluding bank holidays.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) A question was asked regarding action on houses that do not meet planning permission. Reference was made to a particular property on Worrygoose Lane. It was explained that they have a right to go to an Inspector with a retrospective application.
- b) A comment was made on how nice the town centre was looking now that All Saints Building has come down.
- c) A discussion took place regarding swimming in Doncaster and Sheffield, in particular the availability of free swimming.
- d) A question was asked regarding parking on Queensway and whether any action can be taken against unsafe parking which is predominately by Hospital staff.

**Action: Matthew Lowe and Brian James (NHS Rotherham)**

**Response**

A site meeting was held with the police, Transportation Unit and Area Assembly as well as residents, as a result of which the Chair has written to the Hospital Chief Executive, and copied this to the MP.

- e) It was asked that a progress report on the development of Herringthorpe Playing Fields be provided, including updates on definitive plans, costings and a timetable for the work.

**Action: Steve Hallsworth**

**Response**

The latest position is that following the initial round of information sharing on the draft proposals for the Herringthorpe Leisure site, officers were asked by the Chief Executive to carry out more detailed work on the cost of the proposals. This work has been completed and a report has been taken back to the Chief Executive, which will now be taken to members in the next few weeks. Whilst the report contained more detailed costings they were based on estimates and at this point there are no definitive plans or time table of works for the proposed developments. If at some point approval is given to take the proposals forward then it will be necessary to put together an action plan that will contain many things including the production of a master plan for the site. Developing the proposals will be a complex piece of work involving extensive planning and as such it will be a long way into the process before any time table of works is established.

**7. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 6.30pm, Town Hall.**