

WENTWORTH NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY
Meeting held on Monday 12th January 2009
Wath St James Rooms at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor Frank Hodgkiss	Ward 7 - Hooper- (IN THE CHAIR)
Councillor Alan Atkin	Ward 19 – Wath
Councillor John Doyle	Ward 16 – Swinton
Richard Jackson	RMBC Streetpride
Councillor A Gosling	Ward 19 – Wath
Councillor Jane Hamilton	Ward 7 – Hooper
Harry Harrison	Swinton Resident
Jenny Harrison	RMBC Project Development Unit
Phillip Heald	Local Resident
Lynn Hillis	Local Resident
Dianne Hurst	Wentworth North Area Partnership Manager
Liz Hunt	Neighbourhood Investment Services
Mr & Mrs D Hunt	Local Residents
Amy Hutson	RMBC Streetpride
Councillor Neil License	Ward 16 – Swinton
Joyce Maleham	Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership
Lee Peace	South Yorkshire Times
Gillian Picker	Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership
Jill Ratcliffe	Wentworth North Community Support Officer (MINUTES)
Lucy Reader	Wentworth North Community Involvement Officer
David Roche	Dearne Culture Trust
Councillor Richard Russell	Ward 7 – Hooper
Mark Ryalls	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Councillor Alex Sangster	Ward 19 – Wath
Geoff Scherdel	Wath upon Dearne RUFC
George Smith	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Clive Taylor	Swinton Resident
Harry Tooley	Area Housing Panel
J Wordsworth	Charles Street Community Centre
Councillor Ken Wyatt	Ward 16 – Swinton

1. Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Hodgkiss welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He informed the meeting that if anyone had any issues they wished to raise with officers they would be available following the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

A Laird	Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership
D Logan	Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership
Ian Lomas	Wentworth Parish Council and Harley Village Partnership

Karen Milner 2010 Rotherham Ltd
Sue Ransom Dearne Valley College

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10th November 2008

Agreed: - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th November 2008 be deferred to the next meeting.

Matters Arising

None raised

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

3.1. A local resident stated that Wath Rugby Club are trying to obtain funding from various funding streams, all of whom ask if the community are backing the project and asked if the Area Assembly would give their support.

Councillor Hodgkiss suggested that he write to Dianne Hurst, Wentworth North Area Partnership Manager requesting a letter of support.

3.2. A local resident asked why there are no public WC facilities for the disabled in Wath.

Councillor Frank Hodgkiss informed the meeting that he would look into it.

3.3. A local resident asked if RMBC can say that they have confidence in Social Services following alleged reports of Doncaster Councils short comings.

The meeting was informed that RMBC has ensured that procedures are adhered to and everyone is kept well informed.

4. DECENT HOMES ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS

Mark Ryalls – Environmental Works Co-ordinator introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his role.

The government has stated that 5% of the Decent Homes budget should be spent on environmental works such as off road parking, drives and walls etc as many estates were built before everyone had cars, and we are eager to get parked cars off the road. He added that he is currently trying to gather a wish list and finding new work areas across Rotherham, working closely with RMBC Green Spaces and Streetpride.

Mark stated that he will shortly be traveling around talking to people and finding out what they want. He will also be meeting with Ward Members and will then bring ideas back to this meeting.

Mark left questionnaires for everyone present and asked that they return them to him with any environmental works suggestions they may have.

Councillor Frank Hodgkiss thanked Mark for his attendance.

5. STREETPRIDE DEVOLVED BUDGET

Richard Jackson – Streetpride Area Manager for Wentworth North introduced himself and announced that a lot of work has taken place since 2003 and gave a presentation outlining the work undertaken. Copies of the presentation were distributed at the meeting, and are also available by contacting the Area Assembly Office on 01709 334604 or via email - wentworth.north@rotherham.gov.uk

Following questions from the floor, Councillor Frank Hodgkiss thanked Richard for his attendance.

6. HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PROGRAMME IN WATH 2009

Liz Hunt from the Neighbourhood Investment Team reported that the Consultation Event held in Wath Town Centre on 4th December to Launch the Regeneration Plans was well attended, with over 2000 people counted on the Libraries entry system. The event was promoted by Dearne FM and Rother FM and feedback on the event was very positive.

There is £900,000 available for the regeneration of Wath Town Centre, of which £250,000 will be spent this financial year. Work is currently underway, although you may not see much happening on the ground until after 1st April.

Tree felling will soon be underway to improve the green link to Tesco, making the walkway more open, with better lighting, and therefore more user friendly. We are also looking for extended funding to improve the Library with cedar cladding. Further consultation on this will be done at a future date.

Liz then invited questions from the floor and was thanked by Councillor Frank Hodgkiss for her report.

7. JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Dianne Hurst informed the meeting that Mike Dando, Community Planner for Yorkshire Planning Aid was not available to attend the meeting and the item has been removed from the agenda.

Mike had previously contacted the Area assembly office and asked if they could supply names and contact details of community groups in Wath, likely to have an interest in possible plans for a waste treatment facility off either Bolton Road or Station Road.

He added that they are looking at Town/Parish council reps, tenants & residents groups, community groups operating in areas in closest proximity to the sites in question. The aim is that these groups/people cascade information about the event down into the community, rather than him trying to do a big promotional job.

The Area Assembly has passed on details of community groups/ organizations etc whom he should contact and involve in consultation.

Dianne informed the meeting that Mike can be contacted on Tel: 01943 465870. Further information can be obtained by logging onto the planning Aid Website: www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

8. PLAY PATHFINDER

Jenny Harrison, Play Consultation Co-ordinator informed the meeting that RMBC has received funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for a Play Pathfinder Programme. The funding will improve the 28 play areas within the borough with the worst play value. It will provide improved play provision in Clifton Park and a new adventure play area near Eldon Road. 12 play areas are being improved in Year 1 of the Programme, which will finish by the end of March this year.

Consultation is now under way for Year 2 projects, which will hopefully be finished by the end of the year. Play areas will be constructed of natural materials that will encourage a child's imagination, and natural play areas do not seem to get vandalised as other play areas may.

Plans and pictures were circulated at the meeting.

All play equipment will be maintained by RMBC and general maintenance will be carried out under existing maintenance agreements, which are dependant on the landowner as some parks are on Parish Council land. Additional funding for maintenance is being looked into.

Year 2 projects in the Wentworth North Area to include parks at :-

Strathmore
Packman Road
Dunn Street
Brampton Leisure Centre
Horsefair Park

Bierlow Park is a Year 1 Project.

There will be sixteen projects in year two.

Jenny was asked for clarification regarding the location/name of the park in Brampton, as it may be West Melton Park and was asked that it be referred to as such.

Action - Jenny to clarify.

Jenny then took questions from the floor and was thanked by Councillor Frank Hodgkiss for her report.

9. PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS REPORT

Dianne Hurst, Area Partnership Manager for Wentworth North gave an update on the progress and development of issues since the last meeting which included the

provision of two Christmas Trees and Festive Lights, The forthcoming Community Celebration Awards, Housing Market Renewal investment in Wath Town Centre, Wentworth North Neighbourhood Action Group, Wentworth North Area Plan, the Streetpride Devolved Budget and the Area Assembly Devolved Budget.

Copies of the above report is available by contacting the Area Assembly Office on 01709 334604 or via email - wentworth.north@rotherham.gov.uk

10. PARTNER UPDATES

Updates were circulated to everyone present from:-
George Smith -2010 Rotherham Ltd
Richard Jackson – RMBC Streetpride.
No Police report was submitted to the meeting.

Copies of any of the above reports are available by contacting the Area Assembly Office on 01709 334604 or via email - wentworth.north@rotherham.gov.uk

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th March 2009, 5.00pm @ Brampton Parish Hall.