

Rotherham South Area Assembly
Held in the Town Hall Council Chamber
Tuesday 3rd November 2009

ATTENDEES:

Members

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

Officers

Shaun Mirfield	RMBC Area Assembly Team
Kay Bacon	RMBC Area Assembly Team
Lindsey Gibson	RMBC Area Assembly Team (Minutes)
Abdul Aziz	South Yorkshire Police
Matt Frogson	South Yorkshire Police
Michelle Hill	Town Centre Safety Manager
Joanne Rimmer	South Yorkshire Police
N. Straker	South Yorkshire Police
Ady Antcliffe	RMBC Streetpride
Ayuba Lawan	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Ian Hill	Anchor Stay Put
Chris Stone	Community Protection Unit

Public

A. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
M. Burgin	Clifton Community Partnership
K. Millns	Clifton Community Partnership
L. Russell	Clifton Community Partnership
C. Charlton	Eastwood & Springwell United
G. Holmes	Eastwood & Springwell United
F. Sultan	Eastwood & Springwell United
M. Ilyas	Eastwood & Springwell United
G. Riches	NHW
L. Lindley	Streetpride Champion
D. J. Willoughby	Streetpride Champion
E. Shaw	Whiston Parish Council
G. Skinner	Whiston Parish Council
G. Flatley	Resident
K. Beaumont	Resident
J. Fawcus	Resident
K. Cronk	Resident
C. Booth	Resident
B. Metcalf	Resident
B. Johnson	Resident
I. Johnson	Resident
G.H. Sowden	Resident
P.B. Sowden	Resident
K. Richards	Resident
B. Darby	Resident
M. McGrother	Resident
M. Chance	Resident
K. Harrison	Resident
C. Hammond	Resident
K. Bentley	Resident
E. Humphries	Resident
V. Holmes	Resident
B. Holmes	Resident
J. Whyke	Resident
N. Whyke	Resident
J. Allchurch	Resident
L. Woods	Resident
R. Duke	Resident

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced himself and colleagues. Cllr Dodson thanked Cllr McNeely for chairing last month's meeting. The Chair also gave a special welcome to Martin Kimber, RMBC's newly appointed Chief Executive.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ali, Kirk, Hussain, Clarke and Mannion, Shaun Pilley, John Martin, David Dobbs, Chris Purvis, Don Straw and Margaret Beedham.

3. ANCHOR STAY PUT PRESENTATION

Ian Hill gave a presentation on Anchor Stay Put. The following comments and questions were raised:

- a) It was asked what connection Anchor Stay Put has with Anchor House. It was explained that both are part of Anchor Trust Ltd.
- b) It was asked how the service is funded. It was explained that funding is received through Local Authorities and the standard charge for small repairs is £10 per hour plus the cost of materials.
- c) It was asked what Telecare is. It was explained that Telecare is a service that enables people, especially older and more vulnerable individuals, to live independently in their own home by providing equipment and services. It can include detectors or monitors such as motion or falls and fire and gas that trigger a warning to a response centre staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- d) It was asked if Anchor Stay Put employ Occupational Therapists. It was explained that they do not employ Occupational Therapists however referrals are made by them to Anchor Stay Put.
- e) It was asked if any other organisations provide this service. It was explained that Age Concern have a handy man / gardening service and 2010 have a minor adaptations service for tenants.

4. COMMUNITY PROTECTION PRESENTATION

Chris Stone gave a presentation on RMBC's Community Protection Unit. The following comments and questions were raised:

- a) It was asked how many ASBOs had been served. It was explained that 50 had been served last year and there has been an increase this year due to the different types of ASBOs now available. It was also explained that ASBOs would continue to be served regardless of cost however there was a need to ensure that other intervention methods have been tried first.
- b) It was asked how the Community Protection Unit deal with litter. It was explained that Fixed Penalty Notices can be served if officers have seen litter being dropped.
- c) It was asked how the Community Protection Unit deal with noisy neighbours. It was explained that gathering evidence is difficult and there was a need to ensure that there is sufficient evidence to take someone to court.

- d) It was asked if a response could be given to the recent Daily Mail article stating that a serious assault occurs every 30 seconds. Inspector Aziz refuted the figures explaining that they worked this total out simply by dividing the total amount of violent crime in the UK by 24 hours.
- e) It was asked how the increase in dog fighting can be controlled. It was explained that there is a trend for youths to own certain breeds of dogs and that any concerns regarding dog fighting should be reported to the Police.
- f) It was asked who deals with the regular burning of rubbish in gardens. It was explained that any reports should be made to the Community Protection Unit.
- g) It was asked if there was no longer an Environmental Health or Licensing Department with RMBC. It was explained that they now come under Community Protection.
- h) A comment was made that investment into young people's activities is required to deter them from getting into ASB. It was explained that RMBC and partners have invested in young people's activities to take them off the street e.g. Operation Fawkes
- i) It was asked who should the public contact with regards to fly tipping. It was explained that reports should be made to Streetpride's Golden number.
- j) Cllr Wootton endorsed the enforcement action of the Community Protection Unit and said they were doing an excellent job.

5i MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2009

The minutes were approved as a true record subject to an amendment in respect of item 3) Town Centre Presentation. Jean Whyke said that she thought there should be an increase in police presence in the Town Centre.

Action: Insp Aziz

Response

South Yorkshire Police are working hard to maintain visibility within the Town Centre. A specific operation will be implemented during the festive period which will ensure that police staff are deployed at the correct times / locations as a preventative and enforcement measure. In addition work has commenced to introduce a specific patrol plan that will include visits to key premises and locations. The intention is to adopt an approach that is proportionate and instils confidence in those using the Town Centre.

5.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 not yet been contacted formally. Shaun Mirfield said that Greg Lindley had informed him that he will be visiting residents at home.

b) Overflowing bins outside hot food outlets on Middle Lane – item 4 ii c

Shaun Mirfield informed Clifton Community Partnership that the hand sweeps on Middle Lane will commence this month and continue on a monthly basis until the end of March.

6. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT) PRIORITIES

Shaun Mirfield gave a presentation on Rotherham South's NAG and PACT priorities. The following comments and questions were raised:

Herringthorpe Playing Fields

Shaun reported:

- High visibility patrols on and around playing fields
- 'Operation Staysafe', with Youth Offending Team (YOT), targeted at East Dene and Herringthorpe, and now Clifton Park
- 40 young people have been identified
- Further action to be taken by YOT
- Officers have seized large quantities of alcohol from under aged drinkers. 3 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to adults purchasing alcohol for young people. Test purchase operations have also been conducted with Trading Standards staff and 3 premises failed. Further remedial action is to be taken by Trading Standards.
- Partners to remove trees and erect new fencing by the end of this calendar year

It was reported that the fencing had now been erected however a gap had been left leaving it insecure.

Action: Stuart Carr

Response

Facilities Management understood that all the work to erect the fencing on the agreed line was complete. A further inspection of the site has been arranged to review the fencing line on Arundel Road. Further costs for the removal of the trees will be received week commencing 7th December.

Parking on Queensway

Shaun reported:

- Warning Notices were initially issued
- 16 Fixed Penalty Notices have now been issued for obstruction
- RMBC & Area Assembly working with RDGH to look at alternative parking and possibility of a Residents Only Parking Scheme
- Resident met with senior RMBC officers in Planning and Transportation

Kay Beaumont asked when the meeting with RGDH would be held as agreed at last month's meeting. It was explained that following several meetings since the last Area Assembly - between members and officers, officers and residents and officers and RDGH, a meeting with RDGH of the kind previously suggested may not be beneficial. There was an acknowledgement though of the need to look at how we keep residents informed of progress. Insp Aziz reported that the police cannot sustain their presence in the long term due to the size of Rotherham South and the many competing demands. It is crucial therefore that the RMBC / RDGH discussions find a long term solution.

Maynard Road Play Area

Shaun reported:

- SNT / ASB Unit conducted an operation and identified youths responsible
- 16 youths were subject to a stop check
- 7 youths are being issued with a Warning Letter
- Another 7 are being issued with ABCs
- Some of these youths are now attending PS3 Project
- Partners are working with Taylor Wimpey's to tidy up the area and repair any equipment

Future PACT priorities

It was emphasised that the police and partners will continue to respond to all service requests. In terms of the priorities for this month, based on consultation and demand as well as feedback from this forum, it was agreed that the priorities would be:

- ASB on Selborne Street, Eastwood
- ASB on Longfellow Drive, Herringthorpe
- Parking outside Oakwood School at closing time and in Eastwood

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Middle Lane Consultation

It was remarked that following on from the Middle Lane consultation, residents were not in favour of traffic calming and had issues with the types of vehicles using Middle Lane. Shaun Mirfield reported that the consultation closing date was 2nd November however due to the postal strike responses were still being considered. It is anticipated that there will be a meeting at the end of the month involving Ward Members, Planning / Transportation and the Area Assembly team to review the findings.

It was asked why Middle Lane South was not included in the plans. It was explained that the money allocated was only for a specific stretch of the highway.

b) Boston Castle Restoration

Concerns were raised regarding pillars on the site and the need to make them safe. It was explained that £7,000 has been allocated to make the site secure.

c) Request for Presentations

Elaine Humphries asked for an update on Rotherham Children's Service and requested a presentation on recycling. Graham Riches also asked for the opportunity to give a presentation on the Community Crime Fighters.

Action: Area Assembly team to schedule in these presentations during 2010

Response

The following Area Assembly presentations have been agreed by the Co-ordinating Group:

- 2nd February – Community Crime Fighters
- 2nd March – Recycling
- 6th April – No Theme
- 4th May – No meeting due to local elections
- 1st June – Childrens Services

d) Speed Camera East Bawtry Road

It was asked if a speed camera will be reinstated on East Bawtry Road

Action: Richard Pardy

Response

It was decided by the Safety Camera Partnership not to re-instate the safety camera once the works had been completed on East Bawtry Road as the road layout changes should assist the safety of this stretch of road, i.e. the turning gaps have been closed (cuts down on rear shunt accidents) and the signalised pedestrian crossing point / right turn lane being installed (reduces rear shunt accidents and assists pedestrian crossing the road) as well as the speed limit being reduced from 50 to 40 mph. (When the decision was made to reduce the speed limit on East Bawtry Road, speed surveys indicated that the measured traffic speeds were in the range expected of a 40mph road.)

It should be noted that this stretch of road is a mobile enforcement route so can be enforced at any time by the Camera Partnership.

e) Herringthorpe Playing Fields

It was asked what investment proposals there are given the state of the grass and the stadium.

Action: Steve Hallsworth

Response

There has been a fairly well publicised process of informing people of the proposal to develop the Herringthorpe Leisure Site. There have been various public meetings and reports back to members. Currently a report is being drafted which provides more detailed costings, as requested by the Chief Exec before he retired. The intension is that the outcome of this report will determine what, if any, actions are taken next.

8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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