

## Area Assembly Minutes for 13 March 2008

Meeting Group: **Wentworth Valley Area Assembly**  
Meeting Date: **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008**  
Meeting Time: **4.00 pm**  
Meeting Venue: **Maltby Linx**

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**Chair:** **Cllr. Glyn Robinson**

**Present:**

Darren Smithson	-	RMBC, Area Partnership Manager
Janice Curran	-	RMBC, Community Planning Officer
Cllr. Glyn Robinson	-	RMBC, Maltby Ward 9
Cllr. Amy Rushforth	-	RMBC, Maltby Ward 9
Cllr. Sue Ellis	-	RMBC, Wickersley Ward 20
Cllr. Beryl Billington	-	RMBC, Wickersley Ward 20
Cllr. Peter Thirlwall	-	RMBC, Wickersley Ward 20
Andy Wright	-	RMBC Young People Services (Maltby Linx)
Shaz Maxwell	-	RMBC Young People Services (Bramley Youth Centre)
Sam Rowley	-	RMBC Streetpride
David Morton	-	Maltby Town Council
Alex Laird	-	Maltby Town Council
Lyn Laird	-	Maltby Town Council
Keith Stringer	-	Maltby Town Council
Peter Scholey	-	Maltby Town Council
Chris McMahon	-	Maltby Town Council
Ted Kelsey	-	Bramley Parish Council
Gloria Martin	-	Wickersley Parish Council
Mike Brown	-	Rotherham Primary Care Trust
Joanne Chant	-	Stepping Stones Children's Centre
Alice Rodgers	-	Maltby Local History Society
David Guest	-	Wickersley Resident
Ann Dickinson	-	East Maltby Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
Michael Clarke	-	Maltby Model Village Association
Jim Cobb	-	Hellaby Community Project
Jean Cobb	-	Hellaby Community Project
Ron Buck	-	Cliff Hills Residents Association
Betty Buck	-	Cliff Hills Residents Association
Patrick Cahill	-	Wickersley Community Heritage
Matt Nash	-	Wickersley Resident

+ 7 people who did not sign in.

Apologies were received from Julie Wilkinson, Lyn Rowan, Richard Scholey and Glyn Shakespeare.

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr. Glyn Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies already received. Then he asked everyone to make sure they signed in and put any apologies they had received on the signing in sheet.</p> <p>Then the Chair announced that the agenda had altered as certain officers were unable to attend. Caroline Naylor would now be running a presentation on Place Shaping.</p>
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<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Previous Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Q. What was the progress on the WVAA website?</p> <p>A. We are now adding data and the site should be up and running by the end of next week. The link to the website will be sent out with the minutes.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Bramley T &amp; F Group Traffic Report</b></p> <p>Copies of the Bramley Traffic Report were handed out to attendees for information only.</p> <p>PT introduced himself and explained that he set up the Bramley Task &amp; Finish Group because after 18 Months a questionnaire was sent out by RMBC to 7000 households to gain their views on the new traffic scheme and 85% of respondents were dissatisfied against 1% satisfied.</p> <p>The T&amp;F Group would be able to put forward the views of the community with regard to the Bramley Traffic Scheme.</p> <p>PT told the meeting that the T&amp;F Group had difficulty in getting RMBC to send Highway Engineers and went on to explain that it is all about place shaping and getting communities to take part in the development of their own area.</p> <p>Some recommendations have been agreed to be implemented by Cabinet.</p> <p>PT then said that he would like to commend this report to the AA Chair and get it eventually to Cabinet.</p> <p>A Member of Public informed everyone present that when turning left from Flash Lane problems are caused by traffic from Cross Street which does not allow you to access the Church Lane slip lane, even if the slip lane were lengthened as had already been suggested this would make the crossing even harder.</p> <p>PT - If it is not working we could look at sequencing the traffic lights better. We are aware of the difficulties at this junction. We are looking at a balance between traffic flow and common use; however we need to look at the overall view of people not cars.</p> <p>There are two Cabinet Members that deal with highways and both adopted the Planning for Streets report in September.</p> <p>MOP pointed out that most people do not realise traffic from Flash Lane should go behind and before long this will lead to a bad accident occurring.</p> <p>DG then asked when and when we were going to send on the Traffic Scheme Report document</p> <p>GR said in the next few weeks</p> <p>DG- surely as this has been set up by the AA it must have status and should be sent on.</p> <p>GR This is the first report that has had to go elsewhere and we have been trying to</p>	<p>-</p>

find out where it needs to be sent.

PT said presumably it will be sent to Cabinet to be either accepted or rejected.

GR answered that this was not a problem, it was just deciding on the route it should take.

PT we will express the view of AA to go to Cabinet.

DS There has been a gap marrying up between the constitution and the legal framework.

DG asked if we could endorse the report now to go to the Cabinet

GR replied that we are waiting for feedback from the legal department, if this was the case.

SE saw no reason why the AA should not be able to send the report to Cabinet. The Cabinet may either respond or send it on to the Cabinet Member responsible who would then respond themselves.

SE offered to take the report.

Just as this section of the meeting was coming to a close, TK informed everyone that he was objecting to a drive through car wash on Bawtry Road and whether it had gone through Planning.

#### **4. Presentation**

A slide show presentation was given on "Place Shaping" by Caroline Naylor – Equality and Diversity Officer for Neighbourhood and Adult Services.

Place Shaping will contribute to a stronger and more sustainable Rotherham, it will have impact on the way we look at areas and is about knowing the place, the people and the community and will find out Rotherham's own needs and aspirations.

RMBC will soon be appointing Place Shaping Officers for each area.

DG said that it will depend on the level of will and financing of RMBC in producing Community Plans and getting people motivated and involved.

Reply: Community Plans will fit largely into this area of Place Shaping and there will be investment over the next few years.

MOP commented that Community Plans are overlapping with Parish Councils and now they will overlap Place Shaping as well, this is becoming far too complicated and needs simplifying.

Reply: A Place Shaping Officer will come into communities and this should simplify it.

DS asked If this was the umbrella for all the different agendas coming through?

Reply: Yes, that is how we see it.

DM Where does this fit into the council structure?

DS replied that this should pull together all the Strategies and take them out into the

communities.

CN This structure is within the Neighbourhood Investment Team.

SE informed everyone that the Community Strategy is limited and this is being brought in order to make it better.

MOP said they were in favour if it benefits the communities.

JC said that whoever was coming into the areas she would like to think that they are going to build on the work that has already been done by Community Planning Officers over the last 4 or 5 years.

AR said that Community Consultations take place, are handed in and seem to be never seen or heard of again.

DS agreed that the council and its partners sometimes waste time, energy and resources doing duplicative consultations. However we are launching a new Community Engagement Database (CED) to alleviate this problem and the CED will also allow the public to see all consultations which are currently taking place, plus both past and future ones, and take part, find out the results and see what changes have occurred. We will then need to educate all agencies to use this effectively and over the next 3 years you will see a big change.

AR said that the Master Plan has had some good ideas, but the transport section is rubbish. She even wrote to the Chief Executive and asked for something to be done about their quality control by making sure the basics are done correctly.

DS informed the meeting that there has been a group set up through Chief Execs to police the whole consultation process and the way it is carried out and once implemented this will change things dramatically over the next 3 years.

AR said that we need statistics that cover Maltby, not Maltby and Hellaby and everyone needs to be properly trained to do a good job.

MOP: There is no democracy, I have lived in Maltby for 76 years, and we were never asked but suddenly found out that we did not belong to where we thought we lived. The Boundary Commission needs to be challenged.

GR pointed out that they tried to make all Wards the same size with the same number of Councillors.

DS pointed out that whilst RMBC are years ahead of other councils in devolving powers down to communities and giving them a local voice, RMBC can't set ward boundaries.

MOP Will we make sure that the Community Plans are not made redundant

DS replied that the Place Shaping Strategy will make Community Plans even more important.

DG suggested that there is a need to stop the grey areas and therefore give a better result between different boundaries.

MOP It is to be hoped that we will not lose current Support Officers.

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>The residents of China Town have requested an on-site meeting with Lathams and Peter Moore as they feel that they are not being listened to regarding the road layout. AD has requested this meeting on behalf of the residents, but after a telephone conversation with him this morning she felt “fobbed off”.</p> <p>AD also asked what is happening with the old Craggs School site.</p> <p>DS replied that planning permission has not been granted however there are a number of proposals on the table. WVAA has put forward a proposal with Model Village to the Regeneration and Asset Board who will then make the final decision. DS said he was currently trying to find out what decision if any, had been made and thought the best way would be to put in a written question and try to get an answer in that way.</p> <p>GR said that they are looking at every option. Nothing is going to be built on the Craggs, it is going to be green open space and the residents have been consulted.</p> <p>Due to the change of agenda Tracey Steels announced that she would like an invite to come back to the next Area Assembly meeting to talk about affordable housing.</p> <p>At this point AD asked TS “How do we get empty houses filled” to which the reply was that in the next 12-18 months we’ll be looking at getting empty housing sorted out.</p> <p>SE said that letters had been sent to landlords, however these were very new powers and she went on to say that we are starting to do things about empty houses and problem landlords.</p> <p>DS added that we now have a uniformed policy on problem landlords and are now addressing issues and that we will give feedback.</p> <p>DS then gave an invitation to Tracey to come back to the next Area Assembly Meeting to be held at Hellaby Hall Hotel and run one of the workshops. Tracey accepted.</p>	
	<p>Cllr. Glyn Robinson thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 6.00pm.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p><b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 4pm.</b></p> <p><b>Hellaby Hall Hotel</b></p>	