

**Rotherham South Area Assembly**  
Held in the Town Hall Council Chamber  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members**

Councillors McNeely (Vice Chair) 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
Matt Frogson	South Yorkshire Police
Ady Antcliffe	RMBC Streetpride
Ayuba Lawan	2010 Rotherham Ltd

**Public**

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
L. Lindley	Streetpride Champion
D. Dobbs	Streetpride Champion
G. Riches	NHW
G. Haughton	Student – University of Sheffield
C. Purvis	Greystones Action Group
D. Straw	Whiston Parish Council
G. Skinner	Whiston Parish Council
E. Shaw	Whiston Parish Council
E. Mallinson	Resident
E. Humphries	Resident
A. Carver	Resident
V. Holmes	Resident
B. Holmes	Resident
C. Hammond	Resident
S. Hannan	Resident
C. Booth	Resident
J.S. Martin	Resident
M. Ross	Resident
G. Hatley	Resident
K. Beaumont	Resident
J. Allchurch	Resident
B. Johnson	Resident
I. Johnson	Resident
D. Jones	Resident
P. Walker	Resident
A. Walker	Resident
P. Bentley	Resident
M. Bentley	Resident
K. Harrison	Resident
T. Walls	Resident
K. Bentley	Resident
K. Cass	Resident
J. Barker	Resident
J. Hancock	Resident
J. Whyke	Resident
N. Whyke	Resident
C. Carter	Resident
T. Hinchcliffe	Resident
M. Chance	Resident

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr McNeely chaired the meeting on Cllr Dodson's behalf. Cllr McNeely explained that a friend of Cllr Dodson's had been involved in a road traffic accident.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dodson, Ali, Kirk, Hussain, Wootton, Clarke and Mannion, Michelle Hill, Brig Chaggar, Chris Eyre, Alison Burgin, Margaret Beedham and K Mallison

## **3. TOWN CENTRE SAFETY PRESENTATION**

Matt Frogson gave a presentation on the Town Centre Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). The following comments and questions were raised:

- a) It was asked what Police presence there was in the Town Centre during the day. It was explained that the Town Centre SNT work predominately day shifts and back up is provided by Response Teams when necessary.
- b) It was asked how many student officers are currently in the Town Centre SNT. It was explained that there are currently 9 student officers in the borough but none are in the Town Centre SNT.
- c) It was asked how the perception of the Town Centre could be improved. It was explained that Town Centre perception is linked to intimidation and fear of crime and resolving it is not a simple task as it involves delving further into a person's fear of crime.
- d) It was asked if the Town Centre SNT staff always work in pairs as they could cover more ground individually. It was explained that the SNT also patrol individually.
- e) It was asked if there was an issue with pick pocketing as market store holders are telling customers to watch their bags. It was explained that there is not currently an increase in theft however effort is being made to raise awareness over the Christmas period.
- f) It was asked why no reference was made to drugs, drink and card theft statistics and if the Town Centre CCTV is effective. It was explained that only main statistics had been picked for this presentation. The CCTV monitors are based in Main Street and are really effective in solving crime.
- g) It was asked if drunkenness and late night violence was still a problem. It was explained that it was no more than any other town centre and that the CCTV room is very effective at highlighting assaults. It was also explained that it was at an Officer's discretion on how to deal with drunken and disorderly behaviour.
- h) It was asked why PCSOs are mainly seen patrolling the Town Centre. It was explained that the PCSO's main function is to provide hi-vis patrols but PCs patrol the Town Centre as well.
- i) It was asked why all resources are pooled into the Town Centre at weekends making it difficult to get a police response in other areas. It was explained that resources are pooled to the Town Centre as a preventative measure however local SNTs remain in their localities when required.
- j) It was asked how the SNT understand the multicultural society. It was explained that the SNT have access to interpreters and Language Line.

- k) It was asked what the Town Centre SNT are doing to tackle boy racers outside the Town Hall. It was explained that regular work does take place, all vehicles have been checked for roadworthiness and the people have no previous convictions.

#### **4i MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

The minutes were approved as a true record subject to clarification of the question Elaine Humphries asked in respect of item 7 b) Parking Facilities at the Minster as part of the plaza scheme.

#### **4.ii MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a) Flood Alleviation – item 3 d**

Following last month's presentation, the Eastwood Village residents affected by the previous floods reported that they have not yet been contacted.

**Action: Greg Lindley**

#### **Response**

The Area Assembly team have chased this up with the appropriate officers.

##### **b) Visit to Centenary Riverside Urban Wetland Nature Reserve – item 3 i**

It was announced that the visit to the reserve will be held on Wednesday 28 October as part of an open celebration event. Those interested were asked to provide names and contact details to Kay and Lindsey at the end of the meeting.

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

It was reported that street litter is a problem outside all of the hot food outlets on Middle Lane and not just Davians. The Dinosaur Deli is now opening 14 hours a day which is contributing to the litter. Clarification was therefore sought on what hand sweeps there would be on Middle Lane as part of the Streetpride Devolved Budget. In addition, further to the response in September's minutes, clarification was sought on the amount businesses can be fined for non-compliance with a Street Litter Control Notice. In the meantime, it was suggested that residents collate dates, times and photographic evidence of the litter.

Mary Burgin thanked Streetpride for their quick response when she recently contacted them.

**Action: Shaun Mirfield to contact Mary Burgin regarding hand sweeps on Middle Lane**  
**Action: Shaun Mirfield to seek clarification from Nick McGowan re Street Litter Control Notice**

#### **Response**

Streetpride Devolved Budget proposals include a retention of the hand sweeps but the frequency has yet to be confirmed because of demands from other areas.

#### **Response**

This will be covered by the Community Protection presentation.

##### **d) Contacts List**

Shaun explained that following on from the previous meeting at which a number of wide ranging questions had been raised, he asked Lindsey to look back at the type of questions typically raised. In response, a Contacts List has been produced which will be attached to every agenda and at future meetings will be presentations from key staff explaining policy and procedure. He emphasised that people should not feel that they have to wait for the Area Assembly meeting every month to raise questions.

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

### Herringthorpe Playing Fields

Following last month's update it was asked when the leylandii would be removed and the fencing erected. It was also reported that the field needs attention e.g. rubbish, mounds of earth etc, and asked if funding had been found for the Stadium. Shaun Mirfield reported that the expectation, following on from a multi-agency meeting, was that the leylandii would have been removed by the end of September 2009. He undertook to chase this up with colleagues. The other matters will be referred to Facilities Management and Green Spaces. In the meantime, all agreed that there had been a recent reduction in problems following the installation of CCTV and a series of Operation Stay Safes.

**Action: Shaun Mirfield, Stuart Carr and Andy Lee**

#### Response

Officers met on site on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Facilities Management are responsible for the trees and fencing, and the former depot site. They report that the fencing on Arundel Road will be carried out during the week of the half term holidays to avoid disruption to the school. The tree quotation is being refreshed following the site meeting. Shaun Mirfield is meeting Facilities Management and members on Tuesday 3 November for a further update.

#### Response

The issues around the old leisure centre site were also discussed at the site meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October and it was agreed that some grass cutting should take place to keep the height of the grass down next year plus there is some seeding of bare areas still to do.

### Parking on Queensway

Kay Beaumont thanked Sgt Chang for the work the SNT has done to address this matter but asked where the partnership approach was from RMBC. Shaun provided a copy of the recent report sent to Cabinet Member and the notes of the meeting. These confirmed the Council's continuing discussions with RDGH. It was agreed that a multi-agency meeting be convened looking especially at what the Council could do in response to this issue.

**Action: Shaun Mirfield**

#### Response

There have been a series of internal meetings involving members and officers of the Council and the police since the last Area Assembly and Kay Beaumont has met with senior officers from the Council's Transportation Department.

### Maynard Road Play Area

Shaun reported that following a joint operation organised by Sgt Chang between the Council and police, 7 young people will be issued with Warning Letters and another 7 will be served with ABCs, 4 of whom will receive reprimands in respect of criminal damage. As far as the play area goes, this is the responsibility of Taylor Wimpey's who have previously responded to calls to tidy up the area and repair damaged play equipment. Shaun also reported that following a meeting with Planning, McAlpine's (now Taylor Wimpey's) submitted an application for 39 houses and the play area that was approved by the Council in April 2001. Removing the play area would require Taylor Wimpey's to submit an application to the Council to vary the application previously approved. The Council would look at a number of factors including the availability of other facilities in this area. In terms of the previous proposal regarding a youth shelter, feedback from ward members and residents showed that this would not be supported and therefore will not be pursued. Shaun explained that there was a time lag between the operation and the enforcement action and suggested therefore that the situation be monitored and reviewed in a month's time, but that any further concerns continue to be reported to the police.

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**The meeting over-ran and there was not sufficient time to consider several questions put forward in advance in respect of the PACT priorities and questions to partners. They have been included here however along with the responses.**

### **Wickersley Road**

A resident reported that following a number of accidents, he carried out a speed survey which identified that the mean speed limit was in excess of 40mph. He added that the installation of parking restrictions had actually opened up the road increasing the speed of traffic.

A second resident also asked a question re the A631 Rotherham to Maltby Road (major transport corridor route). Allied to the above comments, he also wanted to place on record the fact that the route used by speedsters is generally from the Listerdale Shopping Centre, Brecks, up to Wickersley roundabout and back down Bawtry Road to Worrygoose roundabout and back to Brecks (often via Wickersley Road). From the M1 Junction 33 to the M18 Junction 1 there is only 1 GATT camera (1 by the Hind PH has recently been removed) plus a mobile SCP outside Wickersley Comprehensive School occasionally. The point is, the speedsters run early evening and weekends as a rule, and there appears to be no on duty police presence in the area at these times to stop this. They even do a dummy run first to check that there are no police about before they go for their personal best time. There have been 2 crashes on the dual carriageway between Brecks and Wickersley in the past 3 weeks alone, and others have occurred in the recent past (the first house past Tesco Express have had 3 separate cars crashed in their garden alone). Talk of a Borough Wide Review should not stop enforcement of the current speed limits, either via more GATT cameras and/or a bigger PCSO/Police/SCP presence.

**Action: Shaun Mirfield**

#### **Response**

Inspector Clifton, who is responsible for the county's Eastern Roads Policing Group covering Doncaster and Rotherham, reports that he has been working on the reduction of our KSI (killed or seriously injured) sites and recently met with his 5 Sergeants about all 17 of these roads. The A631 is listed and Inspector Clifton's team is currently in the final stages of preparing plans for additional policing activity in this area. He has asked PC Hannah Compton to do an additional e-mail explaining in more detail exactly what is being done. The extra enforcement is planned for 3 months starting on 1st November. Inspector Clifton will ensure that any results are fed back to the Area Assembly through PC Williams who is the traffic management officer for this area.

### **Questions to South Yorkshire Police**

Under age drinking occurs spasmodically from the Brecks/Listerdale Shopping Centre, and "fanning out" to areas off the highway (down the lanes and fields etc).

### **Questions to Streetpride**

- There is a wooden post and rail fence on the south side of Bawtry Road, from the Sheepcote Road bus stop up to Duke of Norfolk Lane which needs repair (original highway boundary fence)

#### **Response**

Streetpride report that they already have this section of fencing on their repairs list. Funding, however, for such works comes from the same budget as crash barriers and pedestrian guardrails, both of which have to be given higher priority. Given the current budgetary situation, it is unlikely that any of the damaged highway fencing around the borough will be repaired in the foreseeable future unless funding can be secured from an alternative source.

- The road surface in the area of the said pelican crossing at the Brecks (A631 both ways but more into Rotherham than out) requires repair/renewal

**Response**

Streetpride report that a scheme is proposed which should have commenced by the end of September 2009 but given the current budgetary situation it is more likely that we will be looking at Spring 2010 for a commencement date.

- At the entrance to Duke of Norfolk Lane is a horse field – cars and horseboxes regularly park on the grass verge, causing damage to same

**Response**

Streetpride report that having undertaken a verge parking survey at this address, approval has been given to put 2 posts either side of the VAC. This will stop access to the verge and the consequential damage. They cannot, however, proceed with the posts at this time as the Council's Planning and Transportation Department have specified that plastic posts should be used as this street is high speed. Given that Streetpride only have a small annual budget for wooden posts that is all but exhausted this financial year, a more likely date is looking April 2010, the beginning of the next financial year.

- Buzzer to said pelican crossing needed
- 3 areas of Sheepcote road itself need repairing, including 2 “ramps”

**Action: Ady Antcliffe**

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Eastwood residents thanked Rotherham South Area Assembly for their help in funding and organising this year's Funfest.

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

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 6.30pm, Town Hall**