

WENTWORTH NORTH AREA ASSEMBLY
Meeting held on Monday 10th May 2010
Swinton Civic Hall at 5.00pm

Present

Councillor Alan Atkin	Ward 19 – Wath - (IN THE CHAIR)
Councillor Alan Gosling	Ward 19 - Wath
Councillor Jane Hamilton	Ward 7 – Hooper
Councillor Brian Steele	Ward 7 - Hooper
Councillor Ken Wyatt	Ward 16 – Swinton
Councillor Neil License	Ward 16 – Swinton
Dianne Hurst	RMBC Wentworth North Area Assembly Team
Lucy Reader	RMBC Wentworth North Area Assembly Team
Sgt Sarah Hoyle	South Yorkshire Police
PC Tony Lee	South Yorkshire Police
PCSOS Karen Sykes	South Yorkshire Police
Andy Fawdry	Streetpride
Neil Archer	Streetpride
Jenny Yates	RMBC Project Development Unit
Matthew Finn	RMBC Community Protection Unit
Andrew Bedford	RMBC Finance
Mike Dawes	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Rita Leary	RMBC Swinton Library
Glynn Gould	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Clive Taylor	Local resident
John Wordsworth	Charles Street Community Centre
Pauline Chantry	Broadway Neighbourhood Watch
Wendy Smith	Local resident
M Weatherley	Local resident
K Phillips	Local resident
Ann Harwood	Wentworth North Area Housing Panel
W Hopwood	Local resident
I Lomas	Wentworth P.C and Harley V.P
M Alderson	Wentworth North Area Housing Panel
P Drabble	Local resident
K Drabble	Local resident
K Swanwick	Local resident
H Tooley	Wentworth North Area Housing Panel
G Scherdel	Wath R.U.F.C
F Brown	Local resident
B Walker	Local resident
B Jones	Local resident
H Harrison	Local resident

1. Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Atkin welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and Councillor Brain Steele the newly elected member for the Hooper Ward was welcomed to the meeting. The Chair informed everyone present that the meeting would be minuted, so if anyone wanted to say something that they wished not to be minuted would they please make it known. Councillor Atkin added that if anyone had any issues they wished to raise with officers they would be available following the meeting.

Apologies were received from:-

Councillor John Doyle	Ward 16 - Swinton
Councillor Frank Hodgkiss	Ward 7 – Hooper
Jill Ratcliffe	RMBC Wentworth North Area Assembly Team
Karen Milner	2010 Rotherham Ltd
Lynne McGinn	Local resident

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8th MARCH 2010

Agreed: - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th March 2010 be received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Matters Arising

An action checklist with updates from issues raised at the previous meeting was available to all in attendance. There were no further matters arising raised.

3. QUESTIONS FROM OPEN FORUM

3.1. A resident asked if it would be possible to provide a small number of car parking spaces on the green off Church Street at Swinton. Councillor Wyatt informed the meeting that Chapel Hill is being looked at for the provision of off road vehicle parking following the successful delivery of off road vehicle parking on other roads in that locality.

3.2 A resident highlighted that there are yellow lines outside the new Netto store in Wath which if removed could allow another couple of vehicles to park.

4. COUNCIL BUDGET

The Chair introduced Swinton Ward Councillor Ken Wyatt as the Cabinet Member for resources within Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council who undertook a presentation about the Council Budget.

Following the presentation questions were welcomed, no questions were raised. The Chair thanked Councillor Ken Wyatt for his presentation.

5. **DUN STREET PLAY AREA**

The Chair introduced Jenny Yates from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils Project Development Unit. Jenny explained to the meeting that Dun Street play area in Swinton was identified as poor quality during the Play Pathfinder Scheme where 28 play areas throughout the borough were renewed. Due to land ownership issues and Japanese Knotweed the Dun Street play area was unable to be renewed during the Play Pathfinder Scheme.

The Wentworth North Area Assembly however are keen to see this play area renewed so a consultation exercise was carried out with local residents which resulted in 37 out of 85 houses visited responding to the consultation which is an excellent response rate. Young people have been consulted as to what equipment they would like to see in the play area via local school councils. Also consultation sessions were run during the Easter holidays at Swinton Lock Activity Centre. The results of the consultation were positive however a minority raised concerns about anti-social behaviour.

Now consultation has been undertaken and draft designs for the play area have been drawn the Wentworth North Area Assembly will now undertake to secure the required funding to renew the play area. Jenny then welcomed questions from attendees of the meeting.

A resident raised concerns regarding older young people drinking alcohol at the park and if renewed the park equipment may get damaged. Sergeant Hoyle explained to the meeting that test purchase have been undertaken to check for underage sale of alcohol within that locality of Swinton and all outlets passed the tests. The play area would if renewed be policed just the same as the old play area but play areas throughout the Wentworth North area cause little problems to the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

A resident raised concerns about the quality of street lighting around the play area and that it would need replacing if there was to be a new play area there.

A resident from Wath offered peace of mind to Swinton residents by explaining resident's fears to the proposals of a new play area in Strathmore Park. This play area has now been installed and none of the residents fears have materialised.

Concerns were raised about the play areas close proximity to the Canal. Jenny explained that the play area isn't as close to the canal as the plans make it appear and the play area has been there for many years with no problems in relation to its proximity to the canal.

A resident highlighted that we can not let the minority of young people who damage play areas stop us providing new facilities for the majority of young people. The resident praised the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team in preventing damage occurring at the play area on Highfield Park at Swinton. Jenny highlighted the need for local residents to take ownership of the new play area should it be installed and work closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to prevent it being damaged.

A resident asked why designs for the play area were being drawn if funding wasn't available to actually install the new play area. Jenny explained that to be able to apply for funding for the new play area designs are needed and consultation has to of been undertaken.

6. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Andy Fawdry from Streetpride introduced to the meeting his colleague Neil Archer Streetprides Operations Manager for the Wentworth Constituency.

Neil updated the meeting that the grounds maintenance contract in the Wentworth constituency was outsourced to a company called Brophy's in 1996. Throughout this time several contractors undertook the service. Rotherham Borough Council deemed in early 2009 the contract as a whole would be better served back in house and integrated with the cleansing department to form one fluid Streetpride service.

The advantages in bringing both services together are that an individual street can be maintained all in one action rather than the previous system where the litter would be picked on one particular day and the grass would be cut on another. Both departments would act as one team resulting in more harmony and continuity across the board. When contacts come in from members of the public via the Connect contact number 01709 336003, this will now be dealt with quicker and more efficiently providing a better service to all our customers.

The Wentworth constituency area is now split into three specified zones which encompass the new grounds maintenance and cleansing roles:

Zone One – Wath, Brampton, Wentworth, Upper and Nether Haugh

Zone Two – Rawmarsh, Kilnhurst and Swinton

Zone Three – Parkgate, Thrybergh, Dalton and East Herringthorpe.

All three zones will have a designated team leader who will be responsible for all the grass cutting and litter clearance within that area. He will be the first line of contact for any member of the public wishing to make an enquiry.

Streetprides aims will for the forthcoming year be to:

1) Mow all the grass verges, housing estates, public open spaces on a fortnightly basis removing all litter prior to cutting using specific fit for purpose mowing machinery and fully qualified grounds maintenance operatives. However at no point do we pick up grass clipping but we will blow all paths with excessive clippings being blown back onto the grassed areas.

2) Mow all sports pitches and large open green space facilities on a fortnightly basis using tractor operated equipment. During faster growing conditions we will endeavour to mow all football pitches, rugby pitches etc on a more frequent basis as and when the need arises.

3) Mow all cricket outfield to a specific standard using a six cylinder tractor gang unit with frequencies requested by each cricket club.

4) Produce good quality bowling greens and cricket squares ensuring sufficient standards of maintenance are kept and adhered to. This will include regular spiking, scarifying, fertilising and top dressing on each green to reach the desired playing surface.

5) Prune where responsible all the privet, hawthorn and beech hedgerows after the bird nesting season paying particular attention to Green Flag Parks and Pocket Parks within the Wentworth area.

6) Maintain all shrub and rose borders using a mixture of horticultural methods and where advantageous using bark chippings as a mulch to deter further weed growth as and when sufficient labour is available.

With all these actions in place we believe the grounds maintenance and cleansing roles will improve as a whole across the Wentworth region giving a more balanced and structured service for the community. Questions were welcomed from the meeting.

A resident raised that the update didn't mention the repairing of sports pitches and whether grass cutting operative report damage to pitches which needs repair. The pitches at Wath need repair as one player was seriously injured due to undulations in the pitch. Neil explained to the meeting that there is a procedure for operatives to report pitch damage and the report about repairs needed at Wath's pitches will be investigated following this report. All pitch repairs generally occur in late May early June however the severe winter we have encountered this year will delay repairs until the end of June this year.

A resident raised concerns about Streetpride Operatives damaging hedges with the weed killer sprayed on the edge of grass verges. Neil explained that all hedge lines and obstacles are sprayed around with weed killer to aid the grass cutting operative's work. The damage to the particular hedge reported however will be investigated following the report at the meeting.

A resident highlighted that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councils budget for grounds maintenance and street cleansing are the lowest in the country. How will merging two small budgets provide a better service for Rotherham? Andy Fawdry explained to the meeting that now the two teams work as one they will work more efficiently therefore providing a better service.

A resident praised the grounds maintenance at Brampton's Recreation Ground however raised concerns that damage is occurring due to a local resident riding their horse there.

A resident highlighted that rubbish is cut up by grass cutters. Neil explained that now the cleansing and grounds maintenance teams have been combined litter picking will occur prior to the grass being cut therefore reducing the occurrences of litter being cut up by grass cutting machinery.

A resident asked why grass clippings are not collected by the grass cutting machinery. Neil explained to the meeting that the Grounds Maintenance Team cut three million

square meters of grass throughout the borough on a fortnightly basis and it is just not practical to collect that amount of grass clippings on a fortnightly basis.

A compliment was made known by a resident of Harley regarding the conscientiousness of the tractor gang operator who cuts the cricket field at Harley. Neil agreed to pass on this compliment to the operator concerned.

A resident raised concerns that the area in Newhill Park which should be treated as a meadow area has been cut under the standard grass cutting programme. Neil agreed to investigate this concern.

7. AREA CHAIR / AREA PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS REPORT

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

The **Swinton Fitzwilliam** estate marks another milestone on the evening of Monday 17th May. An open meeting will be held from 6.30pm at the Swinton Youth Club (sited on the Swinton Comprehensive School site) to adopt a constitution for the Swinton Fitzwilliam Mutual Group and elect a committee. If you are interested in taking part, simply turn up on the evening or ring Lucy Reader on 01709 334603 for further details.

The proposals for the renovation of the **Dun Street** play area in **Swinton** were on display at this meeting, and a report on the outcomes of the consultation is on the agenda.

Proposals to build 29 new council homes in **West Melton** were discussed at public meetings in the area, with assembly officers in attendance to develop an understanding of the issues for the community. The proposals have progressed to the stage where planning approval is being sought and interested parties are directed to the RMBC website for further information.

RMBC were able to further plans to develop additional council homes when monies became available late in the 2009 -10 financial year and consultation has begun on proposals for **Albany Road**. Plans and street views were on display at this meeting. Any queries raised at this meeting will be passed on to officers working on the scheme, or if you want a face to face response, please come along to a drop in event due to be held between 5:00pm and 7:00pm at St Thomas' school on 13th May.

The **Wath Community Partnership** holds its regular open meeting next Wednesday 19th May. The start time is 6:30pm and the venue is the Montgomery Hall in Wath.

RMBC officers provided proposals to alleviate parking problems for homeowners in **Harley** at a meeting of the Parish council last month. Discussions are ongoing.

For further details about the projects above, take a look at our website on www.areaassemblies.gov.uk or contact Lucy Reader on 01709 334603.

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Action Group priorities, which are currently: the Swinton Fitzwilliam estate and Valley Road area and Brampton. The removal of Valley Road area and the inclusion of White Bear estate Wath, or an area of Wath that includes Newhill is proposed.

PACT priorities for the area will be changed at this evenings PACT meeting.

The Housing Market Renewal programme for the area is drawing to a close and plans are currently being drawn up to complete outstanding works during the financial year 2010-11. This meeting will forward any questions on to this service that you may have.

Discussions have taken place on the works and priorities to be included on the new programme for the 2010-11 Streetpride devolved budget. A programme of activity will be shared at the next area assembly meeting.

The Wentworth North Area Assembly Devolved Budget for the financial year 2009 – 2010 has now been fully spent. Thank you to all our partners for working with us to achieve such wonderful results.

At the present time there are limited resources available to a future programme of activity, set against the HMR programme; Corporate and area priorities. Details of the commissioning process will be released as soon as it is known.

8. PARTNER UPDATES

Updates were circulated to everyone present from:-
Karen Milner - 2010 Rotherham Ltd
Andy Fawdry – RMBC Streetpride.
Craig Cornwall – Rotherham Warden Supervisor

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

9. PACT – Partners and Community Together

Sergeant Sarah Hoyle – South Yorkshire Police, gave a report regarding the crime statistics for the previous month, a copy of which is available by contacting the Area Assembly Office on 01709 334604 or via email - wentworth.north@rotherham.gov.uk

Last month's identified priorities were:-

- 1. Valley Road / Grange Road, Swinton**
- 2. Denman Road / Keble Martin Way, Wath**
- 3. Oak Road, Wath**

Sergeant Hoyle asked the meeting if priority area 3 could be signed off, keeping priority areas 1 and 2 on for a further month. **Agreed**

A full update of the PACT priority areas can be found on the South Yorkshire Police website @ www.southyorks.police.uk or by contacting the Wentworth North Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01709 832485.

A brief discussion followed to identify one new priority area, and the following areas were agreed.

This month's identified priorities are:-

- 1. Valley Road / Grange Road, Swinton**
- 2. Denman Road / Keble Martin Way, Wath**
- 3. Fitzwilliam Street, Swinton**

Sergeant Hoyle then took questions from attendees of the meeting, these included:-

Residents raised concerns regarding speeding vehicles in a number of locations these included St Johns Road and The Crescent at Swinton, Elsecar Road at Brampton and Cemetery Road at Wath. Sergeant Hoyle agreed to request speed enforcement to be carried out at these locations. The meeting was also informed that the Police Young Persons Officer is currently working with young people in the area stopping speeding drivers and allowing the young people to inform the driver that they were speeding and the dangers of doing so.

A resident highlighted Mexborough's zero tolerance of alcohol glasses and bottles being taken onto the streets. Could Swinton be pro-active ahead of the forthcoming World Cup and use the same warning signs. Sergeant Hoyle explained to the meeting that Mexborough is part of an Alcohol Exclusion Zone as is Wath however Swinton is not part of an Alcohol Exclusion Zone so the signage couldn't be used. Sergeant Hoyle also highlighted that her team are currently working with local shops who sell alcohol to barcode their stock so that alcohol litter could be traced back to the point of sale.

Sergeant Hoyle informed the meeting that the next PACT meeting would be held on Tuesday 15th June 2010, 6pm at the Dearne Fire Station, Manvers Way, Manvers.

Councillor Atkin thanked Sergeant Hoyle for her report.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were raised.

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th July 2010, 7.00pm at the new Dearne Fire Station, Manvers Way, Manvers.

Councillor Atkin thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.