

Rother Valley South Area Assembly Meeting
4th February 2008, 2:00pm
The Lyric Theatre, Dinnington

Present;

Cllr Jenny Whysall (Chair)	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Jane Havenhand	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Robin Stonebridge	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Iain St.John	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Jo Burton	RMBC Elected Member
Cllr Jacquie Falvey	RMBC Elected Member
Insp. Richard Scholey	South Yorkshire Police
Jo Pickett	South Yorkshire Police
Rebecca Atchinson	Rotherham PCT
Garry Kemp	RMBC Streetpride
Owen Swift	RMBC Sports Development
Jackie Scantlebury	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Sue Marston	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Beverley Alderton-Sambrook	RMBC Planning
Chantal Spittles	Dinnington Guardian
Trevor Stanway	Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council
Pauline Davies	Dinnington St.Johns Town Council
Brian Cottam	Dinnington St.Johns Town Council
Nigel Lee	Firbeck Parish Council
Rita Alderton	Anston Parish Council
Pete Blanksby	Wales Parish Council
Gill Shaw	Wales Parish Council
John Haywood	Wales Parish Clerk
Monica Carroll	Woodsetts Parish Council
Cllr Malcolm Hindley	Thurcroft Parish Council
Graham Bell	Laughton Common TARA
Felicity Roe	Clarence Howard TARA
Mr Roe	Clarence Howard TARA
Roy Mugglestone	High Nook TARA
Margaret Marshall	Greenlands TARA
S. Wallhead	Anston TARA
Wilf Slack	Dinnington Cricket Club
Steve Keyworth	Laughton Common Resident
Jean Smith	Laughton Common Resident
Trevor Fletcher	Laughton Common Resident
Norma Fletcher	Laughton Common Resident
Paul Streets	Laughton Common Resident
Tina Meekins	Laughton Common Resident
Sylvia Keyworth	Laughton Common Resident
J. R. Wood	Laughton Common Resident
J. Newman	Laughton Common Resident
C. R. Jepson	Dinnington Resident
Michael Bishop	Harthill Resident
A. G. West	Resident
A. Laishley	Resident
Graham Runksley	Resident

Nosober Latif
Andrea Mason
Helen Banerjee (minutes)

RMBC Area Partnership Manager
RMBC Community Planning Officer
RMBC Community Support Officer

1. Apologies;

Rachel Clarke, Mr Blackwell, David Cocking, Audrey Gilbert, Hena Aravindakshan, Beryl Howarth, Darron Crookes, Barry Bott, Peter Lee, Richard Swann, Sue Thompson

2. Minutes of 06/08/07;

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Section 106 is considered where there are 15 or more properties, not 50.

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Cllr Stonebridge pointed out that the PCT budget in Rotherham is actually £390million.

The minutes were passed and agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising;

Rebecca Atchinson informed the meeting that a number of issues have been raised regarding appointment booking at Dinnington Surgery. The Patient Liaison Group will be meeting again on 6th March and this has been added to the agenda. Rebecca also encouraged people to use the PALS complaints system. PALS can be contacted on 01709 302481 between 9:00am and 5:00pm or you can write to PALS Co-ordinator, Health Advice Centre, RAIN Building, Eastwood Lane, Rotherham, S65 1EQ or e-mail health.enquiries@rotherhampct.nhs.uk
Leaflets were available at the meeting or from the Rother Valley South Area Assembly office.

Action: Rebecca Atchinson to provide an update from the Patient Liaison Group meeting at the next Area Assembly meeting.

Nosober Latif informed the meeting that the Traffic Management Working Group had now been established and the first meeting took place on 22nd January.

Cllr Stonebridge informed the meeting that he has obtained the service standards for YEB. He also confirmed that RMBC pay a set amount to YEB therefore it does not cost more when lights are not switched off during the day.

Insp. Scholey provided a report on the Police Community Support Officers duties. Copies were available at the meeting or from the Rother Valley South Area Assembly office.

Nosober confirmed that a letter of thanks has been sent to SYPTE for providing the number 18a bus service to Doncaster.

Insp. Scholey informed the meeting that Trading Standards carried out test purchases on the sale of alcohol and the garage in Laughton Common passed.

Cllr Stonebridge informed the meeting that 0845 phone numbers are charged at local rates unless they are being called from a mobile and then it varies depending on the tariff.

Nosober confirmed that Rother Valley South Area Assembly has responded to the residents e-mail regarding the home visit made by the Doctor.

Nosober also confirmed that we are unable to find out how much precept money is generated by Laughton Common as RBT would need to know every address covered and the council tax band for each property. This can only be done if Laughton Common was to be set up as a separate Parish Council.

4. Feedback from the Chair

The Co-ordinating Group met on 14th January and the following issues were discussed:

- Patient dissatisfaction with the Dinnington Practice is still a concern. The Patient Liaison Group are meeting quarterly and will address the issues of repeat prescriptions and telephone access at the next meeting;
- The group are liaising with Dinnington Comprehensive in relation to providing a football pitch for community use as there is a shortage of pitches in the area and teams are travelling to other areas to access facilities;
- The group agreed a protocol for the Open Question Time session at Area Assembly meetings;
- An update was provided from Rotherham PCT regarding Respiratory and Heart Disease rates in Rother Valley South. These were not found to be excessive;
- Insp. Scholey provided an evaluation of the Section 30 Dispersal order which was in place in Dinnington. It was found that businesses benefited from the order but there were issues with displacement. This was discussed further at the Neighbourhood Action group;
- Barriers for teenage parents and support for teenage parents will be carried forward to next years Area Plan.

The Young Peoples Task Group meets monthly, current activities include:

- Planning the first Young People's Area Assembly in partnership with Children and Young People's Services and Dinnington Comprehensive;
- Continued monitoring of the NRF projects;
- The purchase of a permanent youth shelter and a temporary youth shelter which was possible due to the withdrawal of the Junior Wardens Project;

- The permanent youth shelter has been placed on Nursery Road as the temporary shelter which was previously placed there was a success. This will be monitored by the Youth Shelter Project Group.

Progress on the Neighbourhood Action Group priorities;

- Scarsdale Street, Leicester Road and surrounding streets – This area continues to be a hotspot area for crime and anti-social behaviour. A number of schemes to improve this area are being progressed using Housing Market renewal funding. There will be an environmental scheme around Doe Quarry Lane and Scarsdale Street. Alleygating on Scarsdale Street and Victoria Street has been approved and a community cleanup is taking place on Saturday 9th February. The Area Assembly have purchased 110 Smartwater Kits which are used for property marking and these will be distributed by the Safer Neighbourhood Team in the area.
- Laughton Road, Dinnington – The Dispersal Order ended in December 2007. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are still focusing their resources in this area. Repeat offenders are being targeted and contact with parents is being made.
- Parking issues outside Wales Primary – All the measures agreed should be in place by the end of March 2008. The Traffic Management Working Group have agreed to review the success of these measures in 6 months time.
- Laughton Common – This area continues to suffer from youth nuisance. A mobile CCTV camera has been deployed in the area for the past 4 months. Images from the camera are downloaded on a regular basis.

The January edition of the RVS Area Assembly newsletter is now available. The Area Assembly website will be available before the end of March 2008.

Traffic Management Working Group

- The first meeting was held on 22nd January 2008;
- The members of the group are Cllr Whysall, Cllr Havenhand, Cllr Stonebridge, Pete Blanksby, Malcolm Hindley and Andrew Lee and Stuart Savage from RMBC Transport and Planning;
- The group will focus on any issue related to roads, highways and traffic;
- If you would like to raise an issue please contact one of the group or the Area Assembly team who will add this to the agenda of the next meeting which is taking place on 18th March 2008.

5. Affordable Housing Presentation by Gordon Smith, Quality and Design Co-ordinator

The normal mortgage amount offered by banks is 3 times the income level however the majority of properties in Rotherham are 4 – 7 times the income level which means many people cannot afford to buy.

There are 3 main routes to affordable housing.

These are:

- National Affordable Housing Programme;
- Affordable Housing Policy and Section 106;
- Housing Association Direct Investment.

Potential opportunities for people to get on the housing ladder are:

- Low cost home ownership – this is quite difficult due to the cost of land and construction;
- Shared ownership – this enables people to get on the housing ladder for less money as the property is part owned and part rented;
- Social rent – renting from Housing Association or council housing;
- Discounted open sale – this is where negotiations are held with a developer to provide some low cost housing.

Other tools include:

- Rural exceptions – this allows housing to be built where it normally wouldn't be allowed, e.g. greenbelt land, due to exceptional circumstances. This has not yet been necessary in Rotherham;
- Private sector renewal;
- Direct Build.

The Affordable Housing programme 2006-08 includes 10 schemes which are mostly situated within the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder areas. Substantial investment is being made to provide a variety of 230 affordable units including general needs, extra care, old persons, disabled persons and BME. The Affordable Housing programme 2008-11 will see 227 units built during phase one, 16 of which will be in Dinnington. Further information will be provided on the exact locations at a future date.

There is a new Section 106 policy due in April 2008 which will require 25% of all new private sector developments over 15 units to be affordable, 14% of which to be developed for renting and 11% for shared ownership. There is still some debate over whether this should be more flexible. The Local development Framework will look at whether there is a need for rural housing.

Brian Cottam asked who would be the owners of the 14% of rental properties. Gordon Smith responded that the developers have to find a housing association to take on the properties.

Mr Streets asked for an explanation of Section 106. Gordon responded that it is a section of the Town and Country Planning Act which enables Local Authorities to make a legal agreement with developers to provide certain things, e.g. free bus passes to residents on new housing developments to encourage the use of public transport or play areas. It has become customary to use Section 106 to provide affordable housing.

Action: Rother Valley South Area Assembly Team arrange for a Planning Officer to attend the next meeting and provide an overview of Section 106.

Cllr Stonebridge suggested using the Area Plan priorities to inform the way Section 106 is agreed.

Malcolm Hindley asked if there had been any negotiations using Section 106 to provide affordable housing on the new Laughton Common development as many young people are finding it difficult to afford local properties. Gordon confirmed that there had been.

Mr Streets raised the issue of the proposed road closure in Laughton Common which is linked to Oaksbury Homes planning application. This is going to the Planning board on 7th February and Mr Streets was advised to register his intention to address this meeting. He was also advised to speak to his Ward Councillors regarding this matter. Cllr Falvey confirmed that she had attended a local residents meeting in Laughton Common with Cllr Wardle.

Graham Runksley enquired about the distance between new houses on developments. Gordon responded that the Government provide planning statements regarding the density of housing and this has recently been raised due to the demand for housing and the shortage of available land.

Graham also asked if flood risk assessments were carried out. Gordon confirmed that assessments are carried out but if there is a risk of 1 flood in 100 years it may not be sufficient to decline planning. In Laughton Common there had been a development on the land already so it was not thought to be at risk from flooding.

Graham also asked if there were any professional standards regarding allocated parking. Beverley Alderton-Sandbrooke responded that there are set guidelines and there would have to be significant concerns to sway from the guidelines. If this were the case it would be passed onto a specialist to address.

Cllr Burton asked if there were any regulations or policies regarding environmentally friendly housing. Gordon confirmed that there is no specific policy however it will form part of the Local Development Framework. There is a 6 point standard, 1 being poor and 6 being excellent. There is an interim planning policy which covers this and states developments should meet the level 3 standard.

Cllr Stonebridge asked how much social rent is in comparison to council rent. Gordon responded that council rent is between £50-60 per week and private rent is £130-140, social rent is usually pitched somewhere in between.

6. Open Question Time

Malcolm Hindley submitted a question regarding the bus stop on Rotherham Road (opposite Murphy's). There are no road markings indicating and several cars have been parking at the bus stop causing a hazard for people getting on and off the bus. Andrew Lee from Transport and Planning has responded to say that they have recently contacted the Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) about bus stops in this area, to clarify future use and positioning and are awaiting a response. In the meantime, it would be premature to carry out any improvements. This will be discussed in the next Traffic Management Working Group meeting and an update will be provided.

Action: Rother Valley South Area Assembly Team to add item to next Traffic Management Working Group agenda.

Pete Blanksby asked if the Dog Wardens were still working in Kiveton as there has been a lot of dog fouling on the recreation ground. Jackie Scantlebury confirmed that the dog wardens are working in the area however they only deal with stray dogs. The Rotherham Wardens can issue fines for dog fouling and they are also working in the area. Tina Meekins added that this is also an issue on Glaisdale Close, Laughton Common.

Action: Rother Valley South Area Assembly to request additional Warden patrols in the Kiveton area.

Monica Carroll expressed disappointment that the Lord Nelson site is being used for private development when there is a shortage of recreation facilities in the area. Cllr Falvey responded that this was a private site however there are a number of sites earmarked for the development of recreation facilities.

Tina Meekins asked why Laughton Common was in Rother Valley South however they are covered by Thurcroft Parish Council which is part of Rother Valley West. Cllr Falvey responded that it was the residents of Laughton Common which chose to be part of Thurcroft Parish Council however they are part of Dinnington Ward.

Margaret Marshall informed the meeting that youth nuisance problems are escalating in North Anston around the new medical centre. Youths have smashed glass against the side of the medical centre and in the car park and drug paraphernalia was found at the play area. Insp. Scholey confirmed that they are aware of the issues and are increasing patrols in the area.

7. Any Other Business

Cllr Stonebridge informed the meeting that the bus timetables which are at the bus stops are not accurate. SYPTE have been informed and they will be changed.

A resident informed the meeting that youths in Laughton Common have now moved to the industrial estate and Tile Rack was damaged recently. Insp. Scholey confirmed that the police had responded to this incident.

Pete Blanksby asked about the upkeep of roads in the area. Cllr Stonebridge explained that some funding had been lost as an independent assessment found the roads to be well maintained. Worksop Road, Ryton Road and The Baulk are scheduled to be resurfaced and there is a site meeting outside Anston Brook Primary at 10:00am on Wednesday 6th February. Cllr St.John asked if a Streetpride representative could attend the next meeting and provide information on roads and funding issues.

Nosober Latif acknowledged that some people had not received their paperwork for the Area Assembly meeting. She confirmed that the papers had all been sent and apologised to those who had not received them.

Nosober also informed the meeting that RVS Area Assembly team are in the process of arranging the date for the next RVS parishes meeting in conjunction with Harthill Parish Council.

Nosober confirmed that she has received a letter from Rotherham PCT following their absence at the December Area Assembly meeting. The information will be presented to the Co-ordinating Group and will be fed back at a future Area Assembly meeting.

Action: RVS Area Assembly to invite a Streetpride representative to the next Area Assembly meeting to provide details of the programme of re-surfacing work in the area.

The meeting closed at 3:45pm

Date and time of next meeting

6:00pm – 8:00pm
7th April 2008
Anston Parish Hall