

ROTHER VALLEY WEST AREA ASSEMBLY
Aston Parish Hall
Monday, 14th April, 2008

Present:-

Cllr. J Swift	Borough Councillor (in the Chair)
Cllr. G. Smith	Borough Councillor
Cllr. J. Austen	Borough Councillor
Cllr. F. Wright	Borough Councillor
Cllr. R. Littleboy	Borough Councillor
Cllr. H Jack	Borough Councillor
Cllr. G. Boyes	Borough Councillor
Andrea Peers	Area Partnership Manager – Neighbourhoods RVW
Julie Barnett	Community Planning Officer
Kyley Taylor	RVW Support Officer
Charles Hammersley	Environment & Development Services
Katharine Boyes	Environment & Development Services
Andy Lee	Environment & Development Services
Martyn Weir	Streetpride
Mick Firth	Aston Resident
Caroline Simpson	Rotherham PCT
Mike Woodhouse	Aston Resident
Gary Cooper	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
Trevor Wilson	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Christine Mallinder	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Alan Hodkin	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
George Thornsby	Orgreave Parish Council
Jeff Walker	Ulley Parish Council
Barbara Littlewood	Friends of Ulley Country Park
Jeff Blades	Friends of Ulley Country Park/Aston History Group
Insp. R Scholey	South Yorkshire Police
Mark Burkitt	Ulley Sailing Club
Linda Maxted	SYNWA

Apologies:-

Cllr. G. Nightingale	Borough Councillor
Cllr. A. Jackson	Borough Councillor
Pat Wade	Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council
Pam Horner	SYPTE
Derek Corkell	Rother Fed

178. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd March, 2008 be approved as a true record.

179. MATTERS ARISING

Waverley Development Site - Cllr. Littleboy stated that the previous minutes were misleading as planning permission had not been given as stated in the minutes with respect to office and residential development at Highfield Commercial. Waverley will be a big issue for Rother Valley West in which Elected Members need to be involved and Cllr. Littleboy felt that currently the representatives on the Waverley Liaison Group were not representative of this area. He also expressed concern that Parish Councils were not adequately represented on the Group. Mr Cooper pointed out that Pat Wade from Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council sits on the Waverley Liaison Group and also stated that other Parish Councils in the area were represented on the group.

AP stated that it had been agreed at the RVW Co-ordinating Group meeting for her to attend Waverley Liaison Group meetings which have been set up to facilitate the pre-planning consultation process that all major developments are required to carry out. Meetings will be held in every area and are not serviced by RMBC staff.

Cllr. Smith stated that a Parish Liaison Meeting was due to take place on Thursday, 17th April at 4.00 pm and this would provide an opportunity for the issue to be discussed further with Parish Councils.

Waverley Link Road - Cllr. Smith reported that the option preferred by the community will not take place because the Water Board have refused permission. Further meetings will take place to discuss this issue further.

Speed limit outside Aston Fence J&I School – a letter was made available to the meeting from Karl Battersby regarding community concerns sites which stated that as part of the Council's speed management strategy a review of all the speed limits throughout the Borough is to be carried out in which the 40mph speed limit on Sheffield Road will be considered to determine if this is appropriate for the location.

Inspector Scholey reported that he had received an offer from Safer Camera Partnership to attend future meetings if required.

180. CO-ORDINATING GROUP – AREA CHAIR FEEDBACK

Cllr. Swift gave a brief overview of the RVW Co-ordinating Group meeting held on Monday, 31st March, 2008:-

- Active in Age – promoting physical activity for older people. Presentation by Helen Hawley, PCT.
- 2 new members to sit on Co-ordinating Group representing Thurcroft and Brinsworth/Catcliffe.
- Lack of members attendance at Co-ordinating Group meetings

181. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY: PRESENTATION BY CHARLES HAMMERSLEY, PROJECT OFFICER, ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Charles was invited to the meeting to discuss the draft Public Realm Strategy for Rotherham Town Centre published by the Council to provide design and guidance for existing streets, squares and spaces. Charles explained that the strategy is currently being prepared by Gillespies (Urban Design/Landscape Consultants) who have worked on other nationally recognised schemes and are quite well known for their work in Public Realm. Yorkshire Forward are funding the scheme. The document is available to view on the Council's website at www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning. A six week consultation period will be taking place from 11th April to 23rd May, 2008.

Charles' presentation included:-

- Targets Goal 8 – want best in architecture
- Prepared by Gillespies, funded by Yorkshire Forward
- Purpose – consistent and coherent design
- Consultation – 3 stages – a 6 week statutory public consultation period.
- Emerging issues – identified by Gillespies, 60's/70's road infrastructure dominates gateways
- Emerging opportunities – high quality buildings and views, Minster lighting
- Design Guidelines – street furniture, planting, public art features
- Status of document – intention is for Council to adopt as Interim Planning Statement in Autumn 2008, provide a tool to negotiate developer contributions under Section 106 Agreements
- Public Realm Improvements – working closely with RCAT, redevelopment of college sites – new public spaces
- Westgate Demonstrator Project – Deck of Cards - high quality public spaces

The following questions/comments arose following the Charles' presentation:-

- Q. What is the timescale for completion?
 A. This will depend on number of comments received back and how these are addressed.
- Q. Is Tesco staying where it is?
 A. No other site has been identified as yet but the Civic Area is being looked at.

Agreed: that Charles be thanked for his informative presentation. For a full copy of the presentation please contact the Rother Valley West Area Assembly Office, Tel: 01709 702897.

182. ULLEY COUNTRY PARK – FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRESS REPORT: PRESENTATION BY ANDY LEE, GREEN SPACES OPERATIONS MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Andy was invited to the meeting to give an update on Ulley Country Park following the Council's decision to reinstate the park following last year's floods. Andy's presentation included:-

- Short Term – maintain low water levels - 2½ meters below overflow to reduce pressure on dam wall, 4 submersible pumps in use and managed by Rangers, Engineer satisfied that dam and overflow will function safely.
- Dam Inspections – Protocol agreed with Panel Engineer to report and deal with any observed changes.
- Site Security – 24 hour presence by security guards, security fencing across dam wall, day time ranger presence.
- Section 10 Inspection – outlines any work needed to ensure the long term safety of reservoir, resulting work overseen by Streetpride, site investigation ongoing – Arup designing necessary works, a number of Engineering consultants preparing tenders for design work – design work will start in July 2008
- Section 10 Inspection - 9 Principal recommendations are:-
 1. Fill Morthen Bywash with stone to support toe of dam embankment
 2. Recalculate maximum flood taking into account impermeable surfaces
 3. Repair wave protection to the upstream face
 4. Investigate condition of dam core and do any necessary repairs
 5. Construct spillway(s) to pass the probably maximum flood
 6. Repair hole in crown of drainage tunnel
 7. Replace scour pipe with larger diameter pipe to downstream channel
 8. Remove redundant pipework
 9. Engage mining specialists to provide a statement on coal mining under the dam, and possible further settlement
- Other Section 10 Recommendations – site monitoring, record keeping, routine maintenance
- Programme for Main Works – design completion early 2009, contract works start Spring 2009, contract works completion end 2009.
- Current Public Access – majority of footpaths open, car park open 7 days per week, Visitor Centre building returned to normal use.

The following questions arose following Andy's presentation:-

- Q. Are there any plans for looking after the water once it has left the reservoir?
A. This water will run into the river.

- Q. Target date for completion is 2009 what if it happens before this date?
 A. The water would go down a different channel and run back into the river. The channel water went through during the floods has now been blocked off.
- Q. Currently you can't walk all way round lake - could use this opportunity to address this issue at same time?
 A. A master plan has been put together which will include changes which need to be looked at. It was also pointed out that a lot of wildlife would be compromised if the walkway was altered.
- Q. What is final water level to be?
 A. Slightly lower than it is now.
- Q. Will you still be able to open and close the valves?
 A. Yes, can still maintain water levels in a normal situation.

Agreed: that Andy be thanked for his informative presentation. For a full copy of the presentation please contact the Rother Valley West Area Assembly Office, Tel: 01709 702897.

183. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Q. Request received for minutes of the RVW Co-ordinating Group meetings and list of members who sit on the group.
 A. Minutes will be made available at future Area Assembly meetings.
- Q. Traffic system needed outside Robinhood Public House – cars using pub car park and Coral Drive to turn around.

Inspector Scholey reported that a National Speed enforcement campaign will be taking place between 21st - 27th April 2008 in which the community can influence locations. The following locations were suggested from the meeting:-

The Chase
 Aughton Lane
 New graveyard area going into Treeton
 Sheffield Road outside Fence School.

The Friends of Ulley Country Park are having an Open Day in Ulley Park on Sunday, 20th April from 10am until 3pm. This is the first time the Visitor Centre has been opened to the public since the Floods of June 2007.

184. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next scheduled meeting be held on Monday, 19th May, 2008 at Thurcroft Christian Fellowship Hall – 6.00 p.m.

The public will have the opportunity to meet with the Councillors after the Area Assembly meeting.