

ROTHER VALLEY WEST AREA ASSEMBLY
Swallownest Community Centre
Monday, 1st September 2008

Present:

Cllr. J. Swift	Borough Councillor
Cllr. J. Austen	Borough Councillor
Cllr. H. Jack	Borough Councillor
Cllr. F. Wright	Borough Councillor
Andrea Peers	Area Partnership Manager
Julie Barnett	Community Planning Officer
Nicola Hacking	Community Support Officer
Gillian Palmer	SYPT
K. Popplewell	DC Leisure
Carol Pearce	DC Leisure
Trevor Wilson	2010 Rotherham Ltd.
Pat Wade	Aston-Cum-Aughton Parish Council
Yvonne Butterworth	Resident
Gary Cooper	Aston-Cum-Aughton Parish Council
James Mossman	Streetpride
Carolne Simpson	Rotherham PCT
Gareth Dennison	Dinnington Guardian
Sue Marsh	Orgreave Parish Council
Mary Clear	Orgreave Parish Council
Mike Baker	Ulley Windfarm Action Group
Mike Corden	Windfarm Action Group
Nigel Cooper	Rotherham Wardens
Paul Beever	Rotherham Wardens
Jeff Walker	Ulley Parish Council
P. Cunningham	EDS Green Spaces
Jenny Harrison	Groundwork Dearne Valley
Leanne Fox	Yorkshire Water
Andrew Hall	Yorkshire Water
Bob O'Keefe	Aston-Cum-Aughton Parish Council
Pam Gregory	Brinsworth Parish Council
Pam Milnes	Brinsworth Parish Council
Vince Boulter	RMBC
Steve Copp	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Mick Firth	Aston Pool Watch/Resident
Brian Jolly	Catcliffe Parish Council
Linda Maxted	Aston-Cum-Aughton Neighbourhood Watch
Ingrid Fry	Resident
Paul Martin	Aston-Cum-Aughton Parish Council
Margaret Hughes	Brinsworth Parish Council

Apologies:

Cllr Littleboy
Cllr Boyes

199. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 7th July, 2008 be approved as a true record.

200. MATTERS ARISING

St Georges Steps – Cllr Swift reported that a meeting had been arranged on Thursday, 11th September, to meet at St Georges Steps. Cllr Swift stated that he would pass on the time of the meeting to the Parish Councils.

Wind Turbines – It was asked if there was any technical data received yet? Cllr Swift stated that he had got 50% of the maps and that Cllr Nightingale had attended a site visit to a wind farm. Cllr Swift stated that he had been invited to attend the next meeting. A resident stated that this information was very important and asked if Cllr Nightingale had done a report from his visit and could the information be passed on as soon as possible. **Action: - Wind Turbines technical data needed as Cllr Nightingales report on his visit to a Wind Farm.**

201. CO-ORDINATING GROUP – AREA CHAIR FEEDBACK

Aston Pool Visit – Cllr Swift reported that there would be a site visit to Aston Pool on Monday 8th September at 3.00 p.m. – Anyone interested to contact the Area Assembly Office.

Michael Firth was concerned that he had not heard of any publicity about the community and village involvement in saving the local pool. Mick also stated that Aston Pool Watch had requested to have a site visit since the development began and still hadn't received an invite. **Action:- Carol Pearce was asked to take these concerns back with her.** Carol stated that due to health and safety even she as the manager had been unable to have a look around the building due to health and safety.

No. 6 Path Skipton Road – Cllr Swift reported that there was a walkabout arranged for Wednesday 3rd September at 2 pm on Skipton Road. Cllr Swift stated that they were looking at re-routing the path which would be of similar distance. Linda Maxtead stated that she had received complaints about the trees. Cllr Swift to have a look on the walkabout.

202. The New Aston cum Aughton Leisure Centre: Presentation by Carol Pearce, Culture and Leisure and Kirsty Popplewell DC Leisure.

Carol Pearce introduced herself as the Manager of the existing Leisure Facilities at RMBC however Carol would be moving over to a similar

position within DC Leisure in the next week along with her staff. Kirsty Popplewell introduced herself and gave an overview of DC Leisure stating that they were a privately owned company operating the running of the Leisure Facilities in Rotherham. Kirsty explained that DC Leisure specialises in the development and management of leisure facilities in partnership with local authorities throughout the UK. Kirsty stated that DC Leisure have developed dynamic and responsive partnerships with 30 Council clients to optimise the performance of their public leisure centres so that they can better serve their local community and achieve both economic and social objectives. Ultimately DC Leisure's goal is: More People, More Active, More Often

- DC Leisure has 125 Leisure Facilities over 30 Councils.

Carol Pearce stated that RMBC Leisure staff would be moving over to DC Leisure in the next few weeks and every member of staff would be guaranteed a job however it may not be the same job. Carol stated that the opening times were longer than at present and there would be a range of memberships available as well as the opportunity to pay per session. Carol stated that Aston would be having 2 pools, a gym, aerobics suite, meeting room and sports hall. Carol Stated that Dinnington and Aston Pool were now closed and staff were being trained for the opening of Aston Aston cum Aughton Leisure Centre on Wednesday 17th September.

The following questions/comments arose following Carol Pearce's presentation:-

- Q. Brian Jolly asked what the costs would be to use the facility.
- A. Carol stated that there was up to 30 different categories for membership and therefore Carol recommending people come along to the facility and discuss the best membership for them. Carol stated that there would be reduction such as Rothercard as there are now.
- Q. Brian asked if the facilities catered for disabled people?
- A. Carol stated that all the pools were equipped for disabled people and Rotherham's main pool which was soon to be opening in the centre of Rotherham has a moveable floor for the disabled.
- C. Mick Firth commented on whether the facility would be able to cater for the amount of people that would want to use the pool with 2 pools closing down and only one pool to replace them.
- C. Concerns were raised from a number of residents regarding the parking as the site shares parking with the school staff and sixth formers.
- C. Concerns were raised over the safety of children entering the school and leaving the school grounds which they share with a potentially busy leisure facility.

Action: Cllr Swift to raise the issue of children's safety with the opening of Aston Leisure Centre at the next Co-ordinating Group meeting.

- C. Linda Maxtead asked if the Police, PCSO and Wardens were to be there for the opening of the centre for the safety of the children and monitor illegal parking.
- C. Pat Wade stated that the issue of parking needs to be taken up with the School and the development of a new pool needs to be applauded.
- Q. Caroline Simpson asked what the relationship would be with the local schools.
- A. Carol said that there was an agreement with the local primary schools for the use of the pool and Aston Comprehensive has access to the pool and sports hall during the day. Carol stated that the 'Learn to Swim' programs already in existence at Aston and Dinnington would continue on the same timetable at the new facility.
- Q. Cllr Swift asked if the Badminton Club that had been running for a number of years would continue its current regular bookings.
- A. Carol stated that if arrangements had been made already otherwise no.
- C. Mick Firth stated that he would like to thank the staff at the community pool for the years of good service.

Cllr Swift asked for Carol Pearce and Kirsty Popplewell to make the same presentation to their next co-ordinating Group.

Agreed: that Carol and Kirsty be thanked for their presentation.

203. Play Path Finder – Peter Cunningham, Development Officer Play and Jenny Harrison, Groundwork Dearne Valley.

Additional item added to the agenda.

Peter Cunningham and Jenny both introduced themselves. Peter explained that the Council was asked to bid for Government grants to improve local play areas. Peter announced that Rotherham Council won £2.1 million to improve 28 play areas in Rotherham that were considered to be of poor standard. Peter stated that out of the 28 play areas 12 would be improved by March 2009 and the remaining 16 would be improved the following year. Peter explained that the Rother Valley West area would see 7 play areas improved or refurbished with £284,000 being spent on them. These would be:-

Skipton Road, Swallownest, Sheffield – Toddler Play
West Park Drive, Swallownest Sheffield – Play Area

Alexandra Road, Aston, Sheffield – Older children/ teenage play area proposed.

Poynton Avenue, Ulley, Rotherham – General play equipment.

Coral Drive, Aughton, Sheffield – Play area

Washfield Lane, Treeton, Rotherham – Play area

Falconer Lane, Fence, Sheffield – Play area

Peter explained that the decision to improve the above play areas was because they were of a low standard. Peter stated that every play area was assessed and rated.

Jenny from Groundwork Dearne Valley stated that consultation would need to be carried out for each play area. Jenny asked for details of local groups that would like to have an input along with the local schools to agree what improvements should be made. **Action:- Please pass on details of local groups on to the Area Assembly Office who would pass them onto Jenny.**

Linda Maxtead stated that the park at West Park Drive, Swallownest needs some sort of fencing to stop the children running out into a busy road and stop nuisance bikers driving over the park. Peter stated that the money wasn't for fencing unless it was really necessary and any fencing would be natural to the environment. Councillor Smith suggested contacting Neighbourhoods for match funding as it was their land. **Action: - Peter agreed to look into it.**

Brinsworth and Catcliffe Parish Council both highlighted that they have maintained their parks and therefore they have not been eligible for funding. Peter stated that they cannot guarantee further funding being available however children's play areas are a high priority to the Government at the moment. **Action: - Jenny to make arrangements to contact Aston Parish Council about consultation.**

Peter was thanked for his presentation and for working hard to bring the funds to Rotherham and Rother Valley West area.

204. Aston School Traffic Initiative: Presentation by Vince Boulter, School Travel Plan Advisor.

Vince Boulter introduced himself and stated that it was his job to promote sustainable school travel. Vince stated that one area he was looking into was encouraging parents to travel to school in other ways rather than using the car. Vince had recently done some consultation with primary school children and the majority of them preferred to walk. Vince stated that parking around schools can cause problems and accidents and Vince was looking at ways to encourage parents to park further away from the school if they need to take the car. Vince stated that he had been involved in putting in zebra crossings outside schools, improvements to footpaths to encourage safer ways to travel to school

and was involved in promoting the 'walking buses' (A couple of parents collecting children on the way to and from school).

Vince said that he had consulted with children at Comprehensive Schools and the majority of them would prefer to cycle to school however they felt this was too dangerous.

Vince was asked if he had any solutions to the problems raised in the previous presentation regarding Aston Comprehensive School and the new pool. Vince suggested trying a 'ten minute timeout', where for ten minutes of the school opening and closing the pool is closed for access so children are given this time to enter or leave the school safely without lots of cars trying the park and enter the school grounds to access the Aston Community Pool.

Linda Maxted asked what can be done about parents who don't park safely around the schools. Vince stated that the PSCO and Wardens need to get involved and give tickets. Vince stated that at another school, Junior Wardens have gone round the cars who are parked giving them red or green cards stating whether they have park correctly or not.

Mary Clear asked what can be done outside Aston Fence School. Vince stated that he believed the speed of the road needs reducing however passed the issue onto Councillor Smith who stated that parents don't need to be crossing that road as there are no houses on the other side. Mary stated that parents park on the other side of the road due to lack of parking and there are homes on the other side of the road further down.

The website link to Sustainable School Travel is:-

<http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/graphics/Environment/Transport/School+Travel+Plans/EDSSustainable.htm>

Action: - Councillor Swift was very pleased with the presentation and asked Vince to attend the next Co-ordinating Group meeting.

205. Questions from the members of the Public

Mick Firth asked if anyone was aware of an incident at Aston Lodge Primary School on 20th August. Mick was told that there was smoke and children on the roofs. The gentlemen who witnessed the incident called the police and it took them 1 hour and 30 minutes to attend after the incident was reported.

Councillor Wright reported numerous vandalism incidents in the area of Brinsworth and had concerns about young people getting alcohol and sitting in the streets drinking it and causing a nuisance.

Margaret Hughes stated that a resident came to the last Brinsworth Parish Council, very angry and upset, to complain about anti-social behaviour from a group of young people who congregate in the gennel that runs in between his neighbourhood and his terraced house. Simon Boulby (who was in attendance of the meeting) stated that he has reported the incidents to the Police on numerous occasions and taken photos to keep a log of the incidents and mess they cause.

Action:- Andrea stated that the NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) were meeting up on Wednesday and she would raise the issue there. Andrea also suggested that they arrange a site visit.

Jeff Walker reported that Ulley Village Hall was now open to bookings.

Linda Maxtead reported numerous incidents at an address on Mansfield Road of anti-social behaviour and windows being put through. Mr Cooper stated to Linda that he had caught the people on his CCTV and passed on the information to the PCSO but was told it wasn't good enough and suggested he buy better recording equipment. He has since had no follow-up visit from the Polce.

Action: - Andrea Agreed to pass the information onto the NAG.

A member of the Ulley Wind Farm Group stated that local groups had received phone calls from the developers of the wind turbines to see if they would like funds for they community group. The member of the Wind Turbine Group wasn't sure that this was appropriate as they had not yet submitted their planning application. Barbara Littlewood confirmed that Friends of Ulley Country Park were contacted but they turned down the offer.

Action: - Andrea will investigate whether it's appropriate.

Barbara Littlewood stated that there was no drop curb for mobility scooters to access Ulley Country Park on the opposite site of the road. Barbara also stated that there was a footpath from Whiston to Reservoir Road but it doesn't continue to Ulley Country Park. Barbara stated that the cones outside Ulley Park have slowed traffic down and helped people enter the park and exit it.

Action: - Andrea to look into.

It was reported that there had been a lot of dog fouling on St Georges Drive in Brinsworth.

Action: - Rotherham Wardens to look into.

206. Any other Business

Steve Copp introduced himself as the Service Manager at Aston Fire Station. Steve asked if anyone was interested in or knew of anyone who needs a smoke alarm and a free home assessment to contact any of the Rotherham Fire Stations. Steve also stated that there is a car wash service at Aston Fire Station to raise money on Saturday 13th September.

Margaret Hughes from Brinsworth Parish Council stated that they have a Parish Newsletter which could be used to advise this service.

Action: - Councillor Swift asked for Steve Copp to attend the next Co-ordinating Group to pass this information onto them.

207. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Monday, 13th October, 2008 – 6.00 pm at The Willows School, Thurcroft.