

Joint Working Group

RMBC and Parish and Town Councils

25/09/08 Town Hall, Rotherham

Present:-

Cllr Mahroof Hussain (Chair)
Cllr Jane Austen
Cllr Barrie Marsh
Cllr Peter Sludden
Paul Griffiths

AGENDA	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Sue Kilcommons Cllr Pat Wade</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Election Costs</u></p> <p>PG confirmed to the group that he had contacted John Walker regarding the briefing paper. JW had agreed that this would be available for any Election costs presentation at the next Parish Network meeting.</p> <p><u>Rotherham Community Newspaper</u></p> <p>PG advised the group that the first edition of the new Rotherham News had been published. The Area Assemblies had featured in a Round your Way section and it is hoped that Parish Councils will feature in a similar way in future editions. Future copy deadlines have now been obtained. PG to write to all parish clerks and ask that details of any local news or events are forwarded for potential inclusion in future editions.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny Review</u></p> <p>JA updated the group on the progress of the scrutiny review looking at the relationship between RMBC and parish and town councils. Questionnaires had been sent to all parish councils but the response to date could be better. PS commented that the questionnaire had a relatively short deadline which could explain the current response rate. JA advised that the questionnaire had been designed to be completed by the clerk or chair without recourse to a council meeting.</p>	<p>PG to contact all Parish Councils.</p>

<p>3. Licensing</p> <p>Deborah Bragg to be invited to the next joint working group meeting</p>	<p>PG to contact Licensing team.</p>
<p>4. Rotherham Show</p> <p>PG updated the group on the Rotherham Show weekend. The theme of the parish stall was “Could you make a difference?” The stall had received over 250 visitors and many had taken part in the interactive quiz to guess the landmarks and taken leaflets describing the role of parish councils. Those involved considered it a successful exercise and had generated some positive publicity for parish and town councils. The costs of the event including promotional material and design, and the space in the tent had totaled £3000.</p> <p>The promotional material and backdrop can be used again and will feature at future events. The group asked is material could be made available to the next Parish Network meeting and that the Could you Make a difference leaflet on the role of parish and town councils is sent to all parishes.</p> <p>BM advised that he had received some comments that the rotherhamparishcouncils.gov.uk website is difficult to navigate to when entering through the RMBC site. PG to discuss with corporate web manager.</p>	<p>PG to send on promotional literature</p> <p>PG to contact RBT.</p>
<p>5. Update on procurement</p> <p>PG reported that he had had some initial communication with RBT around procuring goods and services for parish councils. The initial discussion had focused around office goods, computer equipment and HR services. The group agreed that were potential benefits for both parties and that RBT representative be invited to a future JWG meeting with a view to discussing office supplies, insurance, computer equipment, HR, payroll, design and printing and copying facilities.</p> <p>PG advised that Anston parish council had recently expressed concern about the rising gas and electricity prices and have subsequently been included on RMBC gas and electricity contract following discussions with EDS. JA asked if this could be extended to all parish councils. PG advised he would contact EDS to discuss further.</p>	<p>PG to contact Paul Hamblett RBT</p> <p>PG to contact EDS</p>
<p>6. Parish Network meeting</p> <p>The group agreed the date for the next Parish Network meeting would be either the 26/11/08 or the 27/11/08 subject to the date</p>	

<p>of the planning meetings.</p> <p>The following topics would be the main presentations:-</p> <p>Changes to QS (YLCA) LSP (Vince Roberts) Election costs(John Walker)</p> <p>Written briefings could be provided on</p> <p>Questionnaire on procurement requirements Parish Review Planning law</p> <p>Plus the presentation of a certificate of achievement to Aston cum Aughton parish council for achieving Quality Status.</p>	<p>PG to work on arrangements</p>
<p>7. Representation on the LSP/Joint working group/Member Development Panel</p> <p>The group agreed that Peter Sludden would attend the Proud theme board subject to confirmation of the dates of the meetings.</p> <p>The vacancy on the Joint Working group will be filled at the next Parish Network meeting.</p> <p>PG to email Pat Wade and Sue Kilcommons regarding the Member Development Panel.</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>BA expressed his concern about parish council reserves given the current credit crunch and the potential threat to savings and investments. MH replied that he thought this unlikely and the government had provided a guarantee to local government in the event of such a crisis and this may well apply to parish councils. MH advised that he would look at this and confirm with BM.</p>	<p>MH to confirm.</p>
<p>9. Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>To be held on the 03/11/08 4pm at the Town Hall.</p>	