

Joint Working Group

RMBC and Parish and Town Councils

1st September 2009, Town Hall, Rotherham

Present:-

Councillor Mahroof Hussain (Chair)
Councillor Jane Austen (JA)
Councillor Eric Shaw (ES)
Councillor Gary Cooper (GC)
Councillor Ted Kelsey (TK)
Councillor Pat Wade
Councillor Richard Swann (RS)
Paul Griffiths (PG)

AGENDA	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Issue raised by Thrybergh Parish Council</u></p> <p>PG updated the group on a response from the Community Protection Team dealing with the issues raised by Thrybergh Parish Council with regard to fly tipping and anti social behaviour within the Parish.</p> <p>The Community Protection team had confirmed that enforcement action was being considered to tackle some elements of the complaint and that the NAG and local Area Assembly team are aware of the issues and will be monitoring progress.</p> <p>The group requested that the Parish Council be sent an update and that the group be further updated with any developments.</p> <p><u>Freedom of Information Requests</u></p> <p>PG advised that he had not yet made progress with a survey of parish councils with regard to freedom of information requests.</p>	<p>PG to contact clerk to Thrybergh Parish Council.</p> <p>PG to send survey out to all Parish Councils.</p>

<p>3. Parish Network Meeting</p> <p>PG advised that plans were advanced for the Network meeting on the 23rd September and all speakers had confirmed.</p> <p>In addition the following dates were set for future Parish Network meetings:-</p> <p>20th January 2010 19th May 2010 23rd September 2010</p>	<p>PG to distribute dates to parish clerks.</p>
<p>4. Comments from Dalton Parish Council</p> <p>PG advised the group that he had received an email on behalf of Dalton Parish Council's Community and Communications Committee regarding amendments to the revised Parish Charter.</p> <p>The email also contained comments about the relationship between Parish Councils and the Borough in particular:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of opportunity for Parish Councils to set the agenda for the network meetings • Lack of respect from RMBC employees towards Parish Councillors <p>The group wanted to make it clear that both the Agenda of this meeting and the Parish Network are open to any suggestions from Parish Councils and that any opportunity would be taken to actively encourage further involvement by Parish Councils.</p> <p>The group agreed the following actions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a list of parish representatives on borough council committees, panels and groups be compiled in time for the next Parish Network meeting and distributed to all parish clerks to illustrate the extent of opportunity available to Parish Councils to influence issues within the Council. • That a response be sent to Dalton Parish council outlining the groups commitment to taking Agenda items and the freedom to submit items for the Parish Network. 	<p>PG to compile information sheet.</p> <p>PG to write to Dalton PC.</p>
<p>5. Any other Business</p> <p><u>Purpose of the Joint Working Group</u></p> <p>ES asked if the group was clear about it's purpose and remit.</p> <p>MH replied the purpose of the group was clear through its Terms</p>	

<p>of Reference – to progress relationships between RMBC and Parish and Town councils on broader issues rather than taking on individual local issues.</p> <p><u>Review of the Charter</u></p> <p>RS handed in comments from Woodsetts Parish Council regarding the Review of the Joint Working Charter.</p> <p>PG reiterated that there had been little response to the original consultation which made reviewing the Charter difficult at this stage.</p> <p>JA suggested that a more targeted exercise could be done to look at some of the defined standards to see if they are being met e.g commitments around timely information.</p> <p>It was agreed that this should be done prior to any review of the Charter and given the poor response to the first phase of the consultation a further survey would be sent out looking specifically at individual commitments.</p>	<p>PG to draft survey</p>
<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</p> <p>15th October 2009, 4.30pm, Town Hall.</p>	