

Joint Working Group

RMBC and Parish and Town Councils

20th of October 2010, Town Hall, Rotherham

Present:-

Mahroof Hussain (MH)
Gary Cooper (GC)
Richard Swann (RS)
Eric Shaw (ES)
Peter Hubbard (PH)
Bronwen Peace (BP)
Paul Griffiths (PG)

AGENDA	ACTION
<p>1.Apologies</p> <p>Pat Wade Ted Kelsey</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>Letwell Parish Council</p> <p>MH has sent a letter to the Chief Executive's office with regard to the road closure at Letwell during June 2010. No update had been received to date and MH requested that an email be sent Karl Battersby.</p>	<p>PG to contact Karl Battersby.</p>
<p>3.Communications regarding Planning Applications (Ulley)</p> <p>MH welcomed Bronwen Peace (Planning Manager) and Peter Hubbard (Chair, Ulley Parish Council)</p> <p>Ulley Parish Council had previously raised an issue regarding a perceived lack of courtesy in not informing the Parish Council of a discussion at Planning Board during July concerning the application.</p> <p>BP explained that the discussion at Board was necessary to amend the reason for granting permission (which forms part of the decision notice) due the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) being revoked since the application had originally been considered. The principle of the development was not being reconsidered, just the implications regarding the RSS, which was considered to be a procedural matter, and not subject to a further consultation with the Parish Council.</p>	

<p>PH explained that from the perspective of Ulley PC the fact that the RSS had been withdrawn meant that there had been a material change in the planning application itself relating to renewable energy targets for Rotherham in the RSS.</p> <p>BP advised that this could not be taken into account as the application had been heard prior to the withdrawal of the RSS and as such the basis of the application stood. However due to the circumstances of that time this issue went back to the planning board because the RSS had been revoked. This could not be reflected without Members approval and this was a matter of administration and not determination.</p> <p>PH suggested that perhaps this, and the uniqueness of the circumstances, could have been taken into account and better communications made with the Parish Council.</p> <p>MH reiterated that the group's concern is not the content of the planning application but with the procedural issue and if the Parish council had been correctly and fully informed and how this could potentially be improved in the future.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP to ensure Ulley Parish Council are clear on the reason for the issue being discussed at planning board. • If required a further meeting of a sub group to take place to take any further outstanding issues forward. • That consideration be given to including an item around planning communication at the next meeting of the Parish Network scheduled for January 2010. 	<p>BP to confirm details with Ulley PC</p> <p>To be discussed at next meeting</p>
<p>4. Feedback from Parish Network meeting of the 12th of October 2010.</p> <p>PG updated the group on the Parish Network meeting of the 12th of October 2010. The meeting was attended by 15 parish councillors and clerks and received talks from Tim Mumford on the Ethical Standards Survey and Nikky Wilson of VAR on the 'Rotherham in Root' project.</p> <p>Feedback from the meeting was largely positive although the attendance had been limited by clashing with a number of Parish Council meetings around the borough..</p> <p>Suggestions for topics at the next event included: The Big Society, Community Right to Build and Devolving Services to Parish and Town Councils.</p>	<p>To be discussed at next meeting</p>

<p>6. Any other Business</p> <p>Ravenfield Parish Council</p> <p>ES advised that he had been made aware that the Police had rejected a call from Ravenfield Parish Council with regard to a request for a reduced speed limit in the village.</p> <p>MH thought that this was not a direct issue for the group to be involved with at this stage however if it was felt that wider issues could be raised by Ravenfield Parish Council on behalf of all Parish and Town Councils the group would look at any communication of this nature.</p> <p>Travelling Community</p> <p>ES advised that a discussion will take place at the South Yorkshire Branch of the Local Councils Association regarding the travelling community and Parish Council involvement should a site be set up on parish land. ES suggested that this could be an item for a future Parish Network meeting.</p>	
<p>7. Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>To be confirmed for early December 2010</p>	<p>PG to arrange date for meeting.</p>