

Parish Network Meeting 9th June 2010

Chair: Councillor M Hussain

Present:	Representing:
Darren Hughes	Catcliffe Parish Council
Gary Cooper	Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
Pat Wade	Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
Jane Austen	Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
Darrel Cant	Brinsworth Parish Council
Keith Stringer	Maltby Town Council
B. Mcneeley	Wickersley Parish Council
R Swann	Woodsetts Parish Council
Michael Gazur	Anston Parish Council
Alan Buckley	Brinsworth Parish Council
M Hughes	Brinsworth Parish Council
P Wilkinson	Brinsworth Parish Council
Ann Stewart	Maltby Town Council
Margaret Johnson	Ravenfield Parish Council
Basil Larcombe	Thrybergh Parish Council
Alan Scholes	Thrybergh Parish Council
Sue Ellis	Wickersley Parish Council
Peter Thirlwall	Wickersley Parish Council
Rob Foulds	Bramley Parish Council
Alan Hodkin	Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
David Rowley	Ravenfield Parish Council
Jan Leyland	RMBC
Paul Griffiths	RMBC
Elaine Hedge	RMBC

Introduction: Councillor M Hussain

Councillor Hussain welcomed all attendees and introduced members of the RMBC and Parish and Town Councils Joint Working Group and gave a reminder that they are a useful point of contact for any issues to be raised with RMBC regarding joint working.

(Members of the Joint Working Group are:-)

Councillor Cooper	(Aston cum Aughton Parish Council)
Councillor Wade	(Aston cum Aughton Parish Council)
Councillor Swann	(Woodsetts Parish Council)
Councillor Kelsey	(Bramley Parish Council)
Councillor Shaw	(Whiston Parish Council)

Cllr Hussain announced that Cllr Jane Austen has now left the Joint Working Group. He thanked Cllr Austen for all her efforts and hard work over the past few years.

Best wishes were also sent to Eric Shaw of Whiston Parish Council who is recovering from a recent operation.

Helen Sleigh (Senior Planner)

Invitation to Parish Councils to assist in facilitating consultation and engagement activities.

HS discussed the potential involvement of Parish Councils in facilitating the next round of community consultation into the Core Strategy and Allocations development plan documents.

The current position of the new coalition government was outlined and it is likely that significant changes will be made to the regional tier of planning including abolition of the regional spatial strategy including district housing targets and policies

However further clarity is needed before it can be established what targets will apply in Rotherham and which sites will be needed to meet these targets.

Therefore the proposed consultation plan is subject to change.

Despite this there has been a review in approach to the consultation based on feedback from previous experiences where some people felt that they knew little about the process and did not have time to comment or review the material on offer.

It has been agreed that the key points that will receive more emphasis for the next planned consultation will include:-

- Early engagement and advance briefing for ward members and parish councillors
- Improved liaison with area assembly network
- More localised road shows
- Improved publicity for consultations and local events

In particular Parish Councils (in areas with proposed larger development) will be asked to hold drop in sessions to help people come along and understand the proposals being made. This could also include cascading information through websites/newsletters and notice boards.

Parishes are not being asked to take a formal view of the plans at this stage but rather simply act as facilitators of the information.

Questions:

- S.Ellis (Wickersley): Wickersley would like to offer facilities for the consultation as they received a great number of enquiries in the last round of consultation although the key is to offer as much notice as possible.
- HS : We will try as much as possible to give reasonable notice. Hopefully the drop in sessions will take place in October. However at this stage the process is still subject to change due to the shifting approach from central government and as such is not practical to be precise about dates at this time.
- M. Johnson (Ravenfield): Agreed - there was much interest in Ravenfield last time round and as much notice as possible needs to be given so that the parish council can make adequate plans.
- P.Thirlwall (Wickersley): Do we know what will happen if growth point status is scrapped?
- HS: This is difficult to answer at the present time and would be a matter for Members of the Council to decide.
- D.Hughes (Catcliffe) Will the figure regarding the number of houses required be recalculated prior to the consultation or after?
- HS: It is difficult to predict the new figure at the present time however it has been suggested that the housing target could be reduced to that seen originally in the Yorkshire and Humberside plan from 2005 which indicated a figure of 750 dwellings per year.
- M.Johnson (Ravenfield): Has the content of parish plans been taken into account?
- HS: Yes parish plans have been recognised but it is a case of taking a wider models and information into account aswell to compliment the data from parish plans.

Amanda Kent

Parish and Community Planning

Amanda Kent from Rural Action Yorkshire gave a presentation on the development of parish and community plans around the county.

AK explained that a community plan is not a list of demands but opens up a dialogue to influence the quality of life of a community for the better.

It is not just about influencing the local authority but local residents and other service providers too.

AK advised that assistance is available from Rural Action Yorkshire in formulating plans and support to engage with local residents

Full presentation to be attached...

Questions

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| M.Johnson (Ravenfield) | Parish Plan has been sent into the local authority however it has been ignored. |
| A.Kent | It's not unusual to think this – however it is key to consider realistic and achievable targets within the document otherwise there will always be the accusation that something is ignored. |
| P.Thirlwall (Wickersley) | What is the difference between a parish and a community plan? |
| AK | Parish plans are often limited to the boundary of the parish whereas a community plan can cover practically anywhere be it a very small local area (ie streets) or at a larger neighbourhood level. |
| P.Thirlwall (Wickersley) | If it is a community plan it is vital that the parish council are fully involved in the consultation process from the start. |
| J.Austen (AcumAughton) | Is there a cost associated with the assistance that Rural Action Yorkshire can provide? |
| AK | Yes – Rural action Yorkshire are a charity and need to charge in order to keep functioning. However you would be eligible to apply for a 'awards for all' grant to assist with the costs. |

