

## Joint Working Group

### RMBC and Parish and Town Councils

13th January 2011, Room 6, Town Hall, Rotherham

#### Present:-

Councillor Mahroof Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor Gary Cooper (GC)  
Councillor Pat Wade  
Councillor Richard Swann (RS)  
Councillor Eric Shaw (ES)  
Paul Griffiths (PG)

AGENDA	ACTION
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Councillor Ted Kelsey</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>PG gave an update on the following issues:-</p> <p><b>Letwell PC - Road closure</b></p> <p>PG advised that an email had been sent from an officer in Streetpride explaining the circumstances around the road closure and it seems that there had been an oversight in terms of communication on this occasion.</p> <p>As a result of this communications are to be improved and in similar situations in future both the parish affected and neighbouring parishes will be informed of impending closures of key roads for resurfacing.</p> <p><b>Communications regarding Planning Applications (raised by Ulley)</b></p> <p>PG advised that following the last joint working group contact had been made between the planning department and the Chair of Ulley PC to clarify the situation regarding communications around the planning application raised at the previous meeting.</p> <p>The group agreed they would still like to return to general issues around improving communications with planning at a future Network meeting.</p>	<p>PG to speak to Helen sleigh with a view to an item at the Summer Network meeting.</p>

<p><b>Travelling Community</b></p> <p>The group agreed that support and advice on this issue is well documented. The issue could be revisited on request at a Network meeting if several Parishes are affected around the Borough.</p>	
<p><b>3. Comments from Letwell PC – Adverse Weather</b></p> <p>PG circulated an email for information from the Clerk at Letwell Parish Council. The email concerned the recent snow and the response to clearing parts of the rural area of the borough and a request that the role of local farmers who had cleared roads and rescued motorists be recognised by the borough council. The group were in general agreement with the sentiment of the email. MH emphasise that any discussions should include emergency planning as it is critical that the vulnerable are protected during such extreme events.</p> <p>PG advised that he had been in contact with the relevant engineer in Streetpride and a survey relating to the winter service was currently being conducted amongst parish councils across the Borough. In addition to this an offer was made to attend a future Network Event to explore further how joint working could be moved forward to deal with future incidents.</p>	<p>PG to contact Streetpride to confirm attendance at March Network meeting.</p>
<p><b>4. Consultation and Liaison Issues</b></p> <p>RS advised the group that, despite the efforts of the Charter, he still felt that there are ‘gaps’ in liaison between RMBC departments and Parish Councils and, that from the feedback he had from other councillors across the borough, a similar feeling exists across the board.</p> <p>The group agreed with this view and felt more work could be done with Council departments whose services regularly effect parishioners.</p> <p>It was agreed that initial planning would take place with a view to potentially holding a half day conference between members of the joint working group and representatives of various services from the borough council. A questionnaire would be sent out to parish councils so that the views expressed are as representative as possible.</p> <p>It was emphasised that any meeting should be positive and constructive in tone with a view to looking at real improvements on both sides wherever possible. MH suggested that the following format could be used:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scene setting presentation</li> <li>• Question and Answer session</li> </ul>	<p>PG to draft questionnaire for next meeting</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finishing with agreed outcomes and actions</li> </ul> <p>Some preparatory work is required and as such the group agreed that the conference would be held sometime in June 2011.</p>	<p>MH to make initial enquiries with senior Members.</p>
<p><b>5. Planning for 2011 Parish Network Meetings.</b></p> <p>The group agreed to look at holding three Parish Network meetings during 2011. A number of topics were discussed for the next meeting including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing for the May elections (Elections Office)</li> <li>• Inductions for new Parish Councillors (YLCA)</li> <li>• Winter Service (Streetpride)</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2011 at 5.30pm at the Town Hall.</p>	
<p><b>6. Localism Bill</b></p> <p>PG distributed a briefing paper on the Localism Bill. Brief details of the Bill had been published by the coalition government just before Christmas and a number of elements of the bill would potentially effect parish and town councils.</p> <p>The bill is still going through the legislative process at the present time so the outcome is not certain as the content may change as it moves forward through parliament.</p> <p>The group asked to be kept up to date and if possible a briefing to be provided by the Councils' Policy Officer Steve Eling.</p>	<p>PG to contact Steve Eling.</p>
<p><b>8. Any other Business</b></p> <p>No further business.</p>	
<p><b>9. Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 4pm at the Town Hall.</p>	