

## Joint Working Group

### RMBC and Parish and Town Councils

04/10/07 Town Hall, Rotherham

#### Present:-

Cllr Mahroof Hussain (MH) Chair

Cllr Jane Austen (JA)

Sue Kilcommons (SK)

Nosober Latif (NL)

David Morton (DM)

Pat Wade (PW)

Angela Power (AP)

Cllr Rose Mcneeley (RM)

Paul Griffiths (PG)

AGENDA	ACTION
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>No apologies</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Licensing</b></p> <p>PG advised that a letter had been drafted on behalf of the group to John Healy MP asking that he lobby the relevant Minister, on behalf of Parish and Town Councils, for their right to be consulted as one of the statutory bodies regarding licensing applications.</p>	
<p><b>3. Draft budget for Joint Working with Parish Councils</b></p> <p>The group agreed the contents of a draft budget to be presented in the form of a BIP as part of the Councils budget setting process. This budget will support the work of the group and development of relationships between RMBC and Parish and Town Councils.</p>	<p>PG/NL to ensure that the BIP is submitted through the correct channels by the deadline required.</p>
<p><b>4. Parish Network</b></p> <p>PG distributed the final agenda for the Parish Network and confirmed that Karl Battersby would be making the keynote speech. Confirmation is still needed from Licensing regarding facilitation of one of the workshops.</p>	<p>SK to contact Licensing on behalf of Councillor Hussain.</p>

<p><b>5. Final draft of the Revised Working Charter/Annual Report</b></p> <p>PG confirmed that the final drafts had been sent to print and would be ready for the Parish Network meeting on the 20/10/07.</p>	
<p><b>6. Parish Council Elections – John Walker, Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer.</b></p> <p>John Walker attended the meeting to discuss a number of issues raised by the Joint Working Group regarding the handling of the Parish Council Election results in May 2007.</p> <p>Due to problems with the software used it had been difficult to display the results ‘as it happened’ on the RMBC website. However in future it will be possible to upload the results straight onto the Parish Portal area of the RMBC website or onto individual parish council websites if required.</p> <p>Mike Cuff was due to make the official announcements regarding the Parish Council election results but has been called away during the evening to deal with an emergency situation. JW assured the group that in future Parish Council election results will be announced formally by a returning officer.</p> <p>JW commented that the cost of holding Parish Council elections is on the rise and Parish Councils need to be prepared. In addition the joint working group may want to look at the future use and purpose of Parish Polls. Parish Polls have been used more frequently in recent years but appears to be an expensive way of testing opinion and the turnout is often poor.</p>	

<p><b>7. Scrutiny Review of Area Assemblies</b></p> <p>Angela Power and Councillor Rose McNeeley visited the Joint Working group to discuss the Scrutiny Review of Area Assemblies.</p> <p>The Review is now in its second phase and is looking if the structures are working, the role the co-ordinating groups and partner involvement with a view to recommending changes.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Review is very keen to hear the views of Parish and Town Councils around:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What involvement they have with the local Area Assembly</li> <li>• Views on the structure of the co-ordinating group</li> <li>• Views on any changes/improvements needed</li> <li>• Links between Area and Parish plans</li> <li>• Involvement in the task and finish groups</li> <li>• The overall value of Parish Council involvement in the Area Assembly process</li> </ul> <p>To explore such issues the Joint Working group invited them to hold a workshop at the forthcoming network day on the 20<sup>th</sup> October.</p>	
<p><b>8. Role of Parish Councils in the Local Area Agreement/Sustainable Communities Strategy and Area Plans</b></p> <p>JA stated it is important that Parish and Town councils are playing an active role in the development and implementation of the key policy and strategies in the Borough. For example the Parish Network should be made aware and have the opportunity to contribute towards the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>SK suggested that Parish Councils are often overworked and have numerous consultations and strategies to consider, however it is important that they do have the option to contribute.</p> <p>NL advised that all the Parish Councils within Rother Valley South had been consulted about the content of the Area Plan and she would liaise with other Area Partnership Managers to ensure this is being done across the Area Assembly areas.</p> <p>JA suggested that this item be carried forward to the next meeting and consideration given to the strategies and plans that Parish and Town councils could contribute to.</p>	<p>NL to liaise with Area Partnership Managers</p> <p>PG to draw up list</p>

<b>Date and Time of next meeting</b>	
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The next meeting is scheduled for the 15 <sup>th</sup> of November 2007 at 4.30pm at the Town Hall.	
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