

ARDSLEY/PARK/WORSBROUGH AREA FORUM

Held at Worsbrough Bridge Miner's Welfare

6th August 2003

- 23C (1) **Present:-** Councillors Wright (Chairman), Bristowe, Cave, Mathers and Rae
 Co-opted Members: Mr. G. Sanders and Mr. B. Stones
 13 members of the public were present.

(2) **Introduction to the Forum**

The Chairman gave an introduction explaining how the Forum operated and how and when the public could participate. Members of the Forum introduced themselves to the meeting.

(3) **Declarations of Personal Interest**

There were no declarations of interest of a personal nature from Members or Co-optees present in respect of items on this agenda.

(4) **Minutes**

IT WAS AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 16th July 2003 be approved as a correct record.

Arising therefrom in relation to minute 8 – a public question regarding an apparent absence of liaison between the grass cutting teams and the litter pickers, Carole Clark, Area Forum Officer and Howard Gaskin, Neighbourhood Pride Team Supervisor outlined the arrangements in place for ensuring that the respective operations were properly co-ordinated. In the absence of the questioner at this meeting, a Forum Member commented that the question might be aimed particularly at the operations undertaken in the De Lacy Drive area. The Neighbourhood Pride Team Supervisor indicated that officers had visited that location but that the condition of the public open spaces and communal areas in that locality following grass cutting appeared to be satisfactory.

(5) **Area Forum Officer's Report**

The Area Forum Officer outlined 3 applications received seeking monies from the Community Support Fund, details of which had been circulated with the agenda. The 3 applications were as follows:-

- (a) An application submitted by the Friends of Locke Park seeking £1,507.92 out of a total cost of £1,625.54 in relation to the holding of a Summer Gala in Locke Park. It is hoped that the Gala will re-establish the tradition of events in the Park and encourage more recreational use of the park grounds.
- (b) An application submitted by the Council's Neighbourhood Pride Service for a sum of £600 (on the basis of £200 per ward) for the purchasing of 4000 bulbs for each ward for subsequent planting to assist in improving the appearance of public open spaces. It is hoped that local community groups will assist in planting the bulbs.

ARDSLEY/PARK/WORSBROUGH AREA FORUM**MINUTE NO. 23C**

- (c) An application submitted by People United Against Crime for a contribution of £4,000 towards the total cost of £28,000 of purchasing and siting youth play provision on the playing field at Bank End. The need and demand for this facility has been identified through consultation with young people and the local community.

IT WAS AGREED:-

- (i) that the Borough Secretary be recommended to approve grants of:
- (a) £500 to the Friends of Locke Park towards the costs involved in staging a September Gala in Locke Park;
- (b) £600 (£200 per ward) for the acquisition of 4000 bulbs per ward for subsequent planting in open spaces serving communities within the Forum area; and
- (ii) that consideration of the application submitted by People United Against Crime for the purchase and siting of youth play provision for the Bank End playing field be deferred pending further investigations.

(6) Community Safety Issues

P.C. Craig Sumpter explained that there had been a number of recent convictions in relation to unruly behaviour in the Forum area and Anti Social Behaviour Orders had been served on 3 youths living at Worsbrough Bridge and 2 living at Bank End. One of these young people had breached the terms of the Order which had been served and had subsequently received a custodial sentence. Complaints had also been received in relation to a further person already the subject of an Order and action was also being considered now in relation to this person.

Investigations are taking place in relation to vehicle crime in the Bank End area.

The Police now had greater powers of seizure in relation to the improper riding of motorcycles and therefore the public were being encouraged to report nuisance incident so that the Police had better evidence for the use of these powers. These new powers of seizure had already been used in one instance within the Forum area. The Police would continue to pursue incidences relating to the improper riding of motorcycles.

IT WAS AGREED that P.C. Craig Sumpter be thanked for his report on community safety issues in the Forum area.

(7) Update on Local Area Issues

Carole Clark, Area Forum Officer, assisted by Steven Gould, Lottery Officer, gave a presentation on the progress of a number of issues and initiatives within the Forum area. Her presentation made reference to the following matters:-

(a) Roads and Travel

The Forum at its meeting held on 16th July 2003 had received a presentation about the schemes within the Forum area being undertaken through the Local Transport Programme. In relation to community plan schemes the initiative at Mayfield Crescent had now been completed

ARDSLEY/PARK/WORSBROUGH AREA FORUM**MINUTE NO. 23C**

and the one at Cliffedale Crescent had been partially finished. A further scheme is planned for Ash Cottages. A scheme is also being suggested for Roseberry Street but this does require further work. Local residents are being consulted about 3 traffic calming schemes in the area –

- (a) Cope Street/Warren Quarry Lane
- (b) Greenwood Avenue
- (c) Hoyle Mill Road.

(b) Environment

The Forum had received a presentation on the work of the Council's newly formed Environmental Regulatory Unit at its meeting held on 19th March 2003. A Community Support Fund application regarding a bulb planting scheme for public open spaces within the Forum area has been approved at this Forum meeting subject to the approval also of the Borough Secretary. (Minute (5) above refers.) Two Saturday morning kerbside collections per ward have been earmarked during the present year and some of these have been completed. There is a need to determine the area to be covered by the second collection to be undertaken within the Ardsley Ward and consultations will take place with the Ardsley Ward Members as soon as possible to resolve this issue.

Derelict buildings in the Forum area are an issue which the Council is continuing to pursue particularly in relation to the Yews, Manor and Vine Hotel public houses.

(c) Crime and Community Safety

The recent establishment of the Neighbourhood Safety Unit has demonstrated the Council's commitment to community safety and has recognised the need for closer liaison between all the agencies involved including the Police. Housing Impact Teams will also work on housing management issues and, within the Forum area, one team will cover Kendray, Ardsley and Stairfoot with the other covering Worsbrough and Worsbrough Common. 28 Police Community Support Officer working in four teams will cover the whole of the borough from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on a 7 days per week basis. These officers will increase the visible presence on the streets. Neighbourhood Watch are now using two-way radios in order that responses to incidents can be made efficiently and effectively. The Worsbrough Community Safety Forum is undertaking valuable work on community safety issues within the Worsbrough area and it is hoped that the Forum will be able to continue its work in the future.

(d) Regeneration

The Kendray Initiative has been established using Central Government funding under the Pathfinder Initiative and is proving very successful in gaining resources for the regeneration of the Kendray Estate. Efforts are being made to work with community groups in the Worsbrough and Worsbrough Common area in relation to Objective 1 Pioneer Status. A friends group has been established for Locke Park and a feasibility study using heritage lottery funding is now in place. This will be used to prepare a strategic development plan for the park and will hopefully act as the catalyst for the submission of a large park refurbishment scheme during next year. Monies are also being sought to develop the Worsbrough Mill site particularly in relation to the replacement/refurbishment of the toilet block which is acknowledged to be of sub-standard quality. However, the layout of the drains etc. in that area mean that a substantial amount of monies will be required and funding has not yet been identified at the present time. Progress is being made on the Stairfoot roundabout scheme and it is hoped that some planting on the roundabout site will commence during October 2003.

ARDSLEY/PARK/WORSBROUGH AREA FORUM**MINUTE NO. 23C**(e) Lifelong Learning

The Kendray and Worsbrough Surestart Initiative is now providing assistance for the parents of 0-4 year olds in the area. The new government initiative regarding the development of children's centres has been announced and it is possible that a centre might be developed in the future at Worsbrough Common Primary School. It is likely that this matter will form a presentation to a future meeting of the Forum. The Barnsley Local Education Authority have recently produced the School Organisation Plan which is a statutory document setting out the school age provision throughout the Borough. Two adult learning bases have been developed in the Forum area one at Worsbrough Common and one at Kendray and it is possible that other local venues will be used for the adult learning initiative in the future in order to deliver the programme comprehensively within local communities. The Forum have already received a presentation about the development of the learning net in the Forum area.

(f) Health

The relocation of the Ashville Medical Centre into the Kendray Estate is now being progressed. It is hoped that the healthy living centre project will become operational in the near future. The Sports Development Work Initiative is currently ongoing and has been the subject of regular updates to the Forum. The Barnsley Primary Care Trust will present an update to an Autumn 2003 meeting of the Forum in relation to the scheme for the development of a health centre on West Street.

(g) Local Issues

In relation to community action, the Worsbrough Sports and Development Association is now seeking to develop sport and community use of its facilities following the settlement of certain issues relating to the lease of the association building. The Ward Green Community Association are seeking to undertake repairs to the local community centre and further consultations will take place on this matter in due course. So far as young people are concerned there are regular speakeasy's and speakouts organised within the Forum area and two Youth Councillors have now been appointed to represent this Forum area.

In connection with play provision for young people, a significant scheme within the newly formed Kendray Central area is to be submitted to funding agencies shortly. The total cost of the envisaged scheme amounts to approximately £350,000.

A site has now been identified for a skateboard park at Ardsley and a more detailed scheme is now being developed.

Following the Area Forum Officer's presentation a general discussion ensued during which the following points were made:-

- (a) There is poor provision for young people within the Park Ward and there is a need to involve active groups, particularly in Worsbrough Common to see if any schemes can be brought forward. Worsbrough Common Community Association are exploring the possibilities of developing a youth club at one of the local schools but further discussions are required. An alternative suggestion is to have a youth club as an extension to the resource centre building but this would have to be funded separately from the centre due to funding criteria issues.

ARDSLEY/PARK/WORSBROUGH AREA FORUM**MINUTE NO. 23C**

- (b) Dale Park has been identified for redevelopment/refurbishment under the “transforming open space” initiative and it is hoped this scheme can be progressed as soon as possible.
- (c) The Council is submitting a detailed bid to the New Opportunities Fund and details were outlined at the meeting of the way the various funding streams under this initiative will operate.
- (d) It is acknowledged that Bank End is an area deprived of meeting facilities and therefore the refurbishment of the community building would be welcomed. There is a need to engage the local community of Bank End, particularly since the Tenants and Residents Association covering that area is no longer operating.
- (e) The need to attract funding for the refurbishment of the toilets at the Worsbrough Mill site is a priority and is unfortunately acting as a deterrent to current usage and future development of the Mill complex. The refurbishment or rebuilding of the toilets is a major scheme, however, and it has proved difficult to find a major funder for this type of scheme. However officers will continue in their efforts to attract such funding.

IT WAS AGREED that Carole Clark, Area Forum Officer and Steven Gould, Lottery Officer be thanked for their interesting and informative presentation and for their responses to questions arising therefrom.

(8) Questions by the Public

The following questions were asked at the meeting:-

- (a) The five-a-side goal posts at the Worsbrough Common Recreation Ground were removed some time ago due to them being damaged but they have not yet been reinstated. Is there any progress on this matter?

Howard Gaskin, Neighbourhood Pride Team Supervisor indicated that the posts had now been repaired and they would be reinstated as soon as the team were able to find time to undertake the necessary works. The Chairman agreed to follow up this issue.

- (b) The new fencing at the Lockwood Lane area of Worsbrough Common does not appear to be capable of fencing off the open ground and could it be extended to cover the boundary in the Bruce Avenue area since refuse is currently being deposited on the open ground from that vicinity. Could this matter be reviewed?

Inspector Rob Odell, in response, outlined where he understood the fence would be erected and explained that he understood it would fence the area off to deter access by motor vehicles. He explained, however, that it was difficult to cordon the open ground off from motorcycle use since there was a requirement to have disabled access onto the site. In relation to the height of the fence it was explained that it was likely that its elevation would be under the limit which would require planning consent but would be more than high enough to stop vehicular access.

Members agreed to pursue further the issues raised by the questioner in relation to the erection of the fence.

ARDSLEY/PARK/WORSBROUGH AREA FORUM**MINUTE NO. 23C**

(c) Could street lighting be provided on the roadway at the rear of houses on Upper Sheffield Road since there has been a spate of burglaries of the houses concerned which might have stemmed in part from the fact that the rear of these properties is unlit and dark at night? The questioner explained that the neighbourhood wardens had already looked at the situation and that it would appear only four street lights would be needed to effectively provide sufficient illumination for safety purposes.

It was explained that this particular street was an unadopted road and the Council would only adopt it if it were in good condition. It was understood however that the Highways Service were investigating issues relating to this roadway and the Chairman together with Councillor Bristowe agreed to look into the matter further with the officers concerned and update the questioner on progress.

(d) Could the hedges along Cliffedale be cut more regularly since at the present time they are only trimmed once a year which means that, prior to cutting, they are a danger to pedestrians who have to walk on the road to maintain access?

The Neighbourhood Pride Supervisor explained that the Housing Service budget only provides currently for these hedges to be cut on an annual basis but that, following complaints from local residents, he had visited the site and had authorised the hedges to be cut again on the basis that they constituted a danger.

The Chairman agreed to pursue the possibility of establishing an arrangement whereby these hedges were cut more frequently.

(9) **Appointment of Chairman for the Next Meeting and the Date, Time and Venue for that Meeting**

IT WAS AGREED that the next meeting of the Forum be held at **6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd September 2003** (rather than the scheduled date of 10th September 2003) and that the meeting be held at the Ardsley Community Centre with Councillor Dyson being appointed the Chairman Elect for that meeting.

(10) **Items for Future Meetings**

The Area Forum Officer suggested that the Forum might receive, at its next meeting, a presentation on the development of the Local Neighbourhood Centre. Forum Members also suggested that the Council's Highways and Engineering Service be asked to make a presentation about the progress of the Stairfoot Roundabout scheme.

IT WAS AGREED that the Chairman Elect, in consultation with the Area Forum Officer, be authorised to determine the topics to be the subject of presentations to the next meeting of the Forum on 3rd September 2003 on the understanding that a representative of the Highways and Engineering Service be invited to make a presentation in relation to the progress of the Stairfoot roundabout scheme but that, in the event of the service not being able to be represented on that date, a representative of the Neighbourhood Safety Unit be invited to make a presentation about the development of the Neighbourhood Centre within the Forum area.

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Chairman.