

ROTHERHAM DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 1st September 2009 at 8.10 p.m. at Woodlands Club

Present: S.Crowther (Chairman), P.Hawkridge, R.Eddington, S.Cameron, P.Nowill, S.Davies, B.Fletcher, G.Boothman, I.Hawkridge.

1. Apologies: B.King, D.Sykes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 4th August 2009 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising: The Chairman outlined Karl Battersby's response to his letter on the Core Strategy as follows:

- Core Strategy – written in approachable way for the public but with technical details on the website.
- Consultation – newspapers, Yorkshire Planning Aid, meetings and drop-in sessions. 10 week consultation period in total.
- Housing Demand – reiterated the regional spatial strategy.
- Growth Point Status – decision taken by the four South Yorkshire authority Leaders. Transform South Yorkshire co-ordinated the bid. Cabinet reports on this available on the website.
- Building Construction issues – consideration of mass market housing beyond the scope of the LDF.
- Social Housing – 25% affordable housing on qualifying developments. Didn't mention the 'real' social housing.
- Level of Immigration – regional population projections based on 6% migration from outside UK, 50% from rest of UK, and 44% from Rotherham.
- Employment Land – projection from regional economic model and RMBC research.
- Options – Civic Society objections noted and logged.

It was also noted that a reply had still not been received from Dennis MacShane to the Society's letter of the 27th July regarding the core strategy.

PH reported that no response had yet been received from Peter Thornborrow regarding the Clifton Bank garden wall.

SD reported that Sheffield Archives has responded that they don't keep any film archive material generally or of Rotherham in particular.

4. Organisational review: Nothing to report.

5. Social committee: Nothing to report.

6. Listed buildings and conservation areas:

- Keepers Cottage, Firbeck – small scale changes
- Old Rectory, Doncaster Rd, Hooton Roberts – removal of window/Juliet balcony.
- Roman Granary, Clifton Park Museum – returning it to its 1917 layout.
- Levitt Mill & Barn, Care Home, Blyth Road, Maltby.

7. Major applications: Big W store, Catcliffe – conversion into 6 units plus 8 new retail units. It was agreed that this would be raised with Karl Battersby at the forthcoming liaison meeting.

8. Correspondence: PH with Darren re: ‘Nothingness’ at the Xmas lunch, Brecon Hotel.

PH also wished to report on a meeting he had attended on the chairman’s behalf to discuss the HLF bid for Boston Castle. Scheme provides 2 meeting rooms, viewing platform, educational study facilities in the sunken garden area. PH written to Tim Brennan with comments which will be incorporated in the HLF bid. The Chairman hoped that TRC’s proposal for an observatory had not been forgotten because it would provide a full time presence on the site.

9. Treasurer’s report: Current account £1,508; Deposit £700.
£875 income & gift aid; £500 personal subs; £315 corporate subs.
£500 spent so far.
Payment will soon be needed for completion of the website.

10. RMBC minutes: Nothing to report.

PH mentioned the recent LDF minutes and the Society’s view that the Civic Area should not be demolished partly on sustainability grounds. He suggested that the issue of sustainable use of resources could equally apply to Rotherham United’s former Millmoor football ground and the recently completed new stand. He suggested that the Society campaign for a return of the football club to Millmoor. The issues including the site’s current UDP allocation were discussed, and the Chairman agreed that a letter should be sent and copied to him.

11. Fund raising: Nothing to report.

12. Items under review: Nothing to report.

13. Any other business: BF raised the issue of the Swinton House Club, which is a listed building, and backs on to the Beeches neighbourhood. The builder received planning permission for four houses on condition that he left a 150 year old oak tree intact. Now come back wanting TPO permission to fell the tree and build more houses. The residents commissioned a specialist report and the tree is understood to be sound.

It was agreed that PH would e-mail the Council to express the Society’s concern at the proposed removal of this tree.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.00 hours.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, 6th OCTOBER 2009 AT 19.00 HOURS

AGENDA

1	Apologies	
2	Minutes of previous meeting	25 minutes
3	Matters arising	
4	Organisational review	
5	Social committee	10 minutes
6	Lister buildings and conservation areas	5 minutes
7	Major planning applications	5 minutes
8	Correspondence	20 minutes
9	Treasurer's report	5 minutes
10	RMBC minutes	15 minutes
11	Fund raising	
12	Items under review	15 minutes
13	Any other business	