

Draft Minutes of the Calne Area (5) Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th October 2007 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall, Calne

Present:

Councillors C.M.R. Boase, S. Bodman, C. Crisp, R. Henning, A.K. Hill, A. Pier, H.R. Plenty, and A.J. Trotman

Others Present:

P. Dolman (Calne Leisure Action Group), J Martin (Calne Community Partnership)

County/Parish/Town Council Representatives:

Councillor M. Baggs – Calne Town Council
Councillors R. Aylen and E. Jones – Calne Without Parish Council
Councillor D. Evans – Cherhill Parish Council
Councillor G. Dickerson – Heddington Parish Council
Councillors J. Files and J. Henly – Hilmarton Parish Council

Officers Present: C. Keane (Principal Housing Enabling Officer), J. Konyenburg (Principal Regeneration Officer), J. Moore (Research and Projects Officer), L. Pullin (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), L. Robertson (Head of Policy and Performance), J. Vaughan (Community Partnership Officer) and I. Whiteway (Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer)

CA32. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.M. Bucknell and C.V. Ramsey of North Wiltshire District Council and from Councillor N. Bryant of Wiltshire County Council.

CA33. Public Question/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

CA34. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2007, circulated with the Agenda, were considered.

Resolved that subject to the inclusion of Councillor N. Bryant's (WCC) apologies for the meeting the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.



CA35. Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Urgent Agenda Item – Choice Based Lettings

In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely, the need to seek views ahead of submission of a bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government, I am of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of Choice Based Lettings should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

This item will be taken after Item 5 – Declarations of Interest.

2. Area Boards in North Wiltshire

At last week’s Executive meeting Members considered a report that outlined the proposal to create 20 Area Boards in Wiltshire. These Area Boards will form a key part of the new Unitary Authority for Wiltshire - Wiltshire Council. North Wiltshire has been invited to form pilot Area Boards in advance of the formal vesting day of April 2009. In North Wiltshire the Area Boards will cover the same geographical areas as our own Area Committees and will build on the strengths and successes of our area working.

At the next meeting of this Committee on 11th December, Officers will bring a report and presentation so that Members, key partners and members of the community can put forward their views and comments on how the process to implement Area Boards in North Wiltshire should advance. The comments of each of the Area Committees will inform a report that will go back to the Executive in January.

More information about area boards can be found on the Wiltshire County Council website on the Towards One Council pages.

CA36. Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared interests in the items set out below:

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr C.M.R. Boase	Item 7 – Update from Calne Leisure Action Group	Personal	Director of Calne Leisure Centre Ltd	Remained in the meeting during discussion of the item.
Cllr S. Bodman	Item 10 – Community Funding Distribution - Application 1 from Cherhill Preschool	Personal	Resident of Cherhill	Remained in the meeting during consideration of the item.
Cllr A.J. Trotman	Item 7 – Update from Calne Leisure Action Group	Personal	Director of Calne Leisure Centre Ltd	Remained in the meeting during discussion of the item.

Cllr A.J. Trotman	Item 11 – Update on Calne Phase 3 Project	Personal	Own in business within the development area	Remained in the meeting during discussion of this item.
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CA37. Urgent Item – Choice Based Lettings

C. Keane and J. Moore, Officers from the Housing Department of North Wiltshire District Council outlined to the Committee the Choice Based Lettings Scheme which was a new way of allocating affordable housing.

A summary of the information is outlined below:

- Choice Based Lettings (CBLs) is a new way of allocating affordable housing in the district, in which accommodation is allocated to applicants in the highest band who have been waiting the longest. The government has issued a target for all Local Authorities to be operating a CBLs system by 2010; sub-regional schemes are also encouraged. NWDC have been working on a joint policy with the other Wiltshire district councils since last year, with the view to implement CBLs in North Wiltshire by March 2009.
- The Council currently operates a points based system, whereby points are awarded for things like local connection or overcrowding and applicants then wait to be offered a property in a particular area. CBLs, however, allows applicants to choose. In Kennet and West Wiltshire, where they already operate a CBLs scheme, a list of the available properties are advertised on a weekly basis and applicants express an interest in the properties that would meet their needs (this process is known as bidding).
- The Council consulted with 3,000 applicants on their Housing Needs Register in June 2007 and we received 440 responses. The majority of respondents thought that CBLs would be a fairer way of letting properties, easier to understand than the current system and would offer more choice. Kennet and West Wiltshire found that tenants were less likely to apply for a transfer once they had implemented CBLs.
- The main costs involved will be the software costs. The Council have applied for government funding which will cover this cost and the outcome of the bid should be known by January 2008.

CA38. Unitary Status Update

A verbal update on the Unitary Status was given by L. Robertson. The update is **attached as Appendix 1 to these Minutes.**

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That Wiltshire County Council would be carrying out consultation with all stakeholders, including Parish Councils and meetings had been arranged to do so in the near future; and
- That more powers would be devolved to Town Councils.

CA39. Update from Calne Leisure Action Group

A verbal update on behalf of the Calne Leisure Action Group (CLAG) was received from Peter Dolman.

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The group had registered under the name of Calne Leisure Centre Ltd and was an Industrial Provident Society;
- It was hoped that a minimum of 1000 shares in the Leisure Centre would be sold. So far 499 had been sold to people in Calne, other towns in the area and towns over the country;
- A large number of donations had been received to boost the Centre's funds;
- The £60k grant from North Wiltshire District Council had been agreed without the need for the group to offer security for the sum;
- Vandalism on the roof of the Leisure Centre had been discovered, and this was disappointing, but it would be resolved before the Centre re-opened;
- A full range of membership to the Centre would be available;
- It was hoped that the lease of the Centre from North Wiltshire District Council would be signed soon, a slight delay had been caused due to the Unitary bid; and
- It was hoped that the Centre would reopen on 1st January 2008.

The Chairman congratulated the group on all their hard work on getting the Centre re-opened.

CA40. Feedback on Calne Week of Action

A verbal update was received from I. Whiteway (Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer) on the Calne Week of Action which took place between 20th and 24th August 2007.

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The reasons why the Week of Action was planned – to raise awareness of the positive things that Calne had to offer and to bring agencies and groups to work together for the benefit of the town;
- A grant of £5k was received from the Government to fund the week and sponsorship was also sought from local businesses, etc
- The week consisted of five themed days and included a street and river clean up, a free ice rink, a Parkour demonstration and a climbing wall; and
- The week had taken a lot of organisation but it was felt that it was a success and it was hoped that another week of action would take place next year.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Ian and all those involved with the week of action.

CA41. Project Feedback – Community Funding Awards

The Chairman welcomed representatives from two groups who had agreed to attend the meeting to discuss how the grant money received from the Committee through the Community Area Funding Awards during 2006 had benefited their projects.

Mr E. Jenkinson – Goatacre Cricket Club

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The cricket club was founded in 1928 and now had 55 adult members and 75 junior members;
- The grant funding received from the Committee had gone towards the purchase of more robust safety nets to shield cricket balls and prevent them from travelling over to neighbouring properties, and
- It had also been used to provide more robust practice nets to enhance the training facilities at the club.
- Thank you to the Committee for the funding and support.

Mr J. Henley – Hilmarton Community Association

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The grant funding received from the Committee had gone towards the provision of a Community Room for the Parish;
- The new room was currently being used by the Parent and Toddler Group, the Playgroup (who had now been able to extend their sessions to an extra 5 per week), the Phoenix Group, the Parish Council and would be available for children's parties, meetings and fund raising events, etc;
- The new facility was much more visitor friendly, has a large car park and now complied with the Disability Discrimination Act; and
- Thank you to the Committee for the award which is benefiting many groups and individuals and would have been much more difficult to achieve without the funding.

CA42. Calne Community Area (5) Funding Distribution 2007/2008

Consideration was given to Report No. 10, (circulated with the Agenda), which presented recommendations relating to 4 funding applications to the 2007/2008 Community Area Award Scheme. It illustrated links between applications and the Calne Community Area Plan where appropriate and sets out the implications of accepting those recommendations.

Representatives from each of the Groups who had applied for Community Area Funding addressed the Committee outlining the merits of their projects.

Resolved that funding distribution be agreed of the Area 5 Community Area Awards budget, based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:

1. Cherhill Preschool – Award £3,279 from the capital budget, towards the cost of refurbishing/ replacing windows, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
2. Calne Players – £434 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of performing a community family pantomime, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
3. Reach Out (Wiltshire) – Award £3,000 from the revenue budget, towards the Calne Parkour Project, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
4. 1st Derry Hill Scout group – Award £4,500 from the capital budget, towards the provision of a scout hut, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

CA43. Update on the Calne Phase 3 Project

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from J. Konynenburg who provided an update on the Calne Phase 3 Project.

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- That the Project was considered by the Executive on 4th October 2007 and it received their support and the financial backing was approved for Parts 1, 2 and 4;
- Part 1 of the project was the creation of two new retail outlets at the Sainsburys end of Phelps Parade and the Council was in negotiations with Woolworths to lease one of the outlets. 16 affordable housing units would be created above the retail outlets in partnership with Westlea Housing Association;
- Part 2 of the project was improvements to the walkway and frontages of the existing shops in Phelps Parade;
- Part 3 of the project was not in the control of the District Council as this land was owned by a private developer – it was hoped that this would provide more retail units and family housing;
- Part 4 of the project was the creation of a public square on the land behind the Zion Chapel; and
- The estimated timescales were explained and the Committee was informed that public consultation would commence at the beginning of November 2007.

CA44. Community Partnership Update

The Chairman of the Calne Community Partnership, J. Martin gave a verbal update regarding the work of the partnership. A copy of the update is attached as **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

CA45. Ward/Parish/Town Council Update

Bremhill Ward – Councillor C. Crisp reported that the Guides project was coming along well.

Calne Abberd Ward – Councillor R. Henning reported that the bid by Sainsburys to extend their delivery times had been rejected and that he had been working with Westlea Housing Association and the Environment Agency on a number of projects.

Calne Chilvester Ward – Councillor A.J. Trotman reported the possibility of the Beversbrook Community Centre coming to fruition if the planning gain from Persimmon Homes latest planning application is successful at the Harrier Close site nearby .

Calne Lickhill Ward - Councillor A. Pier reported that the results of the Lottery bid funding for the Beversbrook Community Association project had been disappointing.

Calne Marden Ward – Councillor A.K. Hill reported that the development between Park View Villas and 54, Curzon Street, Calne was welcomed, but he felt that the density proposed was too high and so had asked for it to be referred to the Development Control Committee at North Wiltshire District Council

Calne Priestley Ward – Councillor C.M.R. Boase reported that the application to turn the former Conservative Club into a Chinese restaurant was being considered by the Development Control Committee on 10th October 2007. The views of the residents was mixed. Councillor M. Baggs reported that there were problems with parking at Woodroffe Square and that there was no access for emergency vehicles.

Calne Quemerford Ward – Councillor H.R. Plenty reported that there were ongoing problems with parking, mostly at school drop off and pick up times. There was an issue at Holy Trinity School with drivers going along the inside lane to avoid the queues.

Calne Without Ward – Councillor S. Bodman reported that there was a smell problem which Hills Waste and Sands Farm were unable to identify. There were also problems with Hills or Virador lorries using village lanes when they should not be.

Calne Town Council – Councillor M. Baggs reported that the turf was being cut on the Beversbrook project on Friday 12th October. It was hoped that the project would be finished by autumn 2008.

Calne Without Parish Council – Councillor E. Jones reported that the Parish Council had issues with Wiltshire County Council over the roads in the area, particularly the speed limits on the A4 and the plans for the new Studley crossroads which they felt would be too dangerous.

Cherhill Parish Council – Councillor D. Evans reported that the Cherhill and Yatesbury Parish Plan questionnaire was in its final stages and it was hoped that it would be circulated in November 2007.

Compton Bassett Parish Council – Councillor S. Bodman who was present at the last Parish Council meeting reported that one of the issues was the mineral extraction plan or the village. It was hoped to allay the fears by working closing with Hills.

Heddington Parish Council – Councillor G. Dickerson reported that planning permission for the amenity building had been received a last and that the parking provision there would hopefully alleviate the problems with parking outside of the school. They were also hoping to extend the speed limit through the village.

Hilmarton Parish Council – Councillor J. Henly reported that the Parish Council had changed its meetings from the 1st Monday in the month to the 1st Tuesday in the month. Instead of the normal fete next year a medieval day would be held instead. Encouragement was given for all to attend the spirit of Christmas event being held later in the year.

CA46. Outside Bodies

The following updates from Outside Bodies were received:

Beverbrook Community Association – Councillor D. Evans as Treasurer reported that Calne Town Council's lottery bid had unfortunately been unsuccessful. Consultation would be commencing soon.

Calne Area LYPIG – Councillors A. Pier or S. Bodman had not attended a meeting. *(It was noted that this group had met on 19th September 2007 but that invitations had not been sent out – the Committee Administration agreed to look into this).*

Calne Area Transport Group – Councillor A. Pier had no update to report.

Calne Community Care Planning Group – Councillor D. Evans as Chairman of the group reported that they would be meeting again at the end of the month and that care issues were ongoing.

Calne Heritage Trust Centre – Councillor C.M.R. Boase who had recently attending a Management Board meeting expressed concerns that the disconnection between the Board and the Trustees should be resolved. Councillor A.J. Trotman noted the concerns, but reassured that as Chairman of the group he was in constant touch with the Trustees.

Calne Project – Councillor R. Henning had no update to report.

Sands Farm Liaison Committee – Councillor S. Bodman reported that the last meeting was held on 17th September 2007 and would be meeting again in March 2008. As previously reported there problems with the Hills lorries travelling through small villages as directed by their Satellite Navigation systems.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

There were 17 members of the public present.