

Draft Minutes of the Calne Area (5) Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 11th December 2007 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall, Calne

Present:

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

Others Present:

P. Dolman (Calne Leisure Action Group), A Henshaw (Calne Area Transport), A. Hodgson (Calne Leisure Centre), A. Kingdon (Calne Town Council), J. Martin (Calne Community Area Partnership). L. Long (Initiative for an Active Community) Sgt M. Rees (Wiltshire Police), D. Roberts (Senior Community Planner, Wiltshire County Council), and D. Robinson (Castlefields Canal and River Park)

County/Parish/Town Council Representatives:

Councillor C. Pearson – Bremhill Parish Council
Councillor M. Baggs – Calne Town Council
Councillors R. Aylen and E. Jones – Calne Without Parish Council
Councillor D. Grafton – Cherhill Parish Council
Councillor D. Evans – Cherhill Parish Council
Councillor M. Kamkar – Cherhill & Yatesbury Parish Council
Councillor G. Dickerson – Heddington Parish Council

Officers Present: M. Gilmour (Principal Community Partnerships Officer), L. Pullin (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), L. Robertson (Head of Policy and Performance), L. Taylor (Youth Involvement Development Officer) and J. Vaughan (Community Partnership Officer)

CA47. Apologies

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

CA48. Public Question/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

CA49. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2007, circulated with the Agenda, were considered.

Resolved that Minutes of the meeting of Calne (Area 5), held on 9th October 2007, be approved and signed as a correct record.



CA50. Chairman's Announcements

1. Thank you letter from Summer Fun in Calne Playscheme

A thank you letter has been received on behalf of the Summer Fun in Calne Playscheme for the grant award received which went towards the running of this year's playscheme. They had a busy year with nearly all the days fully booked and the remainder of places taken up by drop in children.

2. Community Area Funding

I have been asked to remind everyone that the deadline for applications to the last round of Community Area Funding awards is on the 4th January 2008, these awards will be decided at the Area Committee Meeting on 12th February 2008.

At this round, although there is no budget remaining for capital projects, there is £875 remaining in the revenue budget.

Please try to make community groups aware of this and encourage them to contact Jane Vaughan if they want more information or assistance in applying. Application forms are available on the Council website (northwilts.gov.uk) or by phoning the Community Partnerships team (01249 706448).

3. Funding received for Castlefields Project

Thank you to Denis Robinson and the Castlefields Canal and River Park community group for achieving the £68,000 funding from the People's Millions towards the Castlefields regeneration project.

CA51. Declarations of Interest

The following Member declared an interest as set out below:

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr C.M. Boase	Item 8 – Update from the Calne Leisure Action Group	Personal	Director of Calne Leisure Centre Ltd	Remained in the meeting during the discussion of this item.

CA52. Community Area Funding Awards Funding Criteria 2008/2009

The Committee was asked to nominate two Councillors who would represent the Area Committee on a Joint Community Area Funding Advisory Body (Task Group). The group would review the effectiveness of the 2007/2008 funding criteria and set common funding criteria for distribution of Community Area Awards (capital and revenue), by Area Committees in 2008/2009.

Resolved that Councillors C.M.R. Boase and C. Crisp be nominated to represent the Calne Area (5) Committee on the Joint Community Area Funding Task Group.

CA53. Unitary Status Update

A verbal update on the Unitary Status was given by L. Robertson. He then responded to questions from Members raised at the meeting.

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The draft Regulations for the Unitary Authority have only just been prepared and put before Parliament and they are expected to be confirmed and in place by early 2008;
- The Implementation Executive which is made up of 17 Councillors (2 from each district and the rest from the County Council which includes the Leader) have met informally and will meet formally in the new year; and
- When they do meet they will be responsible for prioritising what work needs to be done first, it may be that some services merge before vesting day and some will a lot of work and will take place afterwards.

Resolved that the Committee note the update.

CA54. Update from Calne Leisure Action Group

A verbal update on behalf of the Calne Leisure Action Group (CLAG) was received by Peter Dolman and Anita Hodgson.

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- Some maintenance issues at the Leisure Centre have been identified but these are being dealt with;
- Lots of improvements are being made in preparation for the re-opening of the Centre, including the re-commissioning of the swimming pool;
- The gym equipment that was able to be purchased following the grant from North Wiltshire District Council was due to be delivered any day;
- To date around £230k had been raised through grants, donations and fundraising, etc and the target was to raise another £40k;
- The present number of shareholders was 661;
- There had been a lot of interest in swimming lessons and these were now in the process of being booked in;
- A full range of fitness classes for all ages would be available; and
- An opening ceremony would be held on Friday 4th January at 1.00pm and a programme of events for 5th and 6th January was in the process of being prepared.

Resolved that the Committee note the update.

CA55. Feedback on Activ8 Event

A verbal update was received from L. Taylor (Youth Involvement Development Officer, North Wiltshire District Council) on the Activ8 event which took place as part of the Local Democracy Week at the Olympiad Leisure Centre on 18th October 2007. A DVD highlighting the day was shown at the meeting.

The event was arranged to seek out the views and opinions of disabled children who live in the area and 35 children attended the event. During a series of activities and workshops including electronic voting and a trip onto the open blue bus3 questions were asked:

- 1) Do you feel listened to?
- 2) Is there enough for you to do in your free time?
- 3) What would help?

Some of the main issues raised were the lack of suitable public transport for the disabled and a strong wish for there to be local wheelchair basketball facilities.

Resolved that the Committee note the update.

CA56. Community Policing Update

A verbal update on the Neighbourhood Policing Tasking Group Meeting held on 15th October 2007 was given by Sgt M. Rees.

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been up and running since the summer and there were 3 teams within Calne;
- A number of agencies attending the meeting on 15th October 2007 and each of the 3 area teams agreed their priorities for this quarter up until January 2008;
- Common priorities across the areas were youth anti social behaviour, parking issues, and speeding issues;
- The next meeting would be held on 9th January 2008 at which new priorities could be set or the existing ones continued if the problems still existed;

Several of those present at the meeting said that the improvements had already been noted by them and members of the public and wished to congratulate the Police Officers involved.

Resolved that the Committee note the update.

CA57. Consultation on Transitional Corporate Plan

Consideration was given to Report No. 11, (circulated with the Agenda), which set out the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09. The plan would be transitional in light of the Government's intention to create a new unitary council for Wiltshire and will clarify the Council's priorities for improvement and key actions for 2008/09. It will inform budget decisions until the vesting day of the new Wiltshire Council, which is likely to be 1st April 2009.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That any views needed to be passed on to North Wiltshire District Council by 31st December 2007; and
- For those who wished to see more detail, the full Transitional Corporate Plan was available by contacting the Council.

Resolved that comments and views on the draft Transitional Corporate Plan are provided to the Council by the end of December 2007, to inform the budget setting process for 2008/09.

CA58. Area Boards in North Wiltshire

Consideration was given to Report No. 12, (circulated with the Agenda), which provided background information and context to inform a debate at the meeting around how Area Boards could be trialled and implemented in North Wiltshire.

A letter was passed to the Chairman at the meeting on behalf of the Focus on Five Group from Calne expressing their concerns regarding the high profile being afforded to the Community Area Partnerships. It was confirmed that the contents of this letter would be passed on to the County Council.

The new Wiltshire Council is expected to role out 20 Area Boards across Wiltshire, which will be a key element of the democratic decision making process. North Wiltshire District Council have been offered the opportunity to set up pilot Boards. There is no finalised blue print as to how these Boards would work, so an opportunity exists for Councillors and the community to shape their creation and to ensure that they are suitable for communities in North Wiltshire.

Area Boards could provide a single forum for community consultation, meaningful involvement of local stakeholders and a joined-up method for seeking local solutions.

Officers stated that they were seeking views, from those in attendance, as to how a pilot Board could work in this area. The Committee and others present at the meeting split into three groups to discuss in finer detail how area Boards could work in the Calne Area.

Each Group was asked to report back. The five most important issues which arose were as follows:

1. **What is the Role of the Board?**

(In addition to work of the Area Committee which should be maintained e.g. Community funding, parish, community updates etc).

- Town, Parish, community liaison.
- Scrutiny.
- Consultation.
- Planning decisions? (mixed views).
- Community identified issues (e.g. transport etc).
- Oversight of delivery services.

2. **What is the Membership of the Board?**

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(In addition to work of the Area Committee which should be maintained e.g. Community funding, parish, community updates etc).

- Involving the wider community more fully than has been achieved by the Area Committee*
- Engagement with hard to reach groups*
- Chair should be a Unitary Councillor
- Town and Parish Council representation

*With additional support, resource and empowerment, the Community Partnership could represent these areas.

3. **What is the Size and Shape of the Board?**

(In addition to work of the Area Committee which should be maintained e.g. Community funding, parish, community updates etc).

- How big should the Board be?
- It could be huge, but needs to be manageable.
- Will Boards be different in different Community Areas?
- How often will the Boards meet: few with a strong focus, ad hoc, quarterly as required.
- Pilot should be run in parallel to existing arrangements (mixed views).
- Try day and evening meetings to see what works best.

4. **Decision Making**

Voting issues

- How can non District Members have an influence?
- Should everyone have a vote?

5. Pilot Area Boards should be open to development and experimentation, prepared to try new ideas but also to change and adapt them if they don't work. They should reflect the diversity of the Community Areas in the District as well as creating a standard.

Following the feedback from each of the Groups, M. Gilmour responded to questions and queries from the Committee.

Admin Note:

At this point the Committee meeting was inquorate as only four Members were remaining at the meeting. Therefore a formal resolution cannot be passed but the views of the Members present can be recorded and this is as below

Recommended that the Area Committee supports the creation of an Area Board pilot in the Calne Community Area.

CA59. Community Partnership Update

The Chairman of the Calne Community Partnership, J. Martin reported that the Partnership are busy with ongoing projects and that she would provide a fuller update at the next meeting of the Committee.

CA60. Ward/Parish/Town Council Update

Calne Abberd Ward – Councillor R. Henning reported that the proposed new Woolworths store for Calne was creating a lot of interest at the moment and that there had been improvements in the Town Centre following the good work of the Police.

Calne Marden Ward – Councillor A.K. Hill reported that proposals for the land at the former Agricentre site are being reconsidered.

Calne Priestley Ward – Councillor C.M.R. Boase reported that cherry tree roots in Woodroffe Square are causing damage to walls nearby. He was in the process of establishing who is responsible so that this could be resolved.

Bremhill Parish Council – Councillor C. Pearson reported that there had been problems with flooding in the area and a round the table meeting had been held. As a result it was hoped that ditches would be dug and culverts cleared, etc to alleviate the problems.

Calne Without Parish Council – Councillor E. Jones reported that the Parish Council have decided to wait until the new layout of the junction at the Studley cross roads is completed and then go back to Wiltshire County Council when the problems arise. He hoped that the Area 5 Committee (in whatever format it may be) will support them in the future if needed.

Cherhill Parish Council – Councillor D. Evans reported that the Parish Plan questionnaire had been sent out and 60% had responded. Analysis of the results would be carried out in the New Year.

Heddington Parish Council – Councillor G. Dickerson reported that they were in the process of fundraising for the amenity land and buildings for which planning permission had now been received.

CA61. Outside Bodies

The following updates from Outside Bodies were received:

Sands Farm Liaison Committee – Councillor S. Bodman reported that the next meeting would be held in March 2008.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

There were 8 members of the public present.