

**Draft Minutes of the Corsham Area (4) Committee held on Tuesday 13th March
7.00pm in the Town Hall, Corsham**

Present:

ChairmanCouncillor A.S.R. Jackson.
Councillors P.R. Davis, H.T. Jones, S.B. Meadowcroft, C. Reid, M. Rousell and R.L. Tonge.

County, Town and Parish Council Representatives:

Councillor J. Seager	Wiltshire County Council
Councillor J.M. Hartless	Box Parish Council
Councillor Singh	Corsham Town Council

Officers present:

D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), V. Welsh (Community Partnerships Officer), M. Todd (Senior Policy & Democratic Services Officer), I. Whiteway (Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer) and J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant)

CO43. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Bosley, Chairman of Corsham Town Council.

CO44. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

CO45. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th January 2007 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CO46. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman, Councillor A.S.R. Jackson read out the following statement:

Good evening everyone.

I would like to welcome you all to the Corsham Area (4) Committee.

Hopefully you will have seen posters advertising the meeting and will know that the main topic for discussion this evening will be Neighbourhood Policing and Anti Social Behaviour.

We will be hearing presentations from Sergeant Melanie Rolph on behalf of the Wiltshire Constabulary and from Mr Ian Whiteway, the District Council's Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer.

Following which, there will be an opportunity for Councillors and members of the public to ask questions.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand and I will get to you.



Can I take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Rolph and Mr Whiteway for attending this evening and request that we all undertake to participate in a respectful and constructive manner.

The topic is being addressed as a result of consultation, which found the issue to be one of concern to people in the area.

Future Area Committee meetings will address Youth issues and Waste & Recycling.

CO47. Declarations of Interest

None.

CO48. Neighbourhood Policing and Anti Social Behaviour

The Committee received a presentation from Inspector Williams of the Wiltshire Constabulary on neighbourhood policing and policing issues in the Corsham Area.

Points raised during the presentation included:

- That the Neighbourhood Policing Officers in the Corsham Area were now in post; two of them would concentrate on the Town and the other two on the rural and outlying areas;
- That one of the aims of the new structure is to provide a policing presence which is known to the community;
- That there was now a dedicated Sergeant for Corsham; and
- That it is important that the Police are informed when problems arise.

The Committee received a presentation from Mr I. Whiteway, the Council's Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officer, on his work at the Council.

Points raised during the presentation included:

- That the aim is to bring people and organisations together to solve problems;
- Methods of dealing with anti-social behaviour, including writing to the parents of offenders;
- That interaction with victims can be an important element in breaking the cycle of offending; and
- A recent example of how young people guilty of graffiti in Chippenham are due to help to clean it up.

Members of the public and Councillors took part in a question and answer session. Issues raised included:

- Graffiti and how to deal with it;
- The need for policing to be undertaken by trained and accountable personnel;

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- That there are currently no plans to close the Corsham Police Station;
- The Neighbourhood Policing Teams can be contacted via the 0845 408 7000 number (ask for Parade Room), but mobile phones for direct contact are being considered;
- Incidents around the Pickwick Papers shop;
- Whether providing more youth facilities will help reduce offences;
- The constraints on members of the public taking direct action; and
- The importance of good communication and partnership working to deal with anti-social behaviour issues.

The Chairman, Councillor A.S.R. Jackson thanked Inspector Williams, Sergeant Rolph and Mr Whiteway for attending and said that he hoped Councillors and members of the public had found the session useful.

CO50. Wiltshire County Council Consultation on Proposals to Amalgamate Box Highlands Primary School with the Corsham Primary School

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 (circulated with the Agenda) considering a response from the Corsham Area 4 Committee, to Consultation on the proposal to close Box Highlands Primary School and amalgamate it with Corsham Primary to form one Primary School on two sites.

Representations were received from members of the public including, Mrs Griffiths (Chairman of Governors – Corsham Primary School), Mrs Allen (Headteacher – Corsham Primary School), Councillor J. Seager (Wiltshire County Council) and Councillor J.M. Hartless (Chairman of Box Parish Council).

Issues discussed included:

- That an officer of Wiltshire County Council was invited, but was unable to attend;
- That Box Parish Council and the local County Councillor have not been consulted;
- The reasons for Box Highlands' financial state and support from Box Parish Council;
- That the Box Highlands Primary was in special measures and therefore was failing children;
- The standard of education provided by Corsham Primary School; and
- The morale of staff at Box Highlands.

Resolved that the Corsham Area (4) Committee's response to the consultation be as follows:

To support the proposal to form a Primary School.

CO51. Outside Bodies

Leafy Lane Playing Fields Project: Councillor M. Rousell stated that the project was going well.

Potley and Pockeridge Community Association: Councillor P.R. Davis stated that the Association was holding it's AGM on Tuesday 20th March 2007 at 7pm at the Centre.

Rudloe Community Association: Councillor M. Rousell stated that the Association had been given an opportunity to make progress following the reinstatement of a grant.

Springfield Leisure Centre Advisory Committee: It was noted that the Advisory Committee had not met for a considerable time.

Resolved to determine when the Springfield Leisure Centre Advisory Committee be meeting again, who will attend the meetings, who is responsible for calling the meetings and how will the Town Council and Area Committee be kept informed.

The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 9.00pm.

There were 26 members of the public present.