

**Draft Minutes of the Corsham Area (4) Committee held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
December 2007 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall, Corsham**

**Present**

Councillor E. Marston (Chairman)

Councillors J.M. Hartless, H.T. Jones, S.G. Parker, C. Reid and R.L. Tonge.

**County/Town/Parish Council Representatives**

Councillor P.R. Davis Corsham Town Council  
Councillor A. Bosley Corsham Town Council

**Officers Present**

J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), J. Cogswell (Community Partnerships Manager) and V. Welsh (Community Partnerships Officer).

**CO35. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S.B. Meadowcroft and from Mr P. Jeremiah.

**CO36. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions**

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

**CO37. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CO38. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman, Councillor E. Marston:

Community Area Funding Awards Funding Criteria 2008/2009

The Area Committee is asked to nominate 2 representatives of this Committee, to represent them on a Joint Community Area Funding Advisory Body (Task Group). The group will 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. The Task Group will meet on Tuesday 28th January 2008 at 6.00pm at the Council Offices in Chippenham.

Councillors E. Marston and H.T. Jones volunteered to represent the Committee.



### **CO39. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **CO40. Area Boards**

Consideration was given to Report No. 6 providing background information and context to inform a debate at the Area Committee meeting around how Area Boards could be trialled and implemented in North Wiltshire.

The new Wiltshire Council is expected to roll 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 will 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 are seeking views, from those in attendance, as to how a pilot Board could work in this area.

Issues discussed included:

- The frequency of Area Board meetings. A view was expressed that quarterly meetings should be planned with provision for extraordinary meetings if necessary;
- That the Corsham area will eventually have an area board. A view was expressed that with this in mind it would be best to get on with the process of setting up a pilot now;
- That it would be useful to hear the experience of other authorities who have similar area governance arrangements;
- It is difficult to say what exactly the work of a board will entail, though it will depend to some extent on the area. Boards will however, be able to influence service provision in the area, service managers will need to respond to priorities set by the board, a call in function will be in place and agencies such as the police and fire brigade will be in attendance;
- The issue of voting rights for town and parish councils has not been decided on yet. A view was expressed that Voting rights for town/parish councillors and the partnership would help to empower the community.
- Piloting area boards will enable us to see what approach works and what doesn't work; and
- An area board in Corsham may encourage robust debate in the area and enable unitary councillors, town/parish councillors and the partnership to push issues up to the new council and other service providers.

**Resolved** that the Area Committee supports the creation of an Area Board pilot in the Corsham Community Area.

#### **CO41. Environmental Issues**

This item had been put on the Agenda as a result of consultation carried out to determine issues of interest to the area. Councillor T.R. Sturgis (Portfolio Holder for Waste & Sustainability at the District Council and Cabinet Member for Planning and Waste at the County Council) was in attendance to deliver a brief presentation and answer questions from members of the public and the Committee.

Points raised during the presentation included

- The Landfill Tax Escalator is currently at £11 per tonne and rising;
- The EU Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme aims to cut the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill. This scheme fines Councils £150/tonne of biodegradable waste to landfill;
- The County Council's aim is to work to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste to landfill;
- Recycling is expensive; the best option is for the consumer not to buy heavily packaged goods;
- Supermarkets have contributed by reducing packaging. Plastics produced by supermarkets are now made of thinner materials;
- In Wiltshire 50,000 tonnes of refuse from the south of the County will be sent to a waste to energy plant near the M4/M25 junction each year. Plans are underway to build a waste treatment works at Westbury which should divert a similar amount from landfill;
- North Wiltshire District Council had planned to introduce Alternate Weekly Collection this year, however this has been put on hold to await the results of an Overview & Scrutiny Task Group Report on the issue;
- Take up of the garden waste scheme is expected to increase in the spring. It is however far better to for households to compost such waste;
- The initial results of the plastic and cardboard in Colerne have demonstrated that both materials, due to their density, have to be collected on a regular basis. The Colerne pilot has not suffered from people from neighbouring areas using the facility; and
- Green cone garden waste bins and green johanas present more efficient ways of dealing with biodegradable waste.

Issues discussed included:

- The Lakeside and Westbury plants should divert 100,000 tonnes a year from landfill – enough to avoid LATS until 2014;
- That commercial waste, much of which is high quality cardboard, goes straight to landfill. The collection of commercial waste for recycling is difficult as there are a number of contractors in the market place; it would only be worthwhile if a large percentage could be collected for recycling; and

- That local producers using recycled materials from Wiltshire would be beneficial to reducing the County's carbon footprint.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Sturgis for attending the meeting to give a presentation and answer questions.

#### **CO42. Consultation on Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09**

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 setting out a 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.

**Resolved** that any comments or suggestions on the Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09 can be sent to the Committee Administrator (contact details on the Agenda) who will pass them on to be considered by the Executive.

#### **CO43. Consultation – Link in Katherine Park**

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 which sought to determine who and how to consult on the issue of opening of highways links in Katherine Park.

**Resolved** that

- (1) Subject to the Legal Team Manager being satisfied that all residents effected by the Section 106 agreement do not have to be consulted, consultation take place with the households on the streets indicated by the red line shown on the displayed map.
- (2) The consultation be carried out by asking the following questions:  
  
Would you like the highway links at Bellott Drive to be opened by removing the bollards?  
  
Would you like the highway links at Hatton Way to be opened by removing the bollards?
- (3) The consultation is carried out by post.

**Recommended to the Development Control Committee**

- (1) The Development Control Committee takes a decision based on the views from this survey and those expressed by other parties including the Town Council and the emergency services.
- (2) The Corsham Area (4) Committee believes the bollards at Bellott Drive and Hatton Way should remain in place.

**CO44. Parish Council Update**

There were no updates.

**CO45. Community Planning Update**

There was no update.

**CO46. Outside Bodies**

Joint Services Community Liaison Panel: Councillor Hartless stated that a meeting of the Panel had taken place in November which examined the Corsham Development Project, speeding along Park Lane and nearby roads and an update on sites around Corsham which included the Rudloe site of which no change is expected in the short term. Meetings of the Panel are intended to take place on a quarterly basis.

Leafy Lane Playing Fields Project: Councillor Jones commented that there was now a need to put in place fire orders and to carry out risk assessments.

Rudloe Community Association: Talks between the District Council and Westlea Housing Association are ongoing. The Association is carrying on as normal.

The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 8:25pm.

There were 7 members of the public present.