

PILOT AREA BOARD UPDATE

for the Calne Community Area
13th January 2009

This update is to provide information about the Area Boards Project in the Calne Community Area; to feed back from the Task Group meeting held on the 11th December and from work that has been progressed from there; it also provides proposals for future work to be carried out by the Pilot Area Board and the Task Group.

PILOT AREA BOARD TASK GROUP: 11th December 2008:

The Task Group is concentrating upon the 3 Specific Action Areas, which were agreed by the Pilot Area Board, Community Discussion on the 22nd July 08.

The last meeting of the task group was also observed by Stella Milsom; Stella is a locality manager from the Government of the South West (GOSW).

Specific Action Areas:

- **Community Area Assessment** – identification of local issues and priorities for action:

Review of the Community Plan –

The Partnership has decided to extend the consultation period until the end of January and shall be occupying an empty shop unit on Phelps Parade throughout January in order to include the views of as many local people as possible – this will be run under the banner of ‘Five Alive’ which relates to the fact that the Calne Community Area is referred to as Community Area 5 of the 20 Community Areas in Wiltshire.

The Partnership Chair will be contacting all Parish Councils to link in to Parish Plans already produced and to discuss getting community input from all of the villages.

Community Visioning Event –

The Event planned to be held on 17th January has had to be postponed – this event is especially important to the Pilot Area Board because, in addition to informing the Community Plan it will also provide the broad community priority that will form the basis of the proposed Participatory Budgeting event that is planned to be held in March. The Task Group has asked the Area Board Project Manager to assist the Partnership in ensuring that this event takes place before the end of January.

- **Community Decision Making** – setting out budget priorities, allocating project funding for community initiatives using participatory budgeting techniques:

At this evening’s Board meeting a decision making exercise will take place. The issue of the location of dropped kerbs was raised at the Community Discussion and the Task Group has been working with the Community Partnership and WCC Highways to progress this issue. The exercise tonight forms one part of a three stage community engagement exercise in which local people are being asked to choose 4 priority sites for dropped kerbs from a list which the Highways department has compiled in conjunction with local access groups and individuals and the Community Partnership.

This will also be run at the Community Partnership '5 Alive' consultation and will conclude at the Visioning event, when the final community decision will be made. This decision will be carried forward by the Highways team.

A project group is being drawn together to work on the Participatory Budgeting event that will be held at the last Pilot Area Board / Area Committee. This group will be headed by Caroline Ramsey and Tony Trotman and will also include a member of the CAYPIG (Young Peoples Issues Group), and a representative from both a Parish Council and the Community Area Partnership. The Area Board will run a small grant giving event at the last Pilot Area Board/Area Committee in the Calne Area. Local community groups will be invited to apply for a grant towards funding small community projects that address the broad community priority, identified at the Visioning event. Further details of this project are outlined in the PB project plan which is available on the information desk at the back of the hall.

- **Local Challenge** – identifying persistent 'sticky issues' and holding services to account:

Curzon Street Project –

Traffic congestion along the narrow stretch of Curzon Street has been identified as a persistent 'sticky issue' for the Calne Area Community. A project group has been formed comprising a range of community representatives. This group is working closely with County Highways' officers to identify a preferred community solution to this problem. The work that is being done through this group is also being monitored by the Area Board Development Team in order that it can feed into the development of a model for dealing with other such issues in the Calne Area and across the County in the future. Cllr Alan Hill is leading this project group and will provide further details of progress.

CAYPIG (Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group) –

Sally Willox from the Youth Development Service and Keeley Gilchrist of the CAYPIG attended the task group meeting in order to feed back from the most recent CAYPIG meeting, which also took place on 11th December.

They explained that the group is trying to advance transport issues with providers, but that only one provider (Stagecoach) had responded positively. The task group has asked the Project manager to liaise with the CAYPIG in order to arrange a meeting with local transport providers.

The CAYPIG has also decided that it would like to be involved in Area Board discussions that relate to all aspects of the community and not only those which are obvious issues for young people. It will therefore send a young person to act as a representative of the CAYPIG to all Area Board meetings in future.

Other work:

The Task group also considered and discussed feedback from the previous Pilot Area Board on 25th November. This provided most positive responses around the chairing of the meeting and that people felt that they had the opportunity to speak. Negative responses concerned publicity prior to the meeting, the empty foyer at the entrance to the hall and the fact that some people had their backs to those who were speaking.

Changes have been made to the format of this meeting to try to address these matters and feedback will again be requested at the end of the meeting in order that these changes can be assessed.

The Task Group has also looked at some work the Chippenham Pilot Area Board has done around producing more user friendly notes regarding their Area Board meetings in addition to the normal

and more formal minutes. It is hoped that the minutes from this meeting might be able to be produced in a similar way and be circulated through local waiting rooms, notice boards etc.

The task group has also been involved in providing feedback on the Draft Area Board handbook that is being developed by WCC.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Task Group will be held on 12th February 2009.

Prepared by Cllr. Nancy Bryant (WCC) and Jane Vaughan (Project Manager - Area Boards Development Project – Calne Community Area) for the Pilot Area Board for the Calne Community Area on 13 January 2009

Please send comments/queries to:

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