

Trowbridge Community Area Future
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We're making a difference

Report to the Trowbridge Area Board Meeting of 14th January 2009.

1. Steering Group.

- The Extraordinary meeting on 30th November 2009 was considered to be a very useful precursor to the Core Strategy Workshop.
- The Core Strategy Workshop on 2nd December 2009 was reasonably well attended and was by far the most useful part of the consultation as we had access to the relevant officers. The preferred option presented was largely accepted though with a number of suggested alterations. A separate detailed reply has been made to the Spatial Planning Team.
- It is encouraging to read that Wiltshire Council in its recent assessment by the Audit Commission has been awarded a green flag for the exceptional work being done to involve people in decisions that affect their communities. We are all committed to this.
- The first three meetings of new Transforming Trowbridge Board have been very positive. Realistic Terms of Reference have been agreed. It is also encouraging that it has been agreed by WC to have separate Vision Directors for Chippenham and Trowbridge. A Scoping and Vision Study brief, which will be used to appoint a suitable Consultant, is nearing completion and should be ready to be sent out in early January 2010. The intention is to develop a Masterplan particularly for the Town Centre which will form an integral part of Core Strategy for the Trowbridge Community Area.

2. Economy and Transport Themes Group.

- The Sainsbury Supermarket development to build a 61,000 sq.ft. Store has started with completion expected in June/July 2010 and hopefully opening in August/September 2010.
- Despite the recession a significant number of small retailers and service providers have set up and thus the number of empty shops is no higher than a year ago.
- We are receiving increasing numbers of complaints about the traffic jams arising from the new Bythesea Road traffic system. Some of the problem appears to stem from the single lane of traffic taking traffic from Stallard Street, some of which wishes to enter the Shires car parks. We are taking this up through Transforming Trowbridge and TCAF.
- There are also complaints from the increased number of passengers using Trowbridge station that there are insufficient covered waiting areas for them. Trowbridge station is an important entrance to the town and it is a really poor advert for the town for all those travelling by train. Again there needs to be a joint approach by all on ensuring that it is upgraded as part of the transformation of Trowbridge.

3. The Culture Theme Group.

- The BA14 Culture Group is progressing its Awards for All and Wiltshire Council funded project to strengthen Culture heritage and the Arts in Trowbridge by involving more people particularly those who are hard to reach and involve. Our part-time Development Worker is making good progress, a website has been commissioned

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and outline plans set out to organise a significant Cultural Event in the Civic Hall on Saturday 17th July 2010. There are also plans for BA14 Culture to be involved the Thrive Project which will be a major Dance Event to be staged in Trowbridge Park on Saturday 1st May 2010.

- The BA14 Culture Group and TCAF Steering Group are concerned with the shortage of leisure and recreational facilities, particularly formal playing pitches for Rugby, Football and Cricket, in Trowbridge, as highlighted in the Leisure Needs Analysis completed by WWDC just prior to its demise earlier this year. Plans must be made by all concerned to address this issue as a priority by ensuring that S106 agreements include a realistic element for the provision of formal playing pitches outside the flood plain.
- The BA14 Culture Group wishes to be involved in the consultation on the design and layout of the proposed new Library complex and restaurant on the ground floor of County Hall.

4. The Environment Theme Group.

- The Group was represented at the Wiltshire Worldchangers Event at the Corn Exchange in Devizes on Saturday 14th November 2010 together with our partners the Friends of Trowbridge Community Sensory Garden and the Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park. This was a useful event with lots of networking and ideas for developing the work that we are supporting.
- The Trowbridge Fairtrade Group continues to make progress with more traders getting involved in Fairtrade. Trowbridge has been confirmed as a Fairtrade Town for a second year.
- We are encouraging all our partners to support the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and to take part in the 10 10 initiative as organisations and as individuals where we all undertake to reduce our carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. This we will achieve by reducing our various fuel consumptions by 10% which is a realistic target for most organisations and individuals.

5. Education and lifelong learning.

- It is good to see that the third Children's Centre is soon to be built at Longmeadow Primary School and that Stepping Stones is to be incorporated into the development. The other two Children's Centres at Studley Green Primary and at Bellefield Primary are providing a much needed service.

6. Health and Social Care Theme Group.

- The Care Quality Commission has given NHS Wiltshire an improved overall quality score of Fair up from Poor while the financial management score remains as Fair. The areas needing improvement are being progressively improved as recorded on the Board papers and we hope for improved scores for the current year.
- The Care Quality Commission has given WC's Adult Social Care Services an improved assessment of its performance assessing that it has performed well. Performing well means that the department is consistently delivering well above the minimum requirement for people. The report states that "over the past three years the council's community and adult care directorate has undergone substantial change and demonstrated year on year improvement". There are still areas requiring attention but this is a really good report.
- Margaret Howard and Doug Ross attended the NHS Wiltshire Stakeholder Assembly "Delivering High Quality Health Services" event on 26th November 2009 at Chippenham. The event which included 2 workshops "Quality & improvement indicators" and "Priorities and effectiveness" was very interesting and the workshops

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were challenging. Like most in the public sector the expectation is of less cash being available and thus the need to speed efficiency savings particularly reducing times in hospital such that beds can be reduced.

- Margaret Howard visited the new Devizes NHS Treatment Centre on its open day and was impressed with what she was shown.
- We will be taking part in a special afternoon and evening event in the Civic Hall hosted jointly by the Trowbridge Area Board, NHS Wiltshire and TCAF to help disseminate the findings from the mini Health Joint Strategic Needs Analysis for Trowbridge Community Area and to look at ways of addressing the identified needs. This will take the form of an afternoon Health Fair and in the evening there will be a presentation of the mini JSNA and a workshop session.

7. Community Safety Theme Group.

- The Bluez n' Zuz Discos are now being run from the Silhouette Youth Cafe premises and are proving popular. These discos are being run monthly on the third Friday of the month. There are some new people attending and it is limited to the 12 – 16 age group and older people up to 25 have had to be turned away. Amber is supporting these events presently providing the DJs. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue is also helping with staffing. Three events have been run since it restarted.
- The West Wiltshire Street Football Competitions have not been run since the summer when there was insufficient demand partly because the Town Council ran so many football events then. It was decided that a Trowbridge Street competition should be tried as it was felt that it was a successful initiative in address antisocial behaviour.
- Sgt. Steve McGlynn has being transferred to look after the Custody Suite in Melksham and Sgt. Malcolm Mclundie, who has had wide experience within the Force, has succeeded him as the Sergeant in charge of Neighbourhood Policing.
- The Touch2id Biometric Point-of-sale initiative has been launched. Pubs, clubs and many relevant retailers are signing up and the card uptake in the first week is in excess of 500. The Chamber of Commerce is helping to get contacts at the right level with the major supermarkets. Club Ice, the nightclub operator in Westbury has signed up.
- Trowbridge Pub and Club Watch has secured a grant of £9,500 for a GSM two way radio system for use by head doormen, Street Pastors and others to provide better communications particularly on Friday and Saturday nights when the greatest problems are experienced in the night-time economy. The Push To Talk (PTT) service allows users to keep in touch with a Monitoring Suite and each other by combining the benefits of two way radios with the flexibility and vast coverage of GPRS used by the mobile phone networks. With no need to dial telephone numbers it is a fast and efficient real time communications tool which is simple to use and can be tailored to the users' needs. The proposal would be to have an additional person in the Monitoring Suite on Friday and Saturday nights to monitor the radio control system with the Inspector on duty carrying a radio to make use of information coming over the system. Pub and Club Watch is working with the Chamber of Commerce's Retail Impact Group on this and it the system could be extended to retailers if they can find the additional funding.

8. Parish Councils' Liaison Group.

- The Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team's Tasking Group which covers the 4 rural Parishes is chaired by the Chair/Vice Chair of the Parish in which the meeting is being held.

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- Speeding remains a concern in all Parishes and Wiltshire Police's change of policy with regard to Community Speed Checks is welcomed.

9. Trowbridge Neighbourhoods Partnership.

- Derek Adams has resigned as Chair having been in post for more than 3 years since the Partnership was reformed. He has done a great job and in this time the Partnership has grown from 7 partner groups to 1.
- A sub-group chaired by Bob Rogers of the Lavender Fields Resident Association is currently reviewing the role of the Partnership and its Constitution and will report to the March meeting.