

Calne Community Area partnership Annual Report for October 2010 to September 2011

Calne Community Area Partnership exists to provide an opportunity for people to discuss and influence the way that public services are provided locally with local priorities. The Calne Community Area covers Calne and the six parish councils surrounding Calne. Membership of the partnership is for “everyone who living or working in the Calne Community Area”. The Partnership is managed by the Steering Committee which is made up of the officers of Chairperson, Treasurer, Community Hub Project Leader and Community Hub Manager together the Chairs of the eight theme groups, representatives from Calne and the surrounding parishes and an appointed Wiltshire Council local member. All of the Steering Committee members are volunteers.

I took over as Chairperson at the last AGM in 2010 and the Steering Committee have met regularly throughout the year about every six weeks. During the year several necessary policies have been developed and agreed for the Partnership. The www.calnecap.org website has been revamped to make it easier for information to be amended. Displays by the theme groups have been completed in the Community Hub to advertise the individual theme groups. A consultation working group has been set up to develop a consultation strategy to up date the Community Plan. It is hoped that this will be implemented after the consultation for the Calne Campus project consultation in the spring of 2012.

Theme groups

Theme groups have held meetings of interested people during the year and achieved some notable achievements.

Culture

The Calne Cultural Theme Group has brought together leading cultural groups, schools, local businesses and key individuals to explore further ways of collaborative working with a view to raising awareness of cultural events within Calne and the surrounding area. The Group were proud to sponsor the Young Masterchef competition as part of the Calne Food and Drink Festival.

Crime and Community Safety

The Calne Community Safety Forum has continued to be a strong group for the exchange and dissemination of community safety information. Meetings are well attended and discussions include the CCTV system, the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Voluntary Organisations, Shopwatch, Pubwatch, Westlea Housing, some of the Calne Schools and wider issues such as traffic and crime matters. The forum is well regarded by those attending and attendance continues to grow

Economy

The main focus of the Economy Group over the past year has been on investigating tourism in the Calne area. Some meetings with the Town Council, Devizes Museum and Corsham and Pewsey Tourism Groups have made some interesting points on which we hope to build in the coming year. There are also local people involved in a plan to promote Calne as the hub of tourists' visits to Wiltshire, ideally placed to reach tourist attractions both close by (e.g. Avebury) and further afield. Over the next year, the Economy Group will be looking to establish regular meetings with local businesspeople and developing links with the local area and establish opportunities for Calne to involve local businesses in the developments at Lyneham

Education and Lifelong Learning

Wiltshire College Calne closed in 2010 and removed a popular local provision for a wide variety of learning opportunities for recreation and skills. The intention of the theme group has been to

draw in as many local providers as possible to discuss ways of offering the courses that people want in the Calne area and to utilise available venues. The group at present is working on its terms of reference and the marketing and communication strategy needed to maximise learner numbers. It is hoped that the group can regularly survey recent developments in provision and present and promote an overall picture of what is happening in the whole of the Calne Community Area. The group has supported and encouraged the use of the Community Hub as a central venue for many courses (see Community Hub below).

Environment

The Environment theme group has been operating as primarily the Friends of Abberd Brook with occasional reports from the Castlefields Canal and River Park Association. During the year, the Friends of Abberd Brook have been active in restoring the Abberd Brook banks and its immediate vicinity by organising community clean ups. The stepping stones near Angell Close were replaced, a willow tree was removed from the banks of the Abberd Pond and some aquatic plants have been planted there. Daffodil bulbs have been planting of near Grierson Close and at Doctors Pond. The enhancement of the underpass under Prince Charles Drive with mosaics designed by pupils aged 6-10 years from Priestley School were converted with two local professional ceramicists working with the children and declared open on 1st. October.

Health and Social Care

During the year the group have met regularly to discuss local Health and Social Care issues with attendance by GP practice managers, NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Council Adult Social Care and voluntary sector professionals as well as local residents and representatives from voluntary organisations. Short presentations have been received from statutory and voluntary organisations working in health and social care. Issues of concern are taken up with the relevant organisation

Transport

Calne Area Transport (CAT) spent the winter of 2010/11 carrying out a survey on the Cycleways and Footpaths in the urban area of Calne as well as those routes which connect out to the Community Area villages. This resulted in the preparation of a map now on view in The Community Hub. The evidence based findings were presented to the Calne Area Board meeting in April 2011.

The group is currently working with Calne Town Council on the possibility of installing transport maps at nine locations in the town which would show links to the villages and carry up to date travel information.

The group has been tasked by the Area Board to produce a Calne Strategic Transport Plan which will be presented to the Area Board meeting in October 2011.

I would like to thank the theme group chairs for their work within their themes and support during the year – Andy Bishop, Sue Boddington, Francis Bosworth, Emmy Butcher, Ross Henning and Anne Henshaw

Calne Community Hub

The establishment of the Community Hub at 27, High Street in the centre of Calne had been a great success largely due to the dedication of the volunteers who have set it up and staffed it over the last year. The Hub is a welcoming place for people to get information, seek help in a friendly environment. Free advertising of events provides support for the many organisations that organise so many events in Calne and the surrounding villages. As well as this there are regular visiting surgeries by the Police, the Dog Warden, Newlife support group, Calne Community Transport, the Area Board Manager, a Wiltshire Councillor, Connections, the Eating Disorder Support Group and Richmond Fellowship.

Training courses have been held including BBC First Click, Digital Photography as well as Confidence Building workshops, Reiki Share and the Pins and Needles Craft Group bringing their toddler children. The Hub also hosts a volunteer Job Club to assist those seeking work.

During the year the Hub Working group have invested time in seeking funding for the Hub and have been successful with capital funding and some running costs. Organisations using the Hub have been generous in donating to help the utilities running costs.

I wish to thank Wiltshire Council who have generously allowed the Hub to be used rent and business rate free over the last year under as a pilot year lease. It is hoped that the lease will be extended from November 1st on the same terms.

My thanks to Malcolm Gull as Project Leader who has been single minded in promoting and supporting the Hub, and volunteers JR Dawson as Hub Manager who has enabled to Hub to be open for 24 hours each week on Tuesdays to Fridays, Tom Murray and Cheryl Watt as I T and Job Club support volunteers.

Finance

My thanks to Lynne Sargeant as Treasurer who has kept a steady eye on and reported on the partnership finances which she will report on tonight.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Partnership in the last year. During the year the Partnership has had the services of two talented Administrators – Bridie Nelson and Susan Tabor and I want to thank them both for their support.

The Partnership has a role to play in improving the quality of life for those who live and work in the Calne Community Area. I would encourage anyone who would like to contribute to the success of the partnership to contact myself or one of the theme group chairs. The Partnership was created long before the coalition government's Big Society or Localism was promoted as a new policy. Here in the Calne Community Area we have been working and implementing Localism for some time!

David Evans
Chairperson