

## Update to Area Board 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012

### SCOB – Cricklade and Area Campus

The second round of consultation took place December 2011. This consultation was based on the finding of the initial results of the questionnaires delivered to each household in August. Therefore the second round consultation was based on a proposal for a split site Campus with two sites proposed, one being the existing Leisure Centre and a choice of two possible building options on the High Street (namely Ockwells and the Police Station).

For the second round consultation it was decided not to repeat the process of questionnaires to each household, but to target specific local groups and to hold two full day open sessions where anyone could attend and discuss the proposal. The open sessions were publicised through a notice in the Cricklade Chronicle (delivered to all households in Cricklade and surrounding parishes) and by placing Posters all around the Town.

Even though the timing was not optimal (being so close to Christmas) and the weather was certainly not good on the days – there was a good turnout to the open sessions and some very meaningful input in terms of spoken comments and completion of a short question sheet. The consultation with the targeted groups continues and is expected to be completed by the end of January.

The outcomes so far, from this second round consultation, are as follows:

- There was a very high level of support for the split site proposal.
- The term “Campus” still continues to confuse some members of the community
- There is a segment of strong feeling that the Ockwells building is important and currently serves a good purpose, along with some views on the use of both Ockwells and the Police Station
- Strong views expressed about the need to redevelop the Old Police station which is felt to be something of an eyesore on the High Street
- Several views expressed about the cost of embarking on such a project in current times
- Comments on moving the Museum to the High Street were favourable in that it would allow the historical information and items to be much more accessible
- On the subject of services required to be made available at the Leisure Centre items deemed to be important or very important to have (with 91% - 57% support in descending order), were Swimming, Hall, Outdoor Space, Youth Club, Gymnasium, Tennis, Playgroup and Squash. Additionally the Leisure Centre Committee feel that a Police presence in some form would be very beneficial.
- Important or Very important services required to be made available at the High Street location (with 88% - 68% support in descending order) were Library, Town Council, Police, Tourist Information/Shop, Day Centre, General WCC enquiries, Museum.

By the end of January all group consultation will be completed and more work done on understanding the service provision for each location.

Before the next Area Board meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March it is anticipated that a firmer proposal be available, based on desktop appraisal of options, and a brief will be drawn up for initial feasibility exercises to take place

12<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Ruth Szybiak, Chair, Cricklade Shadow COB