

Appendix A: Campus proposal for the Corsham community area

The following proposal was approved by the Corsham Area Board on 5 September 2011 for consideration by Wiltshire Council Cabinet:

Springfield – Corsham Community Campus

It is proposed that the following facilities and services be provided for the Corsham Community Area within a newly built and refurbished community campus incorporating the existing Springfield Leisure Centre:

- Core facilities as outlined in the main body of the Cabinet paper in 21 (i)
- Refurbishment of Springfield Leisure Centre to provide a sustainable leisure element
- Library facilities
- Appropriate spaces for use by young people both through dedicated service provision and on an ad hoc basis
- Large multi-purpose space to incorporate staged area and partitions to ensure flexibility (to replace current community centre provision)
- A variety of multi-purpose activity rooms (to replace current community centre provision and provide spaces for other services such as Learning Disabilities amongst others as needs are identified)
- Improved outdoor provision including All Weather Pitch, improved children's play provision, appropriate levels of parking and bicycle storage
- Internal climbing wall

Developing the Proposal

The Corsham area board established the Corsham Shadow Community Operations Board on 27th April 2011. The COB representatives span a variety of organisations and sectors within the community area including local councils, Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN), Corsham School, Transition Community Corsham and leisure and community centre users.

Consultation

The initial consultation was undertaken by CCAN to gain feedback on the Campus proposal. The consultation brought together comments and views expressed at public meetings held between 27th November and 1st December and written statements from members of the community. In the November public meeting 35 groups (local clubs and organisations) were represented and provided support for the idea of having modern, purpose-built facilities on the site of the existing community centre at Springfield. Recurring themes were grouped into different headings and included:

- **Libraries** - Many respondents to the consultation saw a new location as a good thing for the library however, concern was expressed over the proposed relocation by some library users.
 - **Community Centre Social Club** - A petition was received from members of
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the Community Centre Social club with 384 signatures 'to save our centre'.

- **Facilities for Young People** – Better facilities were a recurring theme in community plan and improved premises were welcomed but this should not detract from the need for high quality, accessible youth centres in Colerne and other parts of the community area.
- **Springfield Leisure Centre** – Individual users of the leisure centre made it clear that they want to see the leisure centre remain in Council ownership and these views have been expressed within the Leisure Review. Users would welcome developments such as achieving savings from co-location however, concern was raised if there were split ownership and management operating on the one campus.
- **Sports facilities** – Outdoor facilities were not specifically addressed in the consultation questionnaire but were raised at the public meetings with imaginative ideas generated. It was suggested that good use could be made of land owned by the Town Council and by the school, and intensive, cost effective use of sports facilities could be encouraged by the provision of shared storage, locker space, changing facilities.
- **Transport, Parking and Access** – Many people highlighted that good transport links would be essential to encourage the widest possible use of the campus, particularly those who lived within the outlying villages.
- **New Facilities and uses** – Respondents welcomed the opportunity to introduce new facilities including an internet cafe with WiFi, space in or near the library for reading and refreshments, a screen to publicise 'What's on' in the area and childcare provision.
- **Aspects of building design** – Support for low maintenance and energy efficiency/environmental design. Additionally the campus should be aesthetically pleasing, user friendly and physically linked to the leisure centre.
- **Green Space** – Opportunities to make the surrounding green space more attractive and to use the site for community projects such as an orchard and herb garden.

The secondary consultation was also undertaken by CCAN on behalf of the COB.

- 3000 questionnaires were distributed across the community area with 686 returns. The majority of people (76%) were in favour of a campus facility for Corsham on the Springfield site. Respondents were largely in favour of existing council services i.e. leisure (88%), library (75%) and youth services (64%) being co-located within a campus, however there was also support for the inclusion of new facilities such as public multi-use meeting rooms (66%), a cafe (69%) and internet services (58%). Respondents indicated that access to the campus through all forms of transport was important.
- An electronic newsletter was circulated by CCAN, with 40 additional responses received; 22 from organisations and 19 from individual members of the public.
- Children and young people were surveyed online through the Corsham School's virtual learning environment and in assemblies/classes through the network of local primary schools. Parents and teachers also had an opportunity to contribute through the school's 'news blog' and Facebook page. 769 replies were received from young people (under 18s; representing half of the school population in Corsham) and 56 replies from adults. One of the top

requests from young people had been a climbing wall.

- A petition had been received from users from the community centre in Corsham which had 674 signatures and had been sent on to Wiltshire Council. The petition requested that all the facilities currently available should be reproduced in the new campus.

Creation of strategic design principles

The COB has developed a set of strategic principles that underpin the future design of the campus and as such formed the basis of the project brief used to develop the business case. Key elements include:

- The Corsham campus should be a building for the Corsham Community Area that reflects the individuality and needs of both the area and the community within, taking into account the existing use and facilities that will form part of the campus.
- The views of the whole community and partners, collected through the consultation, are to be considered and needs met where possible
- Sustainability is a core principle and where possible the building should be proactively sustainable and energy efficient in all feasible ways.
- The campus should look fantastic and be a distinctive solution for this community in this community area.

Local approach to equalities

The COB took an innovative approach to ensure that equalities and the needs of all sectors of the community were reflected in the scope of services and the design of the campus. On 25th July 2011 the COB facilitated an equalities workshop, supported by Wiltshire Council equalities team and Equal Chances, Better Lives (ECBL) that focused on asking local equality sector representatives to discuss and debate the design principles. Over 50 people attended and the discussions resulted in the collection of data, views and ideas to inform the campus proposals from an equality perspective. Key themes being:

- communications and access to information
- consultation/involvement
- community engagement

The over-arching view that emanated from the session was that the campus should be a place where all ages and sectors of the community can join together in a social atmosphere to promote interaction and understanding/building of social relationships – a place where families can go and thrive. No sector or group should be disadvantaged.

Creation of travel principles

The COB worked with Transcoco (Transition Community Corsham) to develop principles to underpin the brief that will be given to the Transport Consultant. Key themes being:

- The Campus travel plan should encourage sustainable and healthier ways of travelling, such as walking, cycling, car sharing, public and community transport, giving priority where possible to these modes of transport over private car use.
 - The travel design must improve on existing facilities and address known
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problems including congestion (e.g. private car and school buses) around access points and signage.

- Accessibility should be provided for all potential users across the Community Area, to enable use of the Campus on an inclusive basis.
- Transport linkages should be established with the main Town Centre shopping area, particularly for people who may find walking between the Town Centre and Campus difficult.

Catering principles

The catering function within a campus forms part of the core offer. As an integral part of the campus Corsham COB have developed some specific catering principles. These include:

- Catering function will be available for all users of the campus.
- Catering will be available as part of booking a room if the user specifies this is what they require.
- The catering function provides for:
 - a. Cafe, large events, small events
 - b. Staff usage
 - c. Learning Disabilities, young people's training and wider skills training
 - d. Daily users

The Next Steps

The Corsham COB are currently working intensively on developing the design of the Campus proposal to inform the business case set out in this paper along with a planning application that would be made in the early part of 2012, assuming approval by Cabinet.

- review of service specifications and discussions with services and partners to inform campus design
 - working through initial design process to inform business case and contribute towards detailed design to be completed in the New Year, assuming approval
 - development of travel plan
 - development of local management principles to inform strategic review of alternative delivery and management options
 - evaluating current usage statistics to determine outline operational programming of campus
 - a variety of user/focus group feedback
 - public roadshow to inform design
 - a number of activities and tasks that would be carried out assuming approval, including planning permission submission and detailed design work, amongst others
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