

# Update for Corsham Area Board

<b>Name of Parish/Town Council</b>	<b>Corsham Town Council</b>
<b>Date of Area Board Meeting</b>	26 January 2023

## Headlines/Key successes

- The Town Council's Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 was approved by the Town Council at its meeting in November. The Plan has four main priorities: Environment and Climate Change, Transport and Highways, Business and the Economy and Community Wellbeing. Printed copies of the Plan are now available at the Town Hall, or can be downloaded from the Town Council's website: [corsham.gov.uk](http://corsham.gov.uk). Community engagement is at the heart of the Plan, to ensure that we are working towards our vision to 'make life better in Corsham through equality, accessibility and inclusivity'. To help us in this endeavour, we have produced a Community Engagement Strategy, which is also available, including as an Easy Read version.
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- Corsham's Christmas Lights Switch On on 2 December attracted probably the largest crowd we have seen. Those who came along enjoyed live music on the stage and on the High Street, Father Christmas in his grotto and the Christmas Market. As always, the lights were switched on by the winner of our Christmas Card Competition.
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- A Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the railway station has been submitted to the Department for Transport. The case highlights that the station will improve transport connectivity to key destinations, ensuring better access to jobs and services; will support local economic growth; reduce reliance on cars and deliver transport this is affordable and financially sustainable. If the SOBC is successful, the next stage would see an Outline Business Case being put together, looking at design, planning, access, operational feasibility and demand forecasting, followed by a Full Business Case. If all these key stages are passed, a new station could be operational by 2028.

## Projects

- The Town Council is working to remove single-use plastics from the day-to-day life of the town as it hopes to achieve Plastic Free Community Status for Corsham in 2023. In order to achieve this, we need the support of residents, community groups and organisations and businesses. To find out more, email Beth Searle, the Town Council's Environmental Project Officer, at [bsearle@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:bsearle@corsham.gov.uk)
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- Following overwhelming support from our public consultation, we are working with Wiltshire Council to introduce 20mph limits on a number of roads in Neston. There are plans for 20mph limits, or a possible 20mph zone, in Corsham but these will take longer to implement.
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- The Town Council's Community Wellbeing work has seen us continue our support for

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The RISE Trust's work with local families with pre-school children. The RISE Trust's detached youth team are also in Corsham on Wednesday and Friday evenings (in a project funded jointly by the Town Council and Area Board), offering young people the chance to chat and ask for help and advice. We also continue to support Corsham Youth Zone, the Friday night youth club, as well as arts and music therapy projects at The Corsham School. Our recent work for older/vulnerable people has seen us encouraging local groups to become a Warm Space, collating the information into a leaflet for those not able to access the internet, as well as helping to fund local groups including the Corsham Community Club and Corsham Connections.

### **Forthcoming events/Diary dates**

- 28 February – The Town Council's second Business Networking Breakfast will take place at the Digital Mansion Corsham, from 8-10am. This time the focus will be on sustainability. All local businesses are welcome to attend. Details on how to book a free space will be available on our website and social media platforms, but you can also email Tracey-Ann Walpole, Tourism and Events Officer, for information: [twalpole@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:twalpole@corsham.gov.uk).
- 22 April – Eco Fair in the town centre. Featuring stalls, activities, information and more, the Fair will highlight the environmental work local groups have been doing, including the Town Council and Corsham Climate Action, as well as explaining the small changes we can do to make a big difference to the planet.
- The Corsham Community Awards 2023 are now open for nominations. If you know anyone, of any age, who has a huge, positive impact on life in Corsham, tell us because we want to recognise their achievements. Nomination forms can be downloaded from [corsham.gov.uk](http://corsham.gov.uk), picked up from the Town Hall or emailed (contact [towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk)). The closing date is Friday 17 March and the awards will be presented at a special Corsham Celebrates event on 20 April.

Signed:



Date:

16/1/2023