

## Appendix B: Campus proposal for the Cricklade community area

The following proposal was approved by the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012:

### **Cricklade Community Campus**

Support a split-site community campus incorporating the existing Leisure Centre and a High Street location and that the Campus includes, as a minimum, all the services outlined below.

- Community Campus building on links with Cricklade and District Community Association (current operator of leisure services) and town council

Develop facilities at leisure centre to include

- Refurbishment in line with leisure review
- Multi-purposes spaces
- Youth spaces when needed
- Community catering space
- Neighbourhood policing team space

Ockwells – high street location with library, town council offices, tourist information.

Propose to retain services and look to make current spaces more flexible and increase potential for additional uses.

### **Partners**

There are a variety of local groups and organisations that have engaged with and supported the project throughout its journey and a great deal of time and effort has been put into discussions. Parties include:

- Cricklade Town Council
- Cricklade and District Community Trust
- Extra care working group
- Young person's project/youth group

### **Developing the Proposal**

The Cricklade Area Shadow Community Operations Board (SCOB) was formed by the Area Board on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Cricklade COB includes representatives from Town Council, education and young people, older people, Cricklade and District Community Association.

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## **Consultation**

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### **Consultation phase 1**

The first round consultation took place in August 2011 and was in the form of a questionnaire which was delivered to households in the local area through a local

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magazine.

- The COB also met with local groups to talk about the campus and gain views
- Paper copies of the consultation survey were available at main centres in Cricklade and surrounding Parishes as well as being possible to submit input online
- All surrounding Parish Councils were written to and asked to give input and publicise the exercise
- 59 % in favour of the Campus idea - With input from the community the COB felt this reflects uncertainty of location and strong opposition to moving all services out of Cricklade Town Centre - with concerns about loss of existing facilities, affect to High Street businesses, and cost of project.
- A split site Campus was the favoured option with 86% of people feeling that was more appropriate for Cricklade Area. 98% of those consulted wanted the Library and Wiltshire Council services to be easily accessible and sited on the High Street.
- 88% of respondents want to be able to walk to facilities
- 47% want public bus service, this is a particularly important item for the outlying parishes if they are to use the Campus
- To enable use of the services 75% felt opening times were important along with cost of sessions and free car parking.
- Access to services included Police, Citizens Advice, Job Centre, Tourist Information and Local Council were all felt to be important
- A split site Campus was highlighted as being a more favourable option and a second round consultation was planned to crystallize service requirements in both sites

## **Consultation phase 2**

The Cricklade COB decided to undertake a second round consultation in a different way by directly talking to groups and also holding open sessions. They felt this was more effective in explaining the concept of a “Campus” and helped with peoples’ understanding.

### **Main Findings from the Second Round Consultation**

- A split site Campus was the favoured option with 86% of people feeling that was more appropriate for Cricklade Area. 98% of those consulted wanted the Library and Wiltshire Council services to be easily accessible and sited on the High Street.
  - Of the two possible High Street Locations there was strong feeling about both of the potential sites, Ockwells (the existing Cricklade Town Council/Library) and the Police Station. Ockwells had high levels of support due to the history and the original financial contribution by the Town Council.
  - There were also high levels of support for the existing Police Station which is a building right in the middle of the High Street badly in need of renovation and currently vastly underutilised.
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- In the second round of consultation the services highlighted as being important in each location, with approx. 70 – 90% support, were as follows:  
**Leisure Centre** – Swimming, Hall, Outdoor Space, Youth facilities, Gymnasium, Tennis.  
**High Street** – Library, Town and Wiltshire Council Services, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Tourist Information.

### **Further development of the proposal**

On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012 the Cricklade Town Council met to discuss their views on the campus project prior the proposal being heard by Cabinet. They resolved:

That the Town Council should be a partner in the Campus subject to:

- i. The project being to the overall benefit of the residents of Cricklade
- ii. The Campus (either High Street site) being an Asset Transfer to Cricklade Town Council
- iii. A reduction in the Town Council's ongoing costs
- iv. The Town Council, as democratic representatives of the community, playing a major role in the future governance of both Campus sites and having input into the development of a governance model.

The Town Council also resolved that their preference was for a campus at the Police Station subject to:

- i. Further, wide, public consultation into the detailed design at an appropriate time
- ii. Dedicated autonomous space for Town Council officers and the preservation of the Town Council's identity.

Subsequently the Shadow COB met to discuss the campus proposal following the initial feasibility work. It was apparent at that point that the delivery of the Police Station site, assuming support from Wiltshire Police, would require the leisure centre site scope to be reduced due to the relatively high costs of the work at the Police Station. The broad view of the Shadow COB was that the Police Station remained their preferred site, however in order to deliver the right specification for the Leisure Centre the COB agreed they would put forward the Ockwells site as their central location.

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### **The Cricklade Campus Vision**

- The philosophy of the Cricklade Area Community Campus is to host a variety of essential public services in a minimum number of readily accessible sites in Cricklade.
  - The Cricklade Community Campus will provide sustainable and financially viable services to the Cricklade Community Area (which includes surrounding villages) that will meet the needs of the whole community not just now but for the very long term.
  - The Campus buildings will be the hub of the community, a place where everyone feels welcome and where they can access all local government, community, social and leisure services, in a safe, comfortable and fitting environment.
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- The sense of community in Cricklade is strong, and by having good and more versatile facilities/services on the “doorstep” (which are based on the views of the community), that sense of community can be strengthened further and be more resilient and responsive to any changes in the future of service provision for the Cricklade Area.
  - This can only be achieved with ongoing involvement and guidance of local people, in the running of the Campus Facilities, to ensure that the buildings and services are right and fitting for the needs of the Cricklade Community for the long term

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## **Creation of strategic design principles**

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It is an overarching principle that the Campus design should foster and encourage a sense of community ownership, engagement and pride whilst balancing the need for value for money.

### **Fit for purpose:**

- Effective life of 25 years
- Build in longevity (building and main services)
- Good quality build
- Build and delivery to be completed within shortest possible timescale to reduce disruption of services
- Value for money

### **Appearance**

- Totally integrated sites, with common theme for both
- To look appealing to the local community, bearing in mind the High Street location is within a conservation area therefore the frontage should be in keeping
- Clean, warm, welcoming, light and airy with good use of appropriate colour schemes
- Well signposted internally
- Easy and accessible maintenance
- Appearance appropriate to a public community facility
- Sympathetic to local neighbourhood in appearance, noise reduction and traffic pollution

### **Accessibility**

- Public Transport to site, or supported minibus
- Adequate parking for cars, motor bikes, cycles, disability vehicles, the disabled
- Reserved parking for public service vehicles
- Signposted in the town
- Capable of being accessed by community with diverse needs, for example, level surfaces, automatic doors, appropriate signs, lifts
- Safe pedestrian access to site
- With facilities capable of being accessed by community with diverse needs and allowing for parking of items such as mobility scooters and baby buggies

### **Flexibility/Adaptability**

- Sites to be 'future proofed' to be capable of meeting future needs that are unknown at this point
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- Room/spaces designed for multiple purposes
  - Design allows for future expansion of site, for example, plumbing, electrics and can utilise all available space
  - Design to enhance the user experience and minimise any competing or conflicting uses, for example, quiet rooms and music rooms
  - Design to incorporate identification of future expansion areas/points as and when required

### **Environmental**

- Building to be energy efficient
- Building to be capable to be advantageous to all eco-friendly developments
- Building utilises state of the art building materials and technology where possible
- Optimum insulation to conserve energy usage
- An exemplar in energy efficiency

### **Safety and Security**

- External design should enhance security and contribute to feeling of safety
- Lighting should be incorporated into external public areas
- There should be appropriate (not intrusive) internal security (use of CCTV for example)
- Panic alarms to be fitted as appropriate
- Door access systems required as necessary

### **Functionality**

- Takes account of current known needs
- Flexible confidential interview areas provided for service provision
- Future proof Information Technology requirements, for example, enhanced Broadband
- Balance Value for Money with state of the art facilities which enhance the Community

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## **Local approach to equalities**

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Once a proposal for the Cricklade campus is clearer, the COB plan to engage with the local community to enable input in to design and equalities principles of the campus proposal. From this the COB will then be able to develop more detailed equalities principles based on feedback from groups with specific equalities focus.

Specific work with young people (through youth club), older people (through local day service) and gypsy and traveler communities (through support of Traveller Education team to help families feed in to consultation).

Through their consultation approaches the Cricklade COB have engaged specifically with a number of groups, organizations and individuals with an equalities focus.

Key themes from the consultation include

- Place where whole community are able to come together, whatever age, ability or background
  - Important to recognize different needs of different groups and help feel welcome e.g. young people
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Particular groups to include in developing equalities principles include young people, older people, Gypsy and Traveller communities.

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### **Creation of initial travel principles**

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Once a proposal for the Cricklade campus is clearer, the COB plan to engage with the local community to enable input in to travel principles of the campus proposal. From this the COB will then be able to develop more detailed travel principles based on feedback from various groups.

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### **The Next Steps**

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- carry out further equalities work
  - review of service specifications and discussions with services and partners to inform campus design
  - working through initial design process
  - development of travel plan
  - development of local management principles to inform strategic review of alternative delivery and management options
  - a variety of user/focus group feedback
  - 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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