

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** CORSHAM AREA BOARD  
**Place:** Neston Memorial Hall, 19 Pool Green, Neston, Corsham, SN13 9SN  
**Date:** 27 April 2011  
**Start Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.15 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Marie Todd (Area Board and Member Support Manager) on 01225 718036 or [marie.todd@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:marie.todd@wiltshire.gov.uk).

Papers available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Dick Tonge (Chairman), Cllr Peter Davis (Vice Chairman), Cllr Alan Macrae and Cllr Sheila Parker

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Lucy Murray-Brown – Lead Project Officer for Community Campus  
Dave Roberts – Community Area Manager  
Marie Todd – Area Board and Member Support Manager  
Sian Walker – Service Director

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Corsham Town Council – Cllrs Peter Anstey, Nikki Kenna, Issy Langsford, Elaine Marston

Box Parish Council – Cllrs D Murray, Andrew Thomas,

Colerne Parish Council – Cllr Mary Harvey

### **Partners**

CCAN – S Fletcher, Kevin Gaskin, Paul Kefford, Christine Reid, Adam Walton

**Members of Public in Attendance: 53**

**Total in attendance: 73**

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<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the extraordinary meeting of the Corsham Area Board which had been convened specifically to discuss the Corsham community campus proposals.</p>
2.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p><u>Digital Inclusion</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council's business plan for 2011/15 has prioritised a number of area for investment, of which digital inclusion and supporting the rollout of superfast broadband for both business and home users is a key area. A survey would take place between 26 April and 3 June 2011 to allow people to say what type of service they are currently able to access over the internet and how well the service performs.</p> <p>The survey would have a link within it to an on-line speed checker so that people could check their current broadband speed, <a href="http://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk">www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk</a></p> <p>The survey would be available on-line and also available as a printed document. Details are available from:</p> <p><a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/digitalinclusion">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/digitalinclusion</a></p> <p>Printed versions can be requested by calling and asking for the digital inclusion survey from the start date of the survey - 0300 456 0100.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <b>The Community Area Manager, Dave Roberts, to send out an email about the survey to his community area network contacts.</b></p>
3.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillor Allan Bosley – Corsham Town Council  Councillor Jennie Hartless – Box Parish Council</p>
4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Dick Tonge declared a personal interest in item 4 on the agenda – the community area transport funding request. Councillor Tonge was a member of the Colerne Parish Council and also the Cabinet member responsible for</p>

	highways and transport issues.																					
5.	<p><u>Community Area Transport Funding Request</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered a report which provided an update on the position of the proposed footway adjacent to the C151 (between Silver Street and the Recreation Ground in Colerne). The Board was asked to consider allocating a proportion of the 2011/12 Community Area Transport Group funding to contribute to the construction of the proposed footway.</p> <p>This project had been identified by the Area Board as a priority at its meeting on 15 September 2010. Colerne Parish Council had agreed to contribute £10,000 towards the construction cost.</p> <p><b>DECISION</b>  <b>To allocate £5,000 of the 2011/12 Corsham Community Area Transport Group (CATG) funding towards the construction prior to the next formal meeting of the CATG.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <b>Gareth Rogers, Senior Engineer</b></p>																					
6.	<p><u>Shadow Community Operations Board</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 24 March 2011 the Area Board agreed to set up a Shadow Community Operations Board to be involved with the indirect management and strategic planning of the proposed campus facilities. Nominations had been invited from any interested parties who represented specific sectors, groups or organisations.</p> <p><b>DECISION</b>  <b>To confirm the membership of the Shadow Community Operations Board as follows:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Name</u></th> <th><u>Group Represented</u></th> <th><u>Category of Membership</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Allan Bosley</td> <td>Corsham Town Council</td> <td>Local Town and Parish Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Ralph</td> <td>Corsham Community Association</td> <td>User and Community Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christine Reid</td> <td>Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN)</td> <td>Wider Community</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marcus Chapman</td> <td>The Corsham School</td> <td>Education and Young People</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patrick Kelly</td> <td>Springfield Leisure Centre</td> <td>User and Community Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anna Mackie</td> <td>TransCoCo Transport</td> <td>User and Community</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Group Represented</u>	<u>Category of Membership</u>	Allan Bosley	Corsham Town Council	Local Town and Parish Council	Peter Ralph	Corsham Community Association	User and Community Group	Christine Reid	Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN)	Wider Community	Marcus Chapman	The Corsham School	Education and Young People	Patrick Kelly	Springfield Leisure Centre	User and Community Group	Anna Mackie	TransCoCo Transport	User and Community
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7.	<p><u>Outline, Background and Summary of the Corsham Campus Proposal</u></p> <p>Lucy Murray Brown, Lead Officer on the Community Campus Project gave a presentation regarding the proposals to build a campus in the Corsham community area. The following issues were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In February the Cabinet had approved the development of community campuses across Wiltshire. If agreed, the Corsham campus would be one of the first in the county.</li> <li>• Community consultation was very important to the project and two consultations had already taken place.</li> <li>• The benefits of a campus would include extended opening hours and co-location with partners.</li> <li>• There would be three tiers of service provision – core services, community services and partner facilities.</li> <li>• Some audit and research work had already been undertaken and this was available on the Council's website.</li> <li>• The Shadow Community Operations Board would also undertake further consultation as the project progresses.</li> <li>• The next steps would be for the area board to develop the proposals which would be considered by the Cabinet in July. In the interim the plans would be further developed to enable planning consent to be applied for by the end of the year with the aim of the new campus being open in the summer or autumn of 2012.</li> </ul>						
8.	<p><u>Results of the Second Round of the Community Campus Consultation</u></p> <p>CCAN had undertaken a consultation which had consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of 2000 questionnaires to random postcodes throughout the area.</li> <li>• Sending copies of the questionnaire electronically to various organisations.</li> <li>• A public meeting for organisations and groups – 35 groups had been represented.</li> <li>• A public meeting open to anyone wishing to attend – over 150 people had attended.</li> <li>• Copies of the questionnaire had been made available on the Corsham Town Council website.</li> </ul>						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 686 people had returned the questionnaires out of the 3,000 distributed which was a 22% return. 76% had been in favour of a community campus, 8% had been against and 16% had been undecided.</li> <li>• A newsletter had then been sent out asking whether CCAN had reached the right conclusion. This was also posted on the Wiltshire Council website. 40 responses had been received, 22 from organisations and 19 from individuals. These had been sent to Wiltshire Council to form part of the consultation.</li> <li>• Young people had also been surveyed including both primary and secondary schools. Parents and teachers had also been included in the consultation. There had been 769 replies, 713 from children and 56 from adults.</li> <li>• One of the top requests from children had been a climbing wall.</li> <li>• CCAN had a list of the requirements for a community campus and now wished to discuss practical issues such as the design and transport arrangements.</li> <li>• It was noted that a petition had been received from the community centre in Corsham which had been sent on to Wiltshire Council. The Community Centre Association had requested that all the facilities currently available should be reproduced in the new campus.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><u>Questions and Discussion</u></p> <p>The Chairman then opened up the meeting for a question and answer session. The following questions and comments were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a planned facility for young people, can there be assurance that the new facility will include the services requested by the young people e.g. toilets, a quiet area? <i>Officers would look at the work already undertaken with the young people and the Shadow Community Operations Board would consider this. It was likely that some form of dedicated space for young people would be available along with use of flexible spaces within the proposed facility.</i></li> <li>• In the proposal it appears that activities such as snooker, darts, skittles etc are incorporated into the main hall. This proposal would be impractical and render the provision for these activities or the use of the main hall useless. Is this a drafting error or is there a complete lack of understanding of the basic requirements requested during the consultation process? <i>It has not yet been decided exactly what facilities would be included in the campus. The proposal is currently only a baseline. The detail will be discussed at the Shadow Community Operations Board. There are still choices to be made.</i></li> <li>• It was proposed that there would be a facility for a bar, darts, snooker and skittles. It was important for there to be a social meeting area with a</li> </ul>

licensed bar. The current community centre has a bar which makes a profit and the users of the centre would like a similar facility in the new campus.

*It was made clear by the Chairman of the Area Board that the Council was not prepared to subsidise a bar although a licensed catering facility was included in the current proposal.*

- A consultation has taken place but it was felt that the outcome was not being portrayed accurately. Patrons of the community centre use the bar for social events and this was very important.

*Wiltshire Council could not build a new "pub" facility. The Chairman explained that the community centre had a membership so was able to subsidise drinks from their fees. He also stated that the community centre was being replaced because it was in a poor state of repair.*

- Why has Rudloe got a club and Corsham has not? Wasn't it cheaper and better for the environment to repair the community centre and not to knock it down? It is the only place to drink in Corsham that has wheelchair access. The public meeting held by CCAN took place in very bad weather and a number of people had been unable to attend. Another meeting should have been held.

*The new campus facility would be very environmentally friendly and this was easier to maintain in a new building which could be specially designed to save energy. A number of public meetings and consultations have taken place throughout the process of developing a campus proposal for Corsham ensuring many opportunities for people to have their say.*

- Is the Pound Arts Centre to be considered within the new Community Campus?

*No, the Pound Arts Centre is completely separate from the Campus.*

- Why is the library being moved? The project will rip the soul out of the town.

*Part of the rationale behind developing campus facilities is that people will be able to use a number of facilities located in one place. The Council has carried out a library review across the whole county and the results and delivery of improved library services had been fed into the campus programme.*

- There will need to be a link with bus routes, cycle routes and the pedestrian network. Will this be included in the plan?

*A travel plan would have to accompany the planning application for the new campus. These issues had not yet been looked at in any detail but the Shadow Community Operations Board will be considering this shortly.*

- The community centre raises a lot of money for charity. Without a licensed bar these events would not be supported. A hall and bar were

needed for both events and sports teams who used the facility on a regular basis. The community centre had been told they would have the same facilities they currently have.

*The Shadow Community Operations Board would look at current usage of the facilities concerned. The campus must be a flexible multi-use facility.*

- What would happen to those sites which were left vacant as a result of the campus proposals?  
*The Council would find alternative uses for these sites or dispose of them.*
- Will there be a charge for the community centre car park?  
*The Shadow Community Operations Board would consider this as part of any travel planning principles developed and make recommendations to the Area Board.*
- The Community Association was extremely concerned about the level of fees required to use the campus. The current community centre fees were low because the bar provided a subsidy.  
*The Shadow Community Operations Board would consider fees and charging and make recommendations to the Area Board.*
- Will the new campus facility be more accessible to those with disabilities?  
*The Council has given a commitment to providing disabled access and personal care facilities at the new campuses and ensuring full access for all.*
- There was a feeling from some people present that the working proposal for the Campus which was included in the second consultation and circulated with the agenda did not fully reflect the comments fed in.
- What plans are in place for the management of the new building?  
*The Wiltshire Council Cabinet would make the final decision on this issue based on an evaluation of the Preliminary Management Project and from recommendations from the Shadow Community Operations Board and Area Board. Community-led management would be tested in the 8 pilot areas.*
- CCAN produced the consultation results, who interpreted them to create the working proposal?  
*Wiltshire Council*
- Who had put together the paper circulated with the agenda?  
*CCAN had forwarded a large report based on the consultation outcome and Wiltshire Council officers had put together the paper circulated with the agenda.*

10.

Councillor Deliberations and Recommendations

Following the discussions at the meeting the Area Board members decided to put forward the following recommendation to the Cabinet regarding the Corsham community campus.

**DECISION**

**Based on an assessment of the overall service improvement possibilities and to ensure long term security of service delivery for the wider Corsham Community Area the Corsham Area Board ask Cabinet to:**

**(a) Support a community campus on the Springfield Site that will service the Corsham Community Area and ensure that this includes, as a minimum, the following services:**

- Reception for all services and facilities and offering advice on other council services
- Leisure centre – a refurbishment and enhancement of the existing facilities to incorporate 25m pool plus ancillary facilities, 4 court sports hall, multi-activity sports rooms, fitness suite, squash courts and associated ancillary facilities
- Library including improved IT suite for community internet access
- Facilities and services for young people, including community recording facilities
- A variety of multi-purpose meeting/resource rooms for community, partner and council use
- Community café and licensed catering facilities
- Crèche
- Personal care room(s) (i.e. for disabled people and their carers)
- Desk and office space for community based Council and partner staff – to include provision for the community to meet with council officers by appointment, e.g. housing, revenues and benefits, planning etc
- Large multi-purpose (sprung floor) community hall – to incorporate stage facilities with appropriate other wider community ancillary facilities, e.g. skittles, darts, snooker etc.
- A variety of areas for dedicated storage – to be located across the facility and enough to cater for all needs
- Appropriate car parking and bicycle storage facilities
- Outdoor recreation and sporting facilities to include an all weather pitch

**(b) Develop this proposal so it is delivered with minimal disruption to the existing services and facilities.**

**ACTION: Lucy Murray-Brown**