

## **Report of the Wellbeing Centre Development Group January 2019**

A meeting was held on 04/12/18 with Wiltshire Council, representatives of Alliance Leisure and Sport England. Notes of the meeting can be found below. Progress in gaining outline planning permission for the East wing site has been delayed because of objections from the Environmental Agency which have still not been resolved. The group continues to argue passionately for a leisure development including a swimming pool and for Wiltshire Council to take the political decision required to make the necessary investment. A further meeting of the group is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 when the planning situation may be clearer and also progress on the NHS element.

Colin Kay  
January 2019

## **Notes on a Meeting of the Trowbridge Wellbeing Centre Development Working Group Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Present** Lance Allen Martin Cooper Peter Fuller David Goldstone Colin Kay  
Tim Martiensson, Representatives of Alliance Leisure, Representative of Sport England, Head of Wiltshire Council Leisure Strategy

### **Planning TM**

Outline planning permission had been first submitted in August 2017- This has still not been granted because of objections from the environment Agency. The EA has struggled to respond in the time because of its reduced capacity. The details they have requested would not normally be required until full planning permission was requested. The Council have engaged consultants, undertaken detailed work and offered solutions to the issues raised by the EA. However, these solutions have not been accepted and it is not clear exactly what solution the EA is looking for so there is still some way to go on this.

### **Other Progress on the site**

In the meantime, the rest of the site has been cleared which reduces the cost of the project by around £500,000

### **NHS**

The CCG has gained £4 million of the capital it needs but is awaiting the result of a bid it has submitted for the rest. This has caused a delay that may bring the 2 schemes into line. If this was the case, then there would be the opportunity to consider a more integrated approach to the leisure and health facilities which would reduce costs. CK welcomed this possibility as a step towards the original vision for

the facility. TM also pointed out that this could create the opportunity to configure the site in different ways than had been suggested in the report. This could be the subject of detailed discussions in the future if that stage was reached.

### **Leisure Strategy**

Leisure has now been combined with Communications and Communities rather than Public Health. This made sense in terms of the Campus programme and the possibility of the co-location of services and did not mean any reduction in the relationship between health and leisure. Learning from the Salisbury experience where the police took over the campus as their communication centre. The proposal for insourcing Wiltshire's 10 externally managed sites has been paused and is unlikely to happen. Progress was being made to complete the 3 campuses at Melksham, Calne and Pewsey Vale. Considering what is needed in areas that do not have a community campus

### **Alliance Leisure**

No change to the proposal they had made in December 2017. The clearance of the site made the proposal cheaper and the possibility of an integrated approach between health and leisure could reduce costs. On the other hand, the impact of inflation was increasing costs all the time.

### **Sport England**

Sport England reiterated that grant of between £1million and £1.5 million were available. Wiltshire Council would have to submit a bid and it was an extremely competitive process.

### **Next Steps**

CK reiterated the view that at some point Council will need to decide about whether to invest in the project. That will be a political decision. He argued again that both proposals should be on the table when that design was made. Trowbridge lacks a central leisure facility unlike other centres of similar size, East wing is a key site, and this is a once only opportunity.

It was agreed that another meeting of the group should be held in spring when the situation with the CCG would be clearer and there may have been progress with the EA. TM agreed to put a date in the diary for this.

**Next meeting now arranged Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 2pm Lacock room county Hall**