



We're making a difference

Report to Trowbridge Area Board 17th March 2011.

1. **The Steering Group Meeting is scheduled for Monday 7th March 2011.**

The Community Area Plan is now in draft form and will be presented at this evening's meeting to include any success measures and key outcomes. Copies of the Community Area Plan will be available to download within the next few weeks.

2. **Economy and Transport.**

Transforming Trowbridge met on 26/01/2011 with Melanie Teal from the Consortium and Inspector Dave Cullop joining the Board.

The Gateway has one large unit left with negotiations taking time. A planning application has been received which proposes putting a cafe/restaurant into three small shop units at the Stallard Street end of the main building. Sales and letting of apartments are slow. The main residential element of the project is on hold and there is a for sale sign up.

St Stephens Place/Cradle Bridge sites Legal & General and Parkridge have agreed to a joint development of the 2 sites. There has been some commercial interest in the site which could involve provision of a cinema but this is at a very early stage.

Bowyers Factory site: - Some interest is being shown in this site but again is at an early stage.

Wiltshire Council's Town Centre Leisure Hub: - Following the public consultation exercise this development has been brought forward to 2013 from 2017 which is really excellent news. Cllr Jeff Osborn has proposed that the possibility of incorporating a Cinema and other leisure facilities should be investigated but should not delay the Leisure hub development.

Car Parking: - The Chamber of Commerce is concerned that the significant increase in car parking charges will have an adverse effect on business in the town centre. The possibility of a footfall count before and after the imposition of the new charges is being investigated by TCAF.

TransWilts Rail: - Proposals have been put forward for a new rail service between Swindon and Salisbury, linking the 5 largest population centres in Wiltshire and providing 8 journeys per day in each direction. We urged our contacts to support the proposal by completing the return. 1,625 public and 154 business responses were received registering overwhelming support and the £25,000 for a consultant's report was achieved as part of the bid to the Government. There has been a subsequent request for £1,500 for a report supporting a new tourist halt close to the Staverton Marina.

The Masterplan: - It is estimated that a full Masterplan will cost £55,000 which is more than next year's budget so alternative sources of funding are being investigated.

The Trowbridge County Town Initiative: - This is a town centre retailers' initiative, supported by TT; TTC and the Chamber of Commerce, which is developing plans to promote the retail offer in the town centre. They are hoping to produce a leaflet with details of the shops in and around the town centre with some funding from TT and others.

Shops and Offices in and around Trowbridge Town Centre: - Jamie Turner and Vicky de Lang, our FJF employees, have completed the Shops and Offices survey which has gone to Adam Nardell and the Chamber of Commerce. A footfall count is under consideration working with Adam Nardell and Len Turner.

The Schedule of Sites with development potential and planning applications related thereto: - The updated version is available.

Bus Services and Bus stops in the Community Area: - Work has been started on mapping the routes of the bus services and physical checking along the routes to establish the location of all the bus shelters is being worked on. Contact has been made with Ian White Manager of the passenger traffic unit to try to find out the likely changes to services before we go too far.

Community Area Plan: - We are still awaiting WC's responses to the issues and concerns which were raised during our public consultations and when received these will be incorporated into the Plan.

3. Education - Extended Schools Services –

- The group will meet on Friday 11th March.
- There is discussion of Extended Services joining with Trowbridge Area Schools Collaborative and Trowbridge Area Heads to develop collaborative working throughout the community area.
- The group is presently looking at the pros and cons of changing the status of the group to a charitable organisation
- The Community Hub at The John of Gaunt School continues to offer its drop-in clinics and multi-agency services to young people. Extended Services will build on the vision of the centre as a community health and resource centre as well as student education and welfare and as a training centre.
- A cluster counsellor has been recruited to work out of the Hub. Cluster schools may have the opportunity to 'buy-into' the service as needed.
- The Trowbridge Youth Parliament continues to work with CAYPIG on tackling anti-social behaviour. Campaign flyers have been designed and the Parliament are very keen to promote the community in a positive light.
- Extended Schools have successfully piloted a Multi-Agency Forum, which meets regularly to share best practice and discuss themes with the support of a wide range of Children's Services.

4. BA14 Culture Group –

- BA14 Culture group are in the process of organising a 'Not the TROWBRIDGE Fringe FESTIVAL' which will run from 10th-17th September 2011. There will be a number of events involved across the town at venues such as The Lamb, Stallards Pub and The Arc Theatre.
- Trowbridge museum is holding tourism fair on 7th May 2011 to celebrate Trowbridge as a great day out.
- The Arc has just launched its exciting Spring Program and ticket sales are up with many bookings being done online. At its recent open day on 12th February, they had approximately 120 people through the door. Half of these people had never visited the Arc Theatre before. There were puppet and magic shows, tours, technical demonstrations and workshops. The Arc is considering holding another open day targeting a more mature audience. The Arc also handed out brochures with discounts at Sainsbury's over a 2 day period and they hope to repeat this as the outcomes were promising. The season has been relatively slow in picking up although they are having more tickets being purchased by walk-ins on the night. For viewings of The King's Speech, the theatre has sold out and the comedy club is making good profit which is very encouraging.
- The next BA14 Culture meeting is on 21st March, 9.30 at The Arc Theatre, Trowbridge. Any newcomers are very welcome.
- A World Music and Folk Dancing Event is being staged at the Southwick Village Hall on Saturday 5th March 2011 with "Sounding it Out" a 40 strong choir and Dance Bazaar a small ceilidh/ folk band. The audience will be invited to join in the singing and dancing and a great evenings proactive entertainment is expected.

5. Sport and Active Leisure.

- Trowbridge Outdoor Sports Pitches, a sub group of Transforming Trowbridge, has been meeting every 2 months with Cllr Jeff Osborn as the Chair and Colin Brown as the proactive lead officer.
- One aim is to investigate the potential for providing secure changing accommodation on the Stallard Street and Seymour playing fields. English Landscapes has been contacted for prices to clean and maintain the building. It is hoped to secure funding of around £60,000 for mobile changing rooms at Stallards Park by August 2011 with potential funding from the Football Foundation; Trowbridge Area Board; Trowbridge Town Council and the Wiltshire Performance Reward Grant Scheme with the approach being made by the Chippenham and District league supported by Wiltshire Council. Contact has been made with the various bodies concerned but no firm bids have yet been submitted.
- Colin Brown has met with officers from the Wiltshire Football Association; Wiltshire Lawn Tennis Association; Wiltshire Netball: England Netball: Wiltshire & Dorset Rugby football Union and

England Hockey as part of the work to try to secure additional outdoor facilities which are sadly lacking in the Trowbridge Community Area.

- He has been working closely with a range of clubs who are considering forming a Special Purpose Group to further their long term aspirations. A meeting is to be arranged with the Chair of the Chippenham Sports Club to explain how their clubs work together.
- He is investigating a number of sites for new playing fields and what funding is available from old S106 agreements and from current and future S106 agreements as well as from the national sports bodies.
- The Trowbridge Rugby Club is hoping to relocate to a site in Hilperton Parish when the sale of their current site eventually is finally achieved.
- Many of us would like to see a major development involving a number of Sports Clubs on one site with major club facilities and changing rooms which has a real Wiltshire significance.

6. Environment Theme Group – LEAF

- LEAF (Local Environmental Awareness Forum) is seeking a new Theme Group Champion to support the LEAF group as our previous champion, Pete Barnet, has recently stepped down from the role partly from pressure of work but also as he was concerned with the lack of Councillor support. Any queries or interest in this position should be made to Kate Oatley or Doug Ross on 01225 765 072 or tcaf@trowbridge.gov.uk . Doug Ross has temporarily taken on the role of Chair in a volunteer capacity.
- Pete Barnett will however continue in his active membership of the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance, which brings together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in a thematic partnership which addresses the areas of biodiversity, climate change and waste minimisation. It must be said that Wiltshire Council is now doing much more to address these issues and to meet government targets as failure to do so is very costly. Pete Barnett would like to see WC doing even more.
- The Group is to concentrate its work in helping the local developing environmental groups such as the Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park, the Friends of Southwick Country Park, the Friends of Trowbridge Community Sensory Garden, the Friends of Trowbridge in Bloom, the local Allotment Associations and to encourage the members of the Trowbridge Neighbourhoods Partnership to become more involved with Trowbridge in Bloom and South West in Bloom competitions.
- It will aim to have a key note speaker at its meetings to try to attract a wider audience. At our most recent meeting Dr John Austin made a very interesting presentation and slide show on local birds and the changes that climate change is making to the numbers and species seen here. He has since led a Bird Walk, on 20th February 2011, through Biss Meadows Country Park.
- The next LEAF meeting will be on Thursday 7th April, 7pm, venue to be confirmed. Any new members most welcome

6. Health and Community Care.

- There has been no meeting since the last area Board meeting and Jo Howes has been off sick for some time.
- However Susan Lambert has now sent us a reply to the local concerns and issues identified in our consultations for our updated community area plan and these we will be incorporating into our plan.
- In the reply it states that in depth discussions on the Trowbridge Primary Care Centre are underway with our GP partners and in due course NHS Wiltshire will update TCAF.

7. Safer Trowbridge.

- There has been no meeting since the last Board meeting but there is a meeting on Thursday 3rd March 2011.
- The replies to the local issues and concerns have been received from our various partners and/or from recently published information.

8. Trowbridge Neighbourhoods Partnership.

- The Partnership is to encourage the Neighbourhood Groups to take part in the Trowbridge in Bloom and South West in Bloom competitions working with the Town Council. A joint bid to Awards for All has now been submitted.
- The Studley Green Youth Club opened on 2/02/2011 and has been welcomed.
- The Bluez 'n Zuz operated successfully again on 21st January 2011 at Fever.
- The Sunday Club, for the over 50s, continues to be run at the Longfield Community Centre on the second Sunday of the month and all over 50 are welcome to attend for a modest fee.
- Paxcroft Mead Community Forum is concentrating on the proposal to build a BMX Track similar to the one at Lambrok Road.
- The excellent Rural Film Project has started and demand has been high. The first showing at the Arc Theatre is on 23rd February 2011.
- Mac expressed concern with the traffic lights and crossing arrangement between the Shires and the Gateway developments where people jay walk and in his opinion there is a serious accident in the offing if nothing is done to improve this arrangement.
- Derek Adams reminded people that the College Estate is 50 years old this year and this should be celebrated.

9. Parish Councils Liaison Group.

- Gaynor Polglase expressed concern that the additional cost for Active Trowbridge operating in schools outside Trowbridge was largely unresolved. However Hilperton Parish reported that it had been paying the additional charge since September. North Bradley Parish Council adopted the view that it should not be subsidising school activities outside the school curriculum and thus was not making any contribution.
- There has been an increase in Anti-social Behaviour which had resulted in 4 warning letters being issued and this had now quietened down. Burglaries and thefts had increased and professional gangs thought to be Mexican had been involved
- Hilperton Parish Council is to visit Towpath House to meet the new residents and to try to involve them in the local community.
- Roger Evans (NBPC) proposed that the TTC Governance Review is taken to the next Board Meeting on 17th March and it was resolved that the Secretary writes to Wiltshire Council expressing concern about the proposed Governance Review especially in relation to the lack of any consultation with the affected parishes, the financial implications to the parishes and the erosion of the established buffer zone or existing green spaces.
- Francis Morland raised the issue of a planning application for a solar park at Marsh Farm, Hilperton by a firm, Low Carbon Partners, and stated that a similar scheme in Devon is making a significant annual payment to the local Parish Council. These schemes are part of a Government scheme that will finish in 2012 and he warned of a possible rush of applications.
- Rachel Efeemy reported that WC is carrying out an audit of S108 Agreements to determine what unexpired monies exist and the uses to which they may be put. Those present were very critical of the way in which WWDC had dealt with S106 agreements and had not secured all the benefits available.
- The members present at the meeting confirmed that they consider that the Parish Council Liaison Group fulfils a useful role, giving local parishes a good understanding of what is happening more broadly within the area, and wish it to continue.