

The Community Area Partnership has been asked to provide a brief supplementary work plan for the coming months. Jim Lynch will give a short presentation covering the main activities and will respond to any questions. The presentation will cover the areas listed below including any updates.

1. Sports Festival 2012:

Having promoted and coordinated this year's festival, which attracted Olympic 'Inspire Mark' backing, BoACAP is preparing for the 2012 event . We are in touch with over twenty sports groups across the Community Area. We will host a meeting of these plus other relevant bodies in October. This will result in the formation of a Community Area Sports Network. The Network will be the organising body for Sports 2012. It will also act as an ongoing consultative body for sports-related issues across the area. The Festival will have three area of activity: a. The main Sports Festival. b. A Paralympic Festival: we are in discussion with a variety of groups and individuals with interest and expertise in this area. As with the main Festival, we intend to form a coordinating group which will also look at general disability issues e.g. the implications of the proposed Historic Core Zone for those with disabilities, access to facilities, disability-friendly sports resources etc. And finally, c. A Fringe Olympics: for those who don't do sport! The Olympics has a wide-ranging Cultural Olympiad and we will link in with this to promote something for all tastes.

2. Town Centre Benchmarking:

During August and early September a team of volunteers led by members of BoACAP with assistance from WFCAP conducted a comprehensive Town Benchmarking Programme to help measure the performance of the Town Centre of Bradford on Avon.

Town Benchmarking is a combined research methodology and web-based system to address the real issues of how to understand, measure and ultimately improve town centres. It has been developed by market town partnerships and Action for Market Towns. We have been using their toolkit which has been fine-tuned over the past five years and is now used by over 70 other towns in England.

The approach offers a simple way of collecting data which provide a comprehensive portrait of the commercial life of the town and involves gathering and analysing data on 12 Key Performance Indicators (KPI'S) within the designated town centre.

The analysis provides data on each KPI for the town which can then be compared with regional and national figures. The National figure for each KPI is an amalgamation of all the data collected on that element by Town Benchmarking Users within the year.

At the end of the year we will be provided with a valid and robust annual report on the performance of our town centre. As the exercise will be repeated annually it will become possible to identify the impact of significant changes on the performance and character of the centre (e.g. Kingston Mills). We are confident that this exercise will play a key role in town centre planning and encourage a coordinated response from the local business sector.

### 3. Senior Citizens Forum & BoACAP:

We have now built a strong partnering relationship with SCF and will play a lead role (with Peter Dunford, Area Board Manager) in their next open meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September. We will outline the respective and complementary roles of the Area Board and the Partnership using 'case-studies' of our cooperation to date. We will then invite discussion on the value we could add to the Forum members. We will continue to build on this relationship through regular briefings and joint action.

### 4. Community Planning Events:

Wiltshire Council is investing £3000 in each Community Area to fund a co-hosted event or series of events with the Community Area Boards and their respective Community Area Partnerships. The purpose of the initiative is to introduce new data sets and a stronger evidence base into the community planning process. We are in discussions with the Area Board and other relevant groups as to the best use of these funds in our Community Area. We are hoping to build on the output from the recent BoA 2026 exercise and will provide specific information as soon as possible.

### 5. Broadband/Social Media/ Creative Economy:

Our 'SOS Broadband' survey was very successful, with especially keen interest from the area villages. We conducted a 'rapid response' survey at the request of Wiltshire Council officers, receiving over 80 responses in a single week. This data has formed part of the Council's broadband 'rollout' plans. The preliminary phase of this rollout involves chosen pilot areas. We

are liaising with Ian Baker, head of the exercise, to see what we might do together to ensure that our community area is one such pilot. We are in discussion with Wiltshire Council, the Chamber of Commerce and other relevant groups as to the part we might play in taking this forward.

On the broader (but closely related) area of the creative economy and it's importance to our community area, we are in negotiations with the Southwest Foundation and Learning Curve regarding potential funding for a 6 month project. The purpose of the project is to enhance local employment opportunities in the local creative sector. We intend that this initiative should be of particular interest in our community area villages.

#### 6. Annual General Meeting:

We now feel that we have made sufficient progress to formally reconstitute the Partnership and will hold an A.G.M. to achieve this. Dates and details to follow but will include a 'rebranding' of the Partnership as The Bradford on Avon and Villages Community Area Network. Our structure will reflect both our area-wide remit and a more flexible network-based structure which we trust will enable a wide variety of groups and individuals to participate in their areas of interest and expertise as and when the need arises. Above all we want the Network to be both purposeful AND enjoyable!

#### 7. The Austerity Survey:

This web-based survey, designed in cooperation with Wiltshire Council officers, is available on the community website and is attracting steady attention. We are currently preparing a simpler and more 'user-friendly' version based on community feedback.

#### 8. Working with the Area Board:

We are in regular contact with officers of the Area Board (esp. Peter Dunford) and have evolved a strong working relationship enabling us to assist the Board in consultation and networking activities on a range of issues which arise; often at short notice. We will build on this.

BoACAP is using the above initiatives and projects to provide a renewed credibility to the organisation, to build it's profile and capability and to add genuine value to the Community Area. We look forward to the continued support and backing of The Community Area Board.

Recommendation:

That members approve the release of the first tranche of core funding for BoACAP.