



CCAN End of Year Report to the Corsham Area Board.

September 2011.

It was 12 months ago at the CCAN AGM at Hartham Park that Wiltshire Council first announced the concept of a Community Area Campus and the intention for Corsham to be one of the pilot locations for a County wide initiative. We did not fully appreciate then the extent to which this would impact on the work of the Area Network or indeed the extent of the community engagement within the Project. It was introduced as a Project to be taken forward with the involvement of the community area and was immediately recognised as an opportunity for Corsham and the surrounding area. This has certainly proven to be the case. The Community Campus became the priority issue for CCAN specifically in terms of representing the views of residents and groups. We hosted 2 successful and lively public consultation events during the consultation period engaging with both Community Groups and interested residents, having also developed the survey form with Wiltshire Council that was distributed to over 2000 addresses in the community area. We believe that this, and a subsequent online exercise to ratify the initial results, is most likely the largest consultation conducted in the Corsham Area. It contributed evidence of community interest and community preference that was consolidated in 2 Reports submitted by CCAN to support Wiltshire Council planning. In particular we were pleased with the consultation links established through the Corsham School using their school website to obtain feedback from over 700 young people. This is an effective link to be exploited further to reach young people and their parents. As the Area Board approved the planning intention to proceed with the Campus, CCAN was recognised and selected as a community representative for the Campus Operations Board – a role which is taken seriously and which will clearly continue. The importance of the role, as part of the Board and as a communication channel, will increase as the planning, and indeed the building, proceed to the point of delivery of the new facility. It is a role which has placed us at times in between a community view and the Wiltshire Council planning principles but this is the nature of consultation.

A 'side-benefit' of the Community Campus consultation has been to help increase awareness and the profile of the Area Network. This has served to assist in our priority for 2010/11 which was to continue to develop the Network by means of

establishing direct links with groups and societies across the community area. We believe that links into the natural groupings where people live and work is the basic building block of a working Network and this continues to be a major focus. We are pleased that links into our 3 Parish Councils, Box, Colerne and Lacock, have been maintained and that they as well as Corsham Town Council have nominated links to the Steering Group. This is an important 'top tier' of the Network from the perspective of influence and communication channels and we are grateful for their support. The public consultations co-ordinated by CCAN and subsequent Area Board Meetings that we have supported have helped to increase our group and personal contact lists to be exploited for further Network business. These are now routinely used for Newsletter updates which we hope will be cascaded through recipients own networks. This is, of course, an evolving process which will continue to grow.

In June 2011 we launched the Corsham Can website www.corshamcan.org.uk which provides information about CCAN to make our activity more transparent – including minutes of meetings and documents such as our Partnering Agreement with the Area Board – and it also gives us a platform for prompts on current issues or forthcoming events including consultation activity. The site was used to promote interest and involvement in consultation activity on Westwells Road Parking and the Wiltshire Core Strategy Document and we hope to get more involved in future consultations in order to provide an accumulated community view on issues. As the site becomes better recognised we will be able to conduct our own surveys but this is something to which we will build in conjunction with the Area Board and particularly the community itself.

The website will also become increasingly important in the context of Community Planning and activity towards producing an updated Community Plan. The Community Plan is a key document for the Area Partnership and was last updated in 2009. This is not a long time in Planning terms but we recognise that much has changed since then, both nationally and locally and that priorities and issues are almost certainly different. We have started the process of gathering evidence of the current profile of the community area and identifying groups, forums and organisations that are already established in the community and which are routinely identifying and addressing local issues. We aim to engage directly with these groups to develop credible evidence and input for the Plan which Wiltshire Council and the Area Board would like to see as a source document to assist in planning and spending decisions. Education and Community Safety are good examples of where established groups already exist and where links can be developed to provide a reference point and professional input. Links have been established for instance through the Corsham Extended Services into the School Heads Group and the Corsham Multi Agency Partnership and for Youth issues into CAYPIG. We await the issue by Wiltshire Council of a new Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment which will provide the most recent and most comprehensive profile of people living and working in the community area, of service provision and performance and

community views. This will draw on data from many sources, including Wiltshire Council surveys, and will help us and the Area Board to identify areas of activity which should be addressed and developed in the Community Plan.

CCAN supports the Transport and Energy/Environment Action Groups run in partnership with Transcoco and although new members would be welcome they continue to provide an effective focus for specific issues and undertake good work on behalf of the community and the Area Board. Currently these groups are particularly focussed on the issues and opportunities presented by the Community Campus.

The Transport Group has been involved in the ongoing work of developing the Cycle Network across the community area but particularly linking central Corsham with the outlying villages. The Group demonstrates good partnership working between School, Town Council, Transcoco, MoD, Wilts Council and Parish level representatives. Plans are developing for Pound Pill, South Place and Newlands Road which was identified as a priority by the Group and this will then develop to link to Corsham School and the new Campus. The Transport Group have been asked to assist in producing a Transport Plan for the Campus and have represented a comprehensive set of 'principles' derived from the earlier consultations. The Group are represented on the Campus Operations Board by Anna Mackie and are also an important part of the Corsham Area Transport Group which is a good example of Wiltshire Council using a community forum to establish local priorities and to assist in spending decision making.

The Energy and Environment Group led the successful Part Night Light project bringing together volunteers from Transcoco and the Parishes who impressively checked every street light in the community area against Wiltshire Council specifications to establish and recommend which could be safely switched off in the early hours of the morning as an energy saving measure. Their subsequent report recommended that over 400 street lights could be switched off. The Group continue to identify energy and conservation issues and have strong views to represent in respect of the design features of the Campus building. We were particularly pleased that Adam Walton received a Corsham Town Council award for his continued good work in this area.

An intention to establish a Health Forum or Action Group has not been taken up but we now have a number of people on our distribution list that would comment on Health issues and similarly a Sports Forum supported by Corsham Town Council has left a similar legacy. The Network would support any community interest in developing these groups.

We are pleased that the Partnership was most recently asked to meet with representatives for the developers of a recently sold MoD site as part of its early planning process and hope that this is a forerunner for future exercises. We believe

that community consultation would much improve such developments and we would hope to be involved at a sufficiently early stage to coordinate full community engagement.

As well as being the Partnership for the Corsham Community Area we support the Wiltshire Forum of Area Partnerships with a Steering Group representative on the Forum and engagement on wider issues. We have also been part of developing links with other Community Partnerships in terms of sharing experience and views. Our lead on Campus consultation for instance is part of the learning for subsequent Community Areas behind Corsham in the planning. We have also established links into the wider Voluntary and Community Sector through Develop/GROW and hope to exploit this further.

The CCAN Steering Group continues to meet bi-monthly to monitor the work of the Action Groups, to provide the opportunity for updates from partners and to examine new issues. It has to be reported that we lost the services of Nick Keyworth during the year who was a key member of the Steering Group and chair of the Transport Group – we thank him for his considerable efforts and wish him well in his new post in London. Basil Nankivel, our very useful link with the Library service, has also left as a result of a job change. I am most grateful for the efforts of all other members of this group who are inevitably involved in many other issues either professionally or on a volunteer basis.

I believe that the presence, the work and the potential of CCAN as the Area Partnership is becoming better known but recognise that there remains much to be done to develop a functioning network and to motivate higher levels of support and interest. It is of concern that there is a great deal of reliance on the collective effort of a reasonably small number of people at the core of the Network and leading the Action Groups - particularly as National and Local initiatives seem to increase the expectation of community involvement. The continued support of the Community Area Manager and the Area Board Councillors to promote the work and role of the Network is appreciated and most welcome.

Christine Reid

Chair

Corsham Community Area Network

CCAN Action List since AGM 2010

- 3 New Members welcomed – Paul Kefford, Elaine Marston, Andrew Thomas
- Campus Newsletter issued introducing the consultation
- Corsham Community Campus Working Group established
- 2nd Tranche application and midyear report accepted by Area Board
- Campus Consultation Survey Form developed for Wiltshire Council
- Meeting with Colerne team developing their Parish Plan
- Consultation Meetings hosted at Corsham Community Centre
- 2nd Review of all Bus Stops across the community area
- Street Light Project undertaken and report made to the Area Board
- Timetable leaflet produced for new Town 10 bus
- Promotion and input to Joint Strategic Assessment and Local Transport Plan consultations
- Meeting with Transport Portfolio Holder regarding Public Transport Forum
- First Report submitted to Area Board regarding Campus consultation findings.
- Meetings of Cycle Network Group with Wiltshire Council, Town Council and local partners
- Meeting with Town and Parish Clerks
- Support to funding application for Lacock Archive Collection
- Community Area 'profiling' started for Area Plan including discussions with Wiltshire Council
- Attended Parish Meetings at Box and Colerne
- Newsletter and second 'online' consultation on Community Campus
- Meeting with CAYPIG regarding Campus Youth Services
- Presentation to Voluntary Sector Forum on role of Area Partnerships.
- Second Report to Wilts Council on Campus Consultation
- CCAN representative selected for Shadow Community Operations Board

- Application for funding and report made to Area Board
- Cycle Network Meeting to approve plans for Pound Pill to Newlands Road
- CCAN website launched
- Promoted Core Strategy Consultation
- Peter Anstey appointed as Corsham Town Council representative
- E-Newsletters issued
- Joined Extended Services and CMAP Groups
- Met with MoD Copenacre Developers
- Met with Neighbourhood Police Team regarding Community Plan.