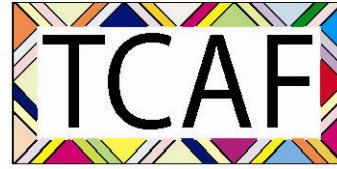


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We're making a difference

Workplan Interim Report September 2011

Points covering queries from Andrew Jack: -

1. Work to establish a new Housing Sub-group (Partnership Development)

Kate Oatley and Derek Adams will be attending the Housing Liaison Group meetings at Wiltshire Council, starting from 20th October 2011. This will be instead of establishing a separate TCAF Housing Theme Group initially as it is anticipated that this will help determine the form that a separate Housing Theme Group should take, also projects may come out of the HLG group meetings.

2. Work looking at the feasibility of using an empty shop for publicity etc, surrounding the new Community Area Plan (Communication)

We are currently investigating the possibility of using the old Argos shop situated in the Shires Shopping Centre as a location for a temporary shop front for TCAF. The lease is still committed to by Argos and this runs until March 2012. Argos have been approached to see if TCAF can use the space under their current lease to operate a 'hub' which would be a community space with various uses, mainly to publicise TCAF and its Community Area Plan. We are investigating the option of setting up a Charity group to enable us to take on a lease. The Trowbridge Civic Society has committed to standing as the charity to take on a lease if TCAF decides not to set up a separate charitable group.

As a minimum, TCAF will take a central space in the Shires for a week before Christmas, where we will, for no charge at all, be able to promote TCAF and its Community Area Plan and to engage local people with the aim of increasing the TCAF membership. We will be visiting Calne Hub, set up by Calne Community Area Partnership to investigate the model used there

3. Success at involving more volunteers to help in the improvement of the community area (Communication)

Although we had a disappointing turnout at the AGM and partnership meeting September 2011, we are encouraged by the increasing numbers of volunteers within some of the Theme Groups. There is still a lot of room for improvement in the recruitment of volunteers and we now have the opportunity to speak to and engage new volunteers through the roll-out of the Community Area Plan.

The neighbourhood partnership group continues to grow, attracting more people to the various groups, as does the BA14 Culture group both in the core group and the wider group reached by the website. The Environment group, LEAF has grown recently, linking volunteers to wider groups such as Biss Meadows and the Sensory Garden. As a result of the Partnership Meeting, one member of the public who attended the meeting has signed up to be a trustee of the Trowbridge Arts Festival next year supported by the BA14 Culture Group.

4. We have committed to a 12 month marketing program with Trowbridge Magazine, running a series of adverts and editorials aimed at raising the profile of TCAF and the Community Area Plan. The magazine has a readership of 30,000 people and is a popular and respected magazine for Trowbridge. All of the Theme Groups have the Community Area Plan on the agenda at present.

5. Details of luncheon clubs, schools, TARA's etc visited (Community Planning)

The Community Area Plan has been presented at the TCAF Partnership Meeting, Trowbridge Area Board, Trowbridge Area Links Scheme AGM, Trowbridge Area Heads (Education), Extended Services (Education), The Park Club and we have a presentation scheduled for Studley Green Day Care Centre's Luncheon Club. This coupled with the marketing campaign with Trowbridge Magazine, an improving relationship with The Wiltshire Times and space or a shop in the Shires will, we anticipate, generate good interest in TCAF and its work.

6. How the Theme Champions have identified priority projects and any progress made towards these (Local Action)

Economy & Transport – We will shortly be reintroducing these regular meetings separate from Transforming Trowbridge meetings as we need volunteers to carry out surveys of empty shops and offices on a quarterly basis. This group has recently linked with the Trowbridge Initiative group and we will continue

to work closely with the group. The work of monitoring empty shops may be done in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. We are presently, through the Theme Group, being consulted on the Transport Strategy. Our approach will be to engage the local community to get their input for the strategy.

Housing – The priority for this theme group is to attend the Housing Liaison Group meetings run by Wiltshire Council and from this to use the network to identify and work on new projects for the Trowbridge Community Area and to assess the need for a separate Theme Group. It may be that Housing should be dealt with through the Trowbridge Neighbourhoods Partnership.

BA14 Culture – We have just completed the first ever 'NOT THE Trowbridge Fringe Festival' which has had excellent publicity through the Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Magazine. The next major event will be the Trowbridge Arts Festival taking place next September over a 2 week period. Also, very recently, we have become involved in looking at practical solutions following the announced closure of the Arc Theatre. The group will be ensuring that all options are exhausted before accepting the closure. In the event of closure of the Arc, BA14 Culture has committed to working closely with partners to ensure that there is a sustainable venue or number of venues across the town which can continue community arts development. Another key project will be working to ensure that THRIVE takes place in 2012 as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

One key development that BA14 Culture group have very recently become involved in is the campaign to save the Arc Theatre. BA14 Culture group is the vehicle which will investigate all available options and make them known to Wiltshire College before accepting the closure of the Arc Theatre.

Sport & Active Leisure – This Theme Group is part of the Outdoor Pitches Group, which has the major outdoor sports clubs in the area as members (these are all active voluntary organisations with substantial memberships), whose current project is to build changing rooms on Stallards playing fields by end 2011 and then Seymour in 2012. The longer term aim is to acquire a substantial quantity of land and develop it as playing fields for a number of sports working with the clubs and the various sports associations to secure the necessary funding to go alongside any S 106 funding available for this purpose. A new wider Sports Theme group will be formed, when appropriate, to link with the Trowbridge Campus developments which will incorporate a swimming pool and substantial sports centre.

Environment – Current project focuses are on the WWT Food Champions Scheme whereby grants are available to develop 12 new or existing orchards across Wiltshire and 12 community allotments across the county. Initial meetings are taking place to identify suitable plots of land and this is being communicated through the LEAF group. Another project that has just started is Incredible Edible which looks at turning patches of neglected land into veg. and flower patches maintained by volunteers. Through the LEAF group, we are involved with several established groups working on their own projects, such as the Friends of Biss Meadows Group, the Friends of Trowbridge Community Sensory Garden, and the Friends of Trowbridge in Bloom. LEAF is able to communicate between the groups so that any partnership opportunities can be identified.

Extended Services (Education) – TCAF is working with ES to identify new projects for the Trowbridge Area. Currently the group is investigating new ways to sustain 'The Hub' at John of Gaunt School, running it as a Social Enterprise, therefore forging closer links with the community. Education will feature in the shop front should we be successful with the Argos or other town centre shop.

Health & Social Care – A current focus for the group is the amalgamation of Bradford Road Medical Centre and Adcroft Surgery into one GP Practice, taking place late 2011/early 2012. A 2 storey extension will link with the present Adcroft building and an additional 78 parking spaces will be formed together with an access road from Seymour Road. The group continues to look at ensuring that Trowbridge Hospital ends up having all of the facilities that were intended for the Primary Care Centre. The Chair of this Theme Group is keen to look at new project ideas and members have been attending the Assemblies held by NHS Wiltshire. The Patients Panels from GP surgeries will again be contacted to try to establish a link and encourage them to join the theme group.

Safer Trowbridge – This group has been working through the neighbourhood partnerships group looking at Neighbourhood policing to ensure that the police officers and PCSOs spend the maximum time possible in the communities. CCTV continues as an ongoing project for the group to play its part in policing the town, particularly the town centre. Once planning applications have been submitted for the major new developments in the town, the Chair, along with one of the Project Officers will visit the developers to ensure that public safety is built into the design of the development. The group is looking at the way tasking group meetings are held so that police time at meetings can be decreased and time on the beat can be increased.

Parish Council Liaison Group – This continues to operate well with parish members meeting regularly to discuss their individual concerns which may have common themes.

Trowbridge Neighbourhoods Partnership – The various neighbourhood groups continue to meet to share ideas and Area Board, Town Council and TCAF information as well as local issues. TCAF supports the Paxcroft Mead Community Forum which is hoping to build a skateboard park and other facilities for different age groups on the Paxcroft Mead estate. The Forum was very pleased that their project was highlighted in the Community Area Plan.

TCAF has proposed a representative for the Shadow Board for the Community Campus project, having completed an expression of interest form. TCAF intends to become an integral part of the consultation process, should the appropriate funding be sourced which will give TCAF a significant community project to be actively involved in.

We are looking at the formal recruitment of volunteers to carry out admin work for TCAF and for other roles, such as minute-taking and assisting at community events. This will, in the first instance, be done by advertising on the GROW website and through the jobcentre. This will aim to be an interim management solution of the admin workload, but we will investigate the feasibility of employing an admin assistant in order to free up the Project Officer to focus on community-focussed activities.

Having completed 2 days of a 4 day course on being a Funding Advisor, the Project Officers will by the end of the year have a nationally recognised qualification in Funding Advice. This will be another 'service' that we will be able to offer community groups and we anticipate that as funding criteria and sources are becoming more and more limited, the ability to advise and lead groups through the funding process will be an important element of the Project Officers' role.