

Corsham Shadow Community Operations Board

Corsham Town Hall 11:30 am Wednesday 9 November 2011

Attendees

Shadow COB Members: Allan Bosley (Chairman), Steve Hammond, Pat Kelly, Anna Mackie, Cllr Alan MacRae, Christine Reid

Shadow COB Support: Sally Fletcher

Wiltshire Council: Andrew Foster

Apologies – Marcus Chapman, Lucy Murray-Brown

1. Communications

COB asked to see a timeline showing key dates for the project (to include Wiltshire Council Cabinet decision and the expected timescale for a planning application). This would allow members to focus on *when* to communicate and be clear about the *purpose* of communicating.

COB expressed the view that support for project delivery should include writing up the comments from the public consultation, and asked for confirmation that this would be forthcoming.

AB reported that he would shortly be circulating for comment material for the launch of the blogsite. He envisaged including a description of COB's role in the design stage and the planning application.

Action: AF to pursue the timeline & consultation follow up and clarify responsibility for submitting the planning application

2 Public Consultation

Preparing for the next phase

COB discussed the need for various types of information to be available for the next stage of consultation, possibly as part of a mobile display using a trailer:

- Display material (to be provided by the architects as part of their remit) to give a real *feel* for what the campus might look like
- Display material to explain (in plain English) what a campus is for and how people's experience of council services will change
- Information about the role of shadow boards
- An indication of intentions for future management of campuses (recognizing that this might involve presenting possible 'models' and asking for feedback)
- An indication of cost and timescale

Action: AF to pursue use of a council trailer to take the display to agreed venues across the Community Area and to feed back the information requests

Raising Awareness

AM reported that he kept coming across local residents who said they knew nothing about the Corsham campus. AB pointed out that Corsham Town Council's recent newsletter, which was posted to all households, had included a campus progress report.

Having agreed on the need to give the consultation wide publicity, COB asked for a proposal from Wiltshire Council about how best to publicise the event and how to collect comments. This would supplement the channels that COB members would use to communicate with those they represent.

The discussion ended with members stressing the importance of having the timeline as soon as possible and also of raising the question of display material with the architects.

3 Springfield Travel Plan

In the absence of MF (COB lead on travel), the chairman invited SF (as a member of the Travel Plan Group) to table and introduce a revised draft of the Travel Plan.

General points made about the expanded document included:

- The aim was to provide COB with a **dynamic** tool to use now during the design stage to get the site layout right - and later on for ensuring the campus was well used
- The basic structure followed Wiltshire Council guidance on preparing a travel plan for a 'speculative development' as information on the site's 'users' was incomplete
- The content drew on five years' experience of travel planning for The Corsham School as well as issues raised during the public consultation
- Aims and ideas that could contribute to a **sustainable** approach drew upon policies and projects at county and community level, and the campus delivery team had provided links to useful sources, including a 'best practice' example
- At this stage the content came from research and work undertaken by the Travel Plan Group set up by COB – input and expert advice from the architects and Key Transport was awaited

During discussion of individual sections, the following points and comments were made:

Section 1: Introduction

The Proposal (paragraph 1.1)

Wording and dates to be aligned with the planning application when available.

Sustainability (paragraph 1.3)

There were many aspects to sustainability, but cycling is the big theme here. Through the Travel Plan COB could give a boost to work on an integrated cycle network.

Location and Access (paragraph 1.4)

This section has to make sense to readers unfamiliar with the site.

Suggested additions

- Reference to position of Corsham Area Transport Group on proposal for Beechfield Road pedestrian crossing
- Map of Community Area and Street Map showing town centre and routes to Box, Colerne and Lacock

Services and Neighbours (paragraph 1.5)

Members welcomed the way information on the three types of users was displayed. Responses were still needed from the Fire Station and the Family Health Centre.

Suggested additions

- Data on library visitors per day is available
- PK to provide new figures for Leisure Centre use

Section 2: Background and existing issues

The table makes it clear that the issues and problem areas identified are based on evidence.

Suggested Change

Limitations of public transport and pedestrian routes to be expanded.

Section 3: Survey Information

This section contains four types of information:

1. Lessons learned as well as figures from School surveys
2. 'Hot from the press' graphics on Leisure Centre users - based on a very recent survey of 200 users
3. Table 3 presents **totals** for staff and visitor numbers previously shown in Table 1, with a first stab at providing daily totals
4. Contributions relating to neighbouring services are annexed. When the set of returns is complete, it might be possible to add more text, highlighting for instance the amount of overflow parking on the road and the existing car park

Members said they found the pupil postcode information particularly interesting, and also the results showing peak times for the Leisure Centre.

Suggestion Additions & Changes

- More information on school buses
- Interpretation of the Leisure Centre data.
- Graphics could be reduced in size to fit more to the page

Section 4: Objectives and Actions

The pattern underlying the presentation of both objectives and actions was to start with the 'hard stuff' (site strategy & layout); move on to 'soft stuff' (operational management and packages of measures); and end up hopefully with 'bright ideas'.

It would be very helpful if COB members could give further suggestions on how to pursue the various Actions (listed under each Objective). Where there were specific targets (such as the 10% increase in cycling in year 1), the figures were based on experience of what the School had been able to achieve through a combination of measures.

Suggested additions

- Specific mention of funding in Objective 8 (section 106 monies/Community Infrastructure Levy)
- New objective covering progressive use of parking space so as to encourage car share vehicles, electric cars, car clubs, community transport, etc

Annexes to the draft Travel Plan

Annex A – inputs were invited from COB members to complete the table on page 33

Annex F the most pressing task coming from the analysis of problems is to work closely with the architects and transport consultant to achieve the best design solution from the alternative layouts suggested

Suggested Change

Scaling down of images to fit more to the page

Action: COB members to send in additional comments and suggestions by e-mail before the next COB meeting on 16th November

4 Use of Internal Space in the new Campus

AF provided a blown up version of the proposed footprint for the ground and first floors, together with a set of cut out shapes. Members were invited to explore alternative layouts, with the results to be shown to the architects to prompt new thinking about the use of space.