

## Corsham Shadow Community Operations Board

The Corsham School 2:30 pm Wednesday 16 November 2011

### Attendees

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

**Shadow COB Support:** Sally Fletcher

**Wiltshire Council:** Vanessa Colyer, Lucy Murray-Brown, Andrew Foster, Hannah Day

### Also Present (for Item 2)

**Libraries** – Joan Davis, Chris Harling, Jessica Phillips

**Learning Disabilities** – Diane Jenkins

**Youth Service** – Kevin Sweeney

**Leisure** – Robin Townsend, Gillian Wright, Sarah Pluckrose

### 1. Timeline for Springfield Project

Vanessa Colyer, Head of Corporate Building, presented an updated programme and highlighted some of the key tasks and milestones leading up to completion of the project. She also drew attention to items (such as the asbestos and the bat habitat surveys) that could influence some of the suggested timings. Firmer figures should start to become available over the next few weeks.

COB members said they would welcome an opportunity at a later date to learn more about what the various tasks entailed, and to explore the possibility of moving faster on some of them.

### 2. Developing the Springfield Experience

Welcoming the representatives of four services to the meeting, the chairman said that COB members wanted to explore with them the opportunities opened up by the campus project. There was no 'blueprint': each campus board would seek to create a unique space in response to the needs and wishes of the community. COB members wanted to work in collaboration with service representatives as they moved towards getting a design ready for a planning application.

### Library

Joan Davis outlined the range of services and well supported activities offered by Corsham Library for its 7,500 registered members, 27% of them under 14 years old. In 2010/11 there were more than 82,500 visitors, a daily average of 328. Looking ahead, she envisaged that the ways in which the library supported reading and learning would evolve, including more on line provision and e-books. The important thing was to have a highly visible, multi-functional open space that would attract people arriving at the campus and lend itself to 'cross fertilisation'.

Aspects explored further during discussion included:

- A cafe area worked well within library space, providing a relaxing ambience for reading
- safe, easy access was important for the three times weekly changeover of books
- staff on duty needed ready access to a work room
- there was scope for opening times to tie in with when the campus was open
- automation freed up library staff from reception and allowed them to 'add value' in other ways
- there could be scope for running day clubs during the holidays mixing reading and sport

COB members agreed to follow up with an 'on site' discussion at Corsham Library.

### Learning Disabilities

Diane Jenkins described the types of activities offered to the group of people they supported in the Corsham area. The aim would be to use sessions and facilities open to the community wherever possible and supplement this if appropriate with block booking.

## SPRINGFIELD CORSHAM COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Sometimes the campus would be a place to meet up before going out into the community, and they would want to explore the possibility of evening sessions as well.

COB members welcomed an invitation to see shared facilities in operation in Chippenham, and to look at the specialist facilities in place there.

### **Youth Service**

Kevin Sweeney said that youth workers and young people (including CAYPIG) had been giving thought to the idea of a campus, and how to contribute to designing a shared space that would work for them. They would also relish making an input to ensuring the campus avoided a sterile look and presented a friendly space for all generations to enjoy.

He stressed that while a campus brought the benefit of mixing the generations, previous experience showed that allowing for very different tastes presented real challenges. It would mean looking creatively at key practical considerations such as the timing of turnovers, screening off wall space, and secure storage for some equipment. There was, however, an opportunity to explore 'cross fertilisation', and an important area here could be acquiring skills relevant to the workplace.

In response to questions, KS said that typically 30 – 30 young people attended an evening session, for varying lengths of time and to take part in a mix of socialising and other activities, including pool and using computers. The split was approximately 60/40 male/female. There was some scope for using minibuses to bring in others from the villages – especially for attractions such as swimming. The target age group was teenagers, but there was flexibility e.g. for siblings to come along.

COB members welcomed an invitation to visit the Mansion House, and said they would look into following up with an event for young people along the lines of the Equalities Workshop.

### **Leisure**

Robin Townsend put the role of the leisure centre in the wider context of improving health and well being, and expressed his willingness to draw on the experience of other refurbishment projects and provide advice on specifications and movement flow around the building. The opportunity for joint working across the new complex was welcomed.

During discussion, various ways of minimising disruption to classes during work on the site were raised.

### **Follow Up**

Thanking everyone for a constructive session, AB stressed it would be important to keep open channels of communication with the COB as the design started to firm up.

### **3. Any Other Business**

- AF confirmed the trailer was available to use for the public consultation
- AB said that his sounding out of interested parties meant the way was open to convene a meeting to discuss art and the campus
- MC asked for early consideration of the external space – to include lighting, signage, etc
- COB would welcome further detail on Transition Community Corsham's expectations in readiness for the discussion of environmental aspects

### **4. Next COB meeting**

This would follow on from the Design Workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> November in Corsham School.