

Corsham Shadow Community Operations Board

The Corsham School 2:30 pm Wednesday 7 December 2011

Attendees

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

Shadow COB Support: Sally Fletcher

Wiltshire Council: Andrew Foster

1. Review of Questions raised in Design Workshop

AF displayed the latest layout diagrams presented by Alec French Architects and went through the questions raised at the previous Design Workshop in relation to the use of space.

a. Snooker Room

Here the question was whether a decision to use the area designated as Multi-Purpose Space (MPS) 3 for snooker would create the need to find another MPS, or whether sufficient space would still be available with appropriate scheduling of activities.

COB members felt they needed more information on the current level of usage of the two snooker tables at the Community Centre and advice on the anticipated demand for a snooker room in the new campus. The Chair stressed that while the starting point for the COB was the original specification that included two snooker tables, the design process for the new campus inevitably entailed a 'juggling act, balancing aspirations and affordability. When a particular activity such as snooker required permanent dedicated space, the question had to be asked – is the allocated space going to be used enough to justify its inclusion?

Action: SH undertook to provide information on usage.

b. Multi- Purpose Spaces

AF then invited the COB to discuss whether the number of areas designated as Multi-Purpose Spaces was enough. COB members looked again at the information set out in the Booking Schedule, and felt that it should be possible to accommodate the range of existing activities, including moving some classes into more suitable accommodation, but that it would not always be possible to guarantee the same time slots. They asked for more information about the possible uses of MPS 4 – including the possibility of having fold away tables and the current Movement Studio.

c. Library

AF showed a diagram with a possible layout for the library, and during discussion COB members identified a number of aspects to be taken further with the library service: how to keep deliveries away from the front of the building, how to achieve an acceptable balance between security and accessibility; and where to locate a shared reception/information desk.

d. Staging

After listening to advice on staging from the Pound Arts Centre and Corsham School's drama department, and discussing at length the pros and cons, COB members came to the conclusion that the use of **temporary staging** in MPS 1 would lend itself to various different configurations and so offer the most flexible use of this large space. They identified the need for advice on options for storing the stage components and seating.

e. New Movement Studio

COB members agreed that it would be appropriate to ensure the adjoining MPS 2 could be used as an occasional Green Room, and to fit it out with a sprung floor, balance bar and a mirrored

wall. They were also keen to explore how best to provide natural ventilation and lighting for the various multipurpose spaces.

f. Space for Youth Services and Learning Disabilities Centre

AF presented a suggested layout for the shared space, reflecting his recent discussions with the two services. COB members made a number of suggestions with a view to making the best use of the space available and keeping use of the cafe/kitchen area inclusive. They also welcomed that the space would be fitted out so as to meet the respective needs of the two services and to function as a bookable space when not required for these needs.

g. Cafe External Space

COB agreed that using the overhang to provide some form of canopy could be one way of breaking up the long wall, but they classed this as desirable rather than essential, subject to feasibility and cost. Similarly a suggestion for considering a sensory garden was identified as something for the 'wish list' and subject to finding out what would be involved.

2 Any Other Business

• **Travel Plan**

Endorsement to be provided by a foreword from the COB chair, and if possible a cut down version of such a lengthy document should be available for the public presentation

• **Public Presentation**

Biddestone to be added to the list of locations to be visited by the mobile exhibition trailer during the week beginning 16 January

• **Management Structure**

AF was asked to find out when information would be available on what was envisaged.

• **Business Case**

AMc reported that the business case for three pilot sites (Corsham, Melksham and Salisbury) was on the agenda for the Wiltshire Council Cabinet meeting on 13 December.

• **Brief for Play Areas and Outdoor Gym**

It was agreed to set up a Working Group to draw up a draft brief, and to invite the Youth Council to take part.

3 Meeting Dates

Dates for further weekly meetings during January were identified. The pattern and frequency of meetings after submission of the planning application would be reviewed.