

## Corsham Shadow Community Operations Board

The Corsham School 2:30 pm Wednesday 21 December 2011

### Attendees

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

**Shadow COB Support:** Sally Fletcher

**Wiltshire Council:** Andrew Foster

Apologies: Steve Hammond, Lucy Murray-Brown

### 1. Review of Design Workshop

AF sought general reactions to the presentations made at the last Design Workshop. COB members agreed that the building design was now moving forward well and offering real potential, and that the external layout, operating within the confines of the site, did now address some of the transport issues.

COB Members then went on to discuss specific aspects of campus design:

- **Landscaping**

The revised landscaping proposals made some good changes, and would now benefit from an extended COB review of the detail, including ideas for planting and sculpture

- **Play Areas**

Proposals for the play areas had been largely overtaken (see item 2 below)

- **Catering Areas**

AF tabled a diagram showing a revised layout for the cafe, crèche and kitchen areas. Suggestions made during a detailed discussion of the possible functions and layout options included:

- Re-locating the storage/WC space in relation to the crèche
- Obtaining a better idea of the cooking/preparation options, and the costs and benefits associated with being able to prepare meals rather than just snacks
- Gaining some extra space by moving the stairs or re-shaping the crèche area
- Looking at options for access to the crèche and push chair storage

- **Young People and LDDC Area**

AF provided feedback from a meeting he had attended at the Mansion House, and reported that he was following up the concerns expressed with the Youth Service. COB members noted the need for further action to include:

- Consideration of appropriate child protection measures, including eventual training of staff and volunteers
- Raising awareness of the new opportunities that the campus would open up for young people
- Looking into how to make new experiences available at reasonable cost

### 2 Working Group on Outdoor Play Areas and Gym

The working group reported on its first meeting. When discussing the relocation of play areas, they had been strongly advised against incorporating the mound, in view of the risks associated with its internal 'filling' and the trees growing there. They had also taken the view that it was desirable to keep the two play areas for children close together, and to avoid wooden equipment.

COB members agreed with these initial findings, and asked for information on tennis court usage to inform a future discussion on making the best possible use of that area alongside the new build.

They welcomed news that the working group would soon benefit from the experience gained during Wiltshire Council's Playbuilder initiative as well as from input from more of the local primary schools and the School Council.

On the outdoor gym, the working group reported that at their next meeting they would be looking at a selection of appropriate packages. COB members asked AF to pursue whether the site's way leave constraints would preclude the anchoring of gym equipment along the west side of the new building. They also recorded their appreciation of the amount of work carried out by Pat Kelly on behalf of the working group.

### **3 Public Presentation in January**

The chairman identified two key elements of display material for the 'road show' during the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> January:

- Wiltshire Council's presentation of their vision for the campus (to include updating the information on which services and facilities would be incorporated)
- A 'progress report' from the COB, using a selection of materials from the architects to give an idea of how the new building might look in 3D, how the surrounding area might look and the amount of new space that would be provided at the new site

AF said that the council's communications section had provided a list of publicity options. The chairman stressed that it would be particularly important to design an effective poster to set the tone and attract attention.

For the arrangements during week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> January, it was agreed that the road show should visit Corsham on the Tuesday, starting off in the Newlands Road car park to coincide with the market morning and moving up to Springfield to coincide with the end of the school day. AF was asked to liaise with the parishes to agree appropriate dates and times, building up a schedule of half day visits to Box, Colerne, Lacock and Biddestone.

### **4 Transport Issues**

COB members received feedback from a recent meeting of the Corsham Cycle Network Group, where concerns had been expressed about the failure to address links from the campus site to the town centre, the absence of an assessment of the extra 'footfall' for the new complex together with possible implications for traffic management.

MC displayed on screen the current state of play on proposals for a cycle network, pointing out that at this stage there was no definitive proposal for the link to the town centre, only four possible routes leading from the Springfield area to the High Street area. COB members asked for follow up action:

- AB to contact the Cycle Network Group and stress the importance of coming up with a preferred route and indicative costing
- AMc to set up a meeting to allow the COB and the Area Board to get a clear idea of how they might arrive at some 'joined up' thinking and action that would tie in with the 'bigger picture' of local transport initiatives (including the scope for using developer funding); and how the various initiatives could contribute to improving access to the campus.
- AF to continue liaising with the Transport Consultant about provision of a transport assessment addressing both the anticipated number of trips generated and possible mitigating measures
- AF to convey to Wiltshire Council as a matter of priority the COB's concern that they had still not received an adequate level of expert advice and support for producing a Travel Plan that they could feel confident would meet in full the needs of the planning application

### **5 Dates of Next Meetings**

4 January – COB Meeting

11 January – Design Workshop with architects