

## **A Report of the Corsham Shadow Community Operations Board**

**To the Corsham Area Board. 2 February 2012**

The Shadow Community Operations Board has continued to meet on a weekly basis in a programme to meet the aggressive schedule to reach a point where planning permission can be sought within the first quarter of 2012.

This has involved a regular series of client workshops, chaired by Wiltshire Council's preferred architects for the Springfield Campus project, AlecFrench.

Every aspect of the new campus has been rigorously discussed and debated, from the detail of the extension to the existing Leisure Centre, to the internal space allocation for multi-use rooms. At every stage the Shadow COB has been guided by the consultation programme completed in early 2011 and has, where necessary, been supported by representatives from Wiltshire Council's Libraries, Youth, Learning Disability and Leisure Services, as well as the Police, who have shown considerable interest in being able to take space in and operate out of the campus

The COB has developed a comprehensive analysis of travel planning, and has further made recommendations about how traffic flow might be enhanced and improved in and around the site.

In order to keep the community in touch with the plans and thinking as each develops, the COB worked with Wiltshire Council and AlecFrench Architects to produce a small roadshow that travelled throughout and slightly beyond the Community Area. The mobile trailer, provided by Wiltshire Council, had good sized isometric drawings to indicate the shape of the Campus as it has been proposed, as well as a computer generated flythrough. The roadshow also publicised the Springfield internet blog, which will increasingly become a way of communicating with the local community, and in turn encourage the community to communicate with the COB.

The website address is [www.springfieldccc.com](http://www.springfieldccc.com)

The roadshow was manned throughout, giving representatives of the COB a chance to explain how the project is developing and, from time to time, correcting erroneous impressions that have built up. Whilst there is some residual concern about the campus development, an inevitable consequence of change, the over-riding feeling of all those who manned the roadshow was that the plans are seen as an exciting and very worthwhile investment in the Community Area.

The COB would like to extend particular thanks to the heroic attendance, sometimes during some very icy conditions, of all of the Council Campus Operational and Delivery Team Project Managers, in particular Andrew Foster. His patience, commitment and enthusiasm will have helped many people's understanding of what is being proposed.

Currently, with the broad outline of space utilisation and the general configuration of the building in place, the COB is looking at the external finish. This will take a great deal of discussion and consideration, in a very short period of time, but it is important that the Community Area gets a building of which it can be rightly proud.

Some consideration has already been given to materials that will enhance the sustainability of the building, an important consideration not just to the future economy of running the campus but also to the principle that it should be as efficient a space as possible. These will continue as we get closer to the point that a planning application can be submitted.

The COB is aware that despite the work that has already been undertaken, the task over the coming weeks and months is equally challenging. As has been acknowledged from the very beginning, the Campus project is about very much more than bricks and mortar and its success will be determined by the extent and effectiveness of engaging the local community, by the operational management model, staffing and local good will.

All of these things will exercise the COB over the coming months, informed by the thinking of Wiltshire Council and increasingly the interest of the local community.

The next stage for the COB will be the submission of the planning application, on which the Area Board will be fully briefed.

Allan Bosley.

Chair. Community Operations Board

24 January 2012