

Update for Chippenham Area Board

Update from	Report No	Chippenham Vision Board
Date of Area Board Meeting		May 2010

Headlines/Key Issues

- **Chippenham Master Plan.** This remains the main priority for the Vision. Work to develop the best overall approach and gather information to inform a comprehensive master planning exercise is ongoing. An important part of this is to create, consult and agree a short but robust vision statement which will serve the town's development for many years.
- **Bath Road/Bridge Centre.** The Vision has had a significant recent involvement with the Council and ING with regard to the proposed sale and development of these sites. As a result ING have agreed to work with the Vision/Council to design a scheme that meets both parties' requirements.
- **Westmead Road and Riverside.** The Vision has held discussions with agents acting for Tulip, the owners of the Hygrade plant, to encourage an appropriate development on the site. The Vision is promoting an appropriate mixed-use scheme, ideally including the adjacent Wessex Water land and will engage with all interested parties to move this forward.
- **New Director.** Tim Martiensen has been appointed as full-time Vision Director for Chippenham from May 3rd. The Chairman met with the Council's Internal Vision Board on March 12th to discuss progress and challenges. [The role of the Council's Internal Vision Board is to ensure that the Council takes a joined-up, corporate approach in responding to the needs of each Vision town].

Projects

- **Riverside.** The Vision has funded a design and feasibility study by Nicholas Pearson Associates for a floating pontoon in Monkton Park, and a canoe landing stage upstream of JD Wetherspoons. A Performance Reward Grant 'Expression of Interest' approved by the last Area Board was considered by the Performance Reward Grant panel who have rejected the proposal.
The Vision is disappointed with this outcome and is strongly challenging it: the Vision would like the Area Board's support for this. The Vision also has concerns regarding the lack of clarity and transparency in the PRG process and requests the Area Board raise this with the Council.
- **Leisure facilities survey.** ChAP has completed a leisure facilities questionnaire for Chippenham. The emphasis now is on getting as many responses as possible. We would be grateful if the Area Board can help publicise the survey and sign post people to the survey at www.chap-partnership.co.uk.
- **'Closure' of National Cycle Route 4.** The Vision Board was concerned at this press report, which is not correct: cyclists can still use this right of way. We have raised with the Rights of Way manager the need for improvements for disabled access and advisory notices where cyclists should dismount.

Update for Chippenham Area Board

Future Events/Dates for the diary

- **Chippenham River Festival 2010** – August 28th and 29th (jointly promoted with ChAP). New events this year will include Raft Racing and a parachute display by the Red Devils. An application for an Area Board grant is in on the agenda of this meeting, as the Vision Board and Council officers recommended this would be a more appropriate vehicle for Council support than Vision funds. We would request that this application is considered favourably, even though it is over the usual £5,000 limit. Please also encourage entry of teams for the Raft Races (£10 a head).

- **‘Action for Market Towns’ annual convention, October 12th and 13th**. Chippenham has won the competition to host the 2010 convention and the Vision Board will work with ChAP and the Town Council to showcase examples of progress in workshops and study tours. There are good opportunities for businesses to exhibit at the convention, and sponsorship packages will be issued shortly. Thanks to all who supported the bid.

Signed: John Clark

Date: 28th April 2010