

Trowbridge Community Area Future  
Trowbridge Civic Centre  
St Stephens Place, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.  
BA14 8HA  
Tel: 01225 765072  
tcaf@trowbridge.gov.uk



*We're making a difference*

## **Report to Trowbridge Area Board 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

This report is not simply for July to September but provides a summary of TCAF's main activities in 2011-2012. It will also be presented to TCAF's Annual General Meeting on Monday 24 September 2012

### **1. The Steering Group**

Over the year members of the Steering Group have.

- Promoted and distributed the Community Area Plan including having a stand in the Shires for 3 days in December 2011.
- Hosting the JSA/knowledge sharing event on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and fed the results back to Theme Groups for further discussion.
- Supported the campaign to keep the Arc Theatre open.
- With officer time and money supported the drawing up of proposals to develop the Town Hall as a community arts centre.
- TCAF provided a grant of £8,000 which enabled the Town Hall Group to attract a further £8,000 from the area board to employ consultants to develop the current project plan working largely with Tracy and Ian Walker.
- Gained representation on the Shadow Community Operations Board and provided significant support to the SCOB in terms of officer and volunteer time in carrying out the first phase of consultation on the campus.
- Recruited new members and volunteers.
- Worked to raise the profile of TCAF through better use of our website and social media and through the Trowbridge magazine.
- Drawn up and submitted a response to the consultation on the Core Strategy.

### **2. Economy and Transport.**

This has been a busy year in terms of developments for Trowbridge and although TCAF does not have a separate Economy and Transport Group its officers have regularly attend meetings of Transforming Trowbridge, The Trowbridge Initiative and the Town Team. In this way it has sort to exert a positive and sensible influence on schemes for development. It also supported the drawing up of the Portas bid.

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**3. Housing.**

TCAF does not have its own Housing theme group but has been developing its working relationship with Selwood Housing and keeping informed of developments in this area.

**4. BA14 Culture.**

This has been a major area of TCAF's activity in 2011-12 with Tracy Sullivan on behalf of TCAF having a significant involvement in all of these initiatives.

- BA14 Culture has supported the staging of the first Trowbridge Arts Festival in September 2012.
- BA14 Culture was heavily involved in the campaign to Save the Arc Theatre.
- BA14 responded to the announcement of the closure of the Arc by working to gain funding to support the coordination of continuing live performances in Trowbridge.
- BA14 has played a significant part in drawing proposals to develop the Town Hall into a community arts centre and the setting up of a formal Board to coordinate this.

**5. Sport and Active Leisure.**

- This year TCAF formed a new Sport and Active Leisure Group, with Bob Brice as the new Group Champion. We have included a section in the Community Area Plan. Bob has liaised with Jeff Osborn who chairs a Group called the Trowbridge Outdoor Sports Pitches to try and promote the idea of a combined outdoor sports centre catering for both rugby and football. The group has also had an important input into the SCOB's thinking on the development of an indoor sports complex as part of the campus proposal.

**6. Local Environment Awareness Forum.**

This year the **group has chosen to focus on countryside and related issues**

- They worked on an "Incredible Edible" project promoting the development of allotments and encouraging people to grow their own food. They worked in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.
- The group are working with Growing Communities to secure a piece of land for lease in Trowbridge where a community garden can be developed. They have organised an Apple day to take place in October.
- The Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park obtained £50,000 from the Community Spaces section of the Big Lottery Fund. This is to reconstruct the pond replacing the viewing platform, seating area and dredging the pond to get water flowing again. A nesting swan delayed this work!!

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Contractors are due to start work on 3rd September and it should take 5/6 weeks.

## **7. Education.**

- Extended Services have successfully set up a Social Enterprise, in the form of Trowbridge Schools Collaborative Ltd, a limited company with charitable status. This will enable them to continue to work and develop once funding for extended schools finishes. They are the first primary and secondary cluster of schools in Wiltshire to do this.
- The schools and the Youth Parliament were extremely supportive in the first phase of the campus consultation.

## **8. Health and Social Care.**

- The Health and Social Care group have done their utmost during the year to keep informed of the emerging picture around the development of the NHS and commissioning. Margaret Howard, the Theme Champion, attended the NHS Stakeholders meeting. They have also tried to maintain relationships with local health professionals.
- For much of the year they were waiting for the publication of the Joint Strategic Assessment document in order that they can respond to priority issues identified. They are in the process now of discussing and responding to it.

## **9. Safer Trowbridge.**

The work of the group has been affected by the changes taking place within the police and the development of a new Urban Tasking Group. During the year the Theme Champion Inspector Dave Cullop retired from his post. Bill Austin has been nominated to take this role from September.

- It developed a Safer Trowbridge logo and new signage to raise the profile of the group.
- It helped promote the use of the new 101 number including an advert in the Trowbridge Magazine.
- Safer Trowbridge has worked closely with the Youth Service to support a number of projects including the increase access for young people to the Studley Green Community Centre
- In response to the JSA demonstrating that Trowbridge's young people need support in educational attainment, the group will look to help the youth service attain the necessary funding to support these young people.
- It continues to monitor the use and effectiveness of CCTV in the town.
- It has continued to work closely with the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service.

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#### **10. Parish Councils Liaison Group**

- Over the year the PCLG has had a major concern about the proposals to impose weight restrictions on the Cleeland Bridge in Bath and the possible implications for this.
- The PCLG wrote to Wiltshire Council to stress the need for the A350 Bypass proposal to address the need to alleviate any consequential traffic flow through nearby villages such as North Bradley, West Ashton and Southwick.
- The PCLG held a separate meeting in order to make a detailed response to the consultation on the Core Strategy.

#### **11. Trowbridge Neighbourhoods Partnership**

- A single Tasking Group has been set up rather than each resident's association having its own. This meets directly before the Neighbourhoods Partnership.
- New dropped curbs were approved for College road and the Longfield Estate and many have been put in with only four sets still to be inserted
- All the dropped kerbs have now been installed
- A successful focus on "boy racers" in car parks was carried out resulting in some fixed penalty notices.
- The S106 money for improvements to the Beech Grove Younger Children's play area has been spent.
- Paxcroft Mead community Hub acquired two more benches.
- The Seymour Hub opened at the beginning of January.
- All Neighbourhood Groups were active in organising Jubilee events and also took part in Trowbridge in Bloom and South West in Bloom.
- Members of the group have been very active in supporting the consultation on the campus distributing and collecting questionnaires.