

## **Cricklade Shadow COB Area Board update 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Over the past few months the Cricklade SCOB have been developing a Campus (Community Hub) proposal for the Cricklade area, the broad specification of which was approved by the Area Board on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Building on the feedback from the consultation, and as supported by the Area Board in March 2012, we have been working with architects to do initial feasibility work, which informs the funding package that Wiltshire Council Cabinet will consider in October 2012. This has involved exploring what services and facilities could be delivered at the Leisure Centre site and initially focusing on the Police Station as the preferred town centre location to deliver the Community Hub (Campus) proposal.

The SCOB, through the Cricklade Town Council representative, consulted with Cricklade Town Council to look at whether there might be opportunities to explore partnership working and co-location at the Police Station. The town council supported the campus ethos and formally resolved to consider this opportunity.

The initial feasibility work has highlighted that delivering the campus proposal across the Police Station and Leisure Centre exceeded what could be described as financially deliverable. This was based on early indicative indications from Wiltshire Council.

The SCOB considered reducing the scope for both of the sites but we did not feel this would meet the brief as previously outlined to the Area Board - we could not deliver everything we, and the community, wanted at the High Street Police Station as well as everything we wanted at Leisure Centre.

Therefore the SCOB have requested that the proposal to be put to Cabinet should include Ockwells, as a less costly option, as the High Street location, with an asset transfer to CTC and with an amount of money set aside to perhaps refit areas to make the building a little more flexible and open for some limited additional Campus uses. This will not fulfill the SCOB's original aspirational vision for the High Street Campus, but will still offer potentially extended services and be more of a satellite Campus Building run by CTC, who have agreed to be full partners on the Campus initiative.

We have always wanted to make sure the Community Hub (Campus) is sustainable for the long term in Cricklade and that it will bring the best possible services and facilities for local people. The decision to recommend Ockwells as the high street location was made due to the belief that the Police Station reduced option would in no way work and that it would not be worth the additional costs (which would have been over and above the Ockwells projected costs) to provide very limited improvements to services.

Also the SCOB firmly believed that for the benefit of the community the savings in the High Street could be employed to bring the Leisure Centre proposal closer to the design brief and the needs of the community.

It is important to note that at this stage all current plans are still outline, as the serious planning of space will be done in detail once (hopefully) funds are approved by Wiltshire Council Cabinet. As part of the detailed design process the SCOB will look to establish a framework to ensure stakeholders such as Cricklade Leisure Centre and Cricklade Town Council have key roles in influencing the design process but that the SCOB maintain the overall lead, direction and responsibility for developing the campus proposal. Additionally there are likely to be key users, such as young people, disabled or elderly people, who will need to have their say in design.

We would ask that the area board consider supporting the campus proposal with Ockwells as a High Street campus location for submission to Cabinet in October 2012.

Ruth Szybiak, Cricklade SCOB