

Corsham Community Area Network.

2009/10 Annual Report to Area Board

The beginning of the year saw the re-launch of Corsham Area Community Partnership under its new name, **Corsham Community Area Network**, at the Pound Arts Centre when over 60 representatives of commercial and social enterprises attended. The revised Community Area Plan was presented and an opportunity to review and comment was given to the attendees during breakout sessions. As a result the first CCAN Action Groups on Public Transport and the Environment were established under the leadership of Transition Community Corsham (TransCoCo).

The main focus for the Action Groups has been on public transport issues, as this is the single highest priority item in the updated Community Plan. We did put a proposal to Wiltshire Council's Performance Reward Grant Scheme to request funding to develop a sustainable transport plan for the Corsham Community Area, addressing public transport, improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and issues of speeding and congestion. Although it was supported by the Corsham Area Board, and the transport officers within Wiltshire Council, this particular request was turned down but we have continued to work with Wiltshire Council and the Area Board in this area. Notably we completed a comprehensive audit of bus stop facilities and information across the community area with a view to improving access to bus services and have now been discussing specific findings and recommendations with the Council. This has been a particularly useful piece of research and a good model of how the Network can use its resource and expertise to take an issue and to present it forward in a meaningful way. This work will likely lead on to linked work regarding bus links on behalf of the Area Board. We have also been working on developing new cycle paths across the Corsham community area and have been involved in further discussions regarding the longer term possibility of reopening Corsham Station.

The Environment Group secured the support of the Energy Savings Trust to launch a community insulation project called Keep Corsham Cosy and is continuing efforts to promote environmental awareness through local schools in particular and the wider community in general.

Both Groups have established links and credibility within the community area and with the Area Board and Council which then lead on into other opportunity areas. We must use this to create wider and deeper interest and involvement across the Corsham Network.

We have produced and distributed 2 Newsletters in the year to promote the Network and to help increase awareness and have also exploited the natural links that exist within the membership into other areas of community activity. There is still much to be achieved to establish a fully functioning community wide Partnership but there is a basis from which to proceed, recognising that, like other Partnerships in Wiltshire, we need the support and assistance of the Council and the Board to position the Partnership and the Community Plan firmly in the local decision making process.

We staged a Hustings evening at the Corsham Community Centre in the run up to the General Election and are now planning 2 forums which will bring together commercial, community and social enterprise groups to discuss relationships, mutual responsibilities and partnership opportunities around current issues and priorities. We aim to create closer ties with Town and Parish Councils to strengthen the network and to establish ways of working together as a cohesive community area. Issues identified at these networking sessions will allow us to refresh the Community Plan and encourage new Action Groups covering issues that link and span the community area.

Essential to our way forward is the development of a community area website to both promote the website and to establish communication links into the community. Resource and effort has been invested in other Partnerships that Corsham will likely be able to exploit to achieve a reasonably quick result. This will create a corporate image that we would hope to use to become much more visible in the community area.

Some of our plans for 2009/10 were delayed meaning that allocated funds were not used in full. Dispensation has been given to carry these funds forward against planned actions and this will be reflected in our application for funding for 2010/11. We will initially only apply for 6 months funding for the new financial year and re-assess requirements once the carried forward tasks are completed.

We would like to particularly thank Julia Stacy and Dave Roberts for their support and encouragement.

Financial Report 2009/10. Statement of Account of Area Board Allocation.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Grant	£8,770.00	Administrator	£2,477.42
		Advertising	£ 279.47
		Admin Costs	£ 775.81
		Room Hire	£ 216.28
		Total	£3,748.98
		Petty Cash in hand	£ 105.25
		Carried Forward	£4,915.77
	£8,770.00		£ 8,770.00

Carried forward tasks

Website Design & Set up	£1,500.00
Consultation Events	£1,500.00
Community Plan Update	£1,200.00
Promotional Material	£ 700.00