

The First 4 years

Calne Community Area Board 2009 – 2013

When the first Calne Area Board meeting took place on 7th July 2009, we talked about a new way of working that would see local Councillors, town and parish councils, partner agencies and organisations and local community and voluntary groups come together to find local solutions to local issues and to create a more resilient community for everyone.

As we come to the end of the first 4 years of the Area Board this is an opportunity to look back at some of the areas of work we have focussed on and some of the positive things that have been achieved so far ...

Encouraging Communities to take the lead:

Friends of Abberd Brook

In 2009 local people expressed their concerns about the state of the Abberd Brook. These people were invited to join a working group to find potential solutions. An Area Board working group of partners and the community was set up and its work led to the establishment of an independent community group, 'Friends of Abberd Brook'. FAB continues to be supported by the Area Board through Community Area Grants which have helped the group to engage local volunteers in Community Clear up Days, wildlife projects (education and protection), planting schemes, and community public art projects. The group continues to grow in strength and confidence and is currently working with local artists towards another public art project aimed at increasing local ownership and pride in the area.



'Make a stand for cycling' – Calne Community Cycle Ride

People of all ages said that an important local issue was promoting cycling in the community area. A project emerged which saw the Area Board fund modern/shiny stands and ran a community decision making exercise to decide where they should go.

The project was celebrated with the Area Board and Community Area Partnership's first ever Calne Community Cycle Ride. 2012 saw this enter its 3rd year, it has grown in popularity and has now become part of the 'Calne Green Day'. The Board has also supported the Transport Group to create local safe route boards to be implemented in the town.



The Community Hub

The initial concept of a community hub as a space for voluntary groups has grown to a thriving hub where hundreds of people have come together at different times for a huge range of reasons and activities. The Community Hub provides a 'non-authoritarian' link to services, opportunities and activities that everyone feels comfortable to access and many of the activities are planned with the most vulnerable in mind (job club, healthy eating project, introductions to internet technology, 'parenting' skills, reading with toddlers, volunteering opportunity bank, safe place scheme, help with public transport information, etc). The project is totally managed by volunteers and the hub is open 5 days a week by volunteers.

Championed by the Area Board; financially and through support, encouragement and enthusiasm the Hub has been an inspiration to other Wiltshire towns.



Asset Transfer

The Area Board has transferred ownership of its land at Castlefields Park to the Town Council to be managed by a Local Community Group, CARP, which continues to develop the facility for the benefit of local people.



Involving the Community:

CATG – community discussion (Lake View Issue)

Highways officers and local people disagreed over a zebra crossing, which did not fit with regulations and was financially prohibitive. A petition was presented to the Area Board. Local people were invited to attend a 'Community discussion' with officers, partner organisations and Councillors to unpick the issue and try to achieve a solution. People were presented with a blank map and took part in round table discussions which identified 6 alternative actions that might help address the situation.



The Area Board and the CATG have implemented 4 of these actions including a Speedwatch scheme, a new footpath link and a Speed Indicator Device.

Empowering young people and encouraging involvement in the community:

Participatory budgeting – Youth budget 2011

Young people identified activities for those experiencing difficulties accessing traditional youth services including: Careers book for young people with disabilities, 'Calne Past and Present' Art Project for young carers and their families, 'Wicked Wall' challenging physical activities for young people with physical disabilities.

They presented their projects at an Area Board meeting and local people voted for those that would deliver the best value in the area.

Calne Bowl Project

Local young people identified upgrading the local skate bowl as one of their top priorities. The Area Board and Town Council are working with a 'hard core' group of about 15 young people to move the issue forward. The group has developed plans, received planning permission and identified about half of the funds for their ambitious project. Young people are now working hard with the help of the working group to raise £10,000 as their own contribution to the project. As a part of this process the young people are learning how to engage with local community groups and leaders to promote their needs and wishes and how to go about 'doing it for themselves'.



Push it Wheel Good

Young people have also been working with the Area Board and partners to get involved in local events and volunteering as a part of their 'Push It Wheel Good' campaign which aims to challenge perceptions of young people as anti-social and to promote a more positive profile of themselves as active members of the community.



Inclusion

Calne Voices

The Calne Voices – People With Learning Difficulties and Autism project worked with people with learning disabilities and autism to explore experiences of and obstacles to life in Wiltshire.

The group involved more than 60 people with learning difficulties and autism at different times and, in order to facilitate the best methods of communication, the Area Board funded a facilitated art project, which ran alongside the Voices project and enabled people with even the most challenging communication issues to become engaged.

This led to the production of the Calne Voices film, launched in July 2012 to great acclaim from the first audience of around 70 people. The Area Board and Community Area Partnership have agreed to actively encourage projects and actions that address issues that have emerged from the film, including; opportunities for volunteering, access to employment and relationship advice and support, promotion of independent living, people with learning difficulties taking prominent roles in community projects.



The Launch of Calne Voices 2012

Focusing on Priorities

Community Health Fair - 2010

The Area Board held a Community Health Fair in partnership with the NHS and Community Partnership at the Hub. Area Board Councillors turned out to encourage local people to come in and have blood pressure, weight, checks and diet, stop smoking and sexual health advice.



Calne Health Fair - 2011

JSA event - 2011

In November 2011 the Area Boards and the Community Area partnership ran a Community Conference at John Bentley School, Calne to discuss the Joint Strategic needs Assessment and identify key priorities for the area. The Community Area Partnership is focussing on actions that address the issues that emerged including healthy eating and activity for children and young people.

2012 year of celebration

Diamond Jubilee

Representing the Community Area at the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations held in Salisbury on the 1st May, the Area Board created, produced and presented an exhibition celebrating the social history of the Calne Community Area from, from the discovery of Oxygen at Doctors Pond to the creation of the Friends of Abberd Brook and the voices of people with learning difficulties with Coleridge, Sausages, and a couple of old kings thrown in for good measure! The exhibition has now been given to the Heritage Centre for safe keeping.



Calne's tent at the Jubilee celebration

The Olympic Torch Relay

The Board joined with the Town Council to welcome the Olympic Flame to the area and organise and fund a project involving that gave every child in the opportunity to create a piece of bunting to help decorate the Town Hall for the duration of the year of celebration and to become a part of a legacy project at several local schools.



Torch relay - Town Hall decked with children's bunting

Community Funding

Over the last 4 years, the Calne Area Board has provided over £200,000 to support local organisations and projects. Examples of the projects supported include:

... Positive holiday activities for young people during school holidays ... Publish a book on WW1 ... Refurbish Toilet Facilities & create Unisex Disabled Toilet at Cherhill Village Institute ... Community Clean-up Day of the Abberd Brook, Calne ... Hilmarton 'white gates' to raise awareness of road safety ... Power-Kiting and Land-Boarding Club for Young People ... Environmental/Wildlife Projects - Abberd Brook Community Group ... Bike Stand Project ... New Age Curling equipment for people aged over 60 ... First Calne Community Cycle Ride event ... Calne First Responders (equipment) ... Energy Efficient Event ... Community Led Study and Production of a Safer Cycling Routes Plan/Map for Calne ... Equipment for new contemporary community choir ... Moveable Goalposts for rural youth football organisation ... Repair & Refurbish Chaveywell Wharf ...

Transport and highways

The Calne Community Transport Group has been active during the last 2 years and has delivered many local highways projects, including: Pedestrian refuge at Hilmarton ... New footpath at Lakeview ... Derry Hill and Studley signage, lighting and white gates to increase awareness of pedestrians ... New signage scheme to encourage traffic away from the town centre ... Repairs and renovation of junction at Hilmarton ... Inclusion of C113 and C50 into the Speed limit review of C and u/c roads ... 6 Community Speed Watch projects at Hilmarton, Goatacre, Compton Bassett, Sandy Lane, Quemerford and East Tytherton ... Speed Indicator Devices at Quemerford, Compton Bassett, Derry Hill, Sandy Lane, East Tytherton and Hilmarton.



Launch of the 'Jubilee Queen' accessible barge and lock project



Hilmarton Community Speedwatch

The future:

Calne Area Board has worked hard to build stronger links with the Community and strives to develop these and future links ... Current working groups are developing projects and actions in a wide range of areas: Calne Bowl Project, Sandpit Road (s106) group, Air Quality Management, Calne Campus and the Area Board Co-ordinating group continues to develop the Area Board to make it more relevant to local people.

For more information or to get involved please contact:

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The first Calne Community Area Cycle Ride – 2010