



## **CCAN Co-ordinator : Projects Update and Report for Area Board 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015**

CCAN is the Corsham Community Area Network – previously it related to the partnership of groups that came together in a Steering Group to represent and address community area wide issues, concerns and opportunities. The role of the CCAN Co-ordinator was to support that Steering Group. The Steering Group produced the most recent Corsham Community Plan Update in October 2012 and was then largely disbanded.

The role of the CCAN Co-ordinator was maintained and with the agreement of the Area Board and working with the Community Area Manager has become a Project related role working with established community groups. The Corsham Community Area Network is the totality of the natural groupings that exist across the Area from the Town and Parish Councils, through the Churches, Schools and Sports Clubs to the social and interest organisations, groups and clubs that meet regularly in village halls and community centres.

### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION**

#### **Area Board and Agenda Setting**

To represent community issues and suggestions to be part of the Area Board programme.

#### **Corsham Area Transport Group**

Member of the CATG representing the Area Network and what was the Transcoco Transport Group. The CATG continues to be a useful forum to address related Area Board issues and increasingly to manage funding and responsibility being delegated to the community area level.

#### **First Bus Customer Panel and Fares Consultation**

An inaugural member of the First Bus Customer Panel to represent issues put forward by First passengers and ongoing issues from the Community Plan. A passenger forum with bus providers and companies was a community suggestion. Co-ordinated responses to the First Bus fares consultation across Bath and Wiltshire which resulted in a new fare structure and will represent views and concerns into ongoing reviews of services.

Please let me know of any issues or plaudits relating to local bus services.

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## COMMUNITY LIAISON

### Community Area Board Chair and Community Engagement Officer and Town/Parish Clerks

Regular meetings and contact with Penny Bell regarding CCAN support and engagement opportunities. Good contact with Town Council and through Parish representatives but this remains an area where more could be done at a Network level in terms of sharing common issues.

### Transcoco

CCAN has always been very close to Transcoco initially providing admin support to the Transport and Environment Groups. Contact remains with Transcoco as one of the 'doing groups' in the Community Area particularly as projects relate to the Community Plan. Recycling, Fair Trade, Corsham in Bloom, Orchards, Repair Cafe, and Sustainable Homes are good examples. Communication links need to be reviewed.

### The Corsham Cluster of Schools

As CCAN Co-ordinator, I am an invited attendee to the Corsham Cluster Heads Forum which includes the Corsham School and local primaries (Lacock is not part of the Cluster and Corsham Primary is not part of the Forum). This will be the prime contact point for links back to the Area Board and for addressing school and young people related issues. The Cluster now has a regular 'partner' slot at the Area Board.

## ONGOING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### World War 1 Project

**Theme:** Art and Culture

**Start Date:** October 2013

**Coverage:** Community Area

**Lead:** Corsham Town Council.

**Others involved:** Parishes, Community Groups including RBL, Army Cadets, Air Cadets, Scouts, Civic Society, Pound Arts, Corsham Schools Cluster, and Bath Spa

**CCAN Coordinator Role:** Supporting co-ordination role hoping to encourage interest, publicise events and to acknowledge key events. Personal research into local history and family detail behind the war memorial names and information about survivors.

**Latest:** Corsham Commemorates website is live and being populated and being looked at - <http://corshamcommemorates.weebly.com> . Stories and events beginning to be added – all names on the Corsham War Memorial have been added by the Army Cadets. Facebook and Twitter accounts created. Successful and well supported events so far include the Recruitment Office recreated in Corsham Town Hall, the trench re-enactment at the site of the Batters and the WW1 Concert held at Corsham School. Have been 'remembering' the Corsham war names through a 'today we remember' feature which will continue.

**Next Steps:** Working with Wiltshire Heritage on county wide and local display material and considering a Heritage Lottery application to bring together all research material about individual and Town stories into one place as a legacy from 2014 – 2018.

**Further information:** If you have Corsham family World War 1 stories or photos or would like some help researching your family records then contact [kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk)

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### **Katherine Park Lakes Project**

**Themes:** Environment, Health and Wellbeing

**Start Date:** November 2013      **Coverage:** Corsham – lessons learned could apply more widely

**Lead:** Katherine Park Residents Association

**Others involved:** Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

**CCAN Coordinator Role:** Advice and support – as member of small Working Group to deliver a community self help project to improve the Lakes area and develop a nature trail. Part of a number of community meetings to scope the project and to gauge levels of interest.

**Next Steps:** Open ‘starter’ events planned for February 2015 to bring people together on the site and to get involved in tidy ups.

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### **Corsham Area Joint Strategic Assessment – Corsham Area Board Priorities**

The Corsham Area event to review and discuss the issues from the JSA was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March last year and the emerging priorities were adopted by the Area Board as community projects for Area Board support during the coming year. Community Area groups are encouraged to take a lead on individual projects and support could be made available.

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## **EMERGING COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **Corsham Area Arts and Culture**

As a ‘spin-off’ from the piece of work to develop the content for the Arts and Culture Chapter of the Joint Strategic Assessment for the Corsham Area we have the core information for a local directory of groups and organisations that contribute in some way to the community area Arts and Culture scene. This presents a possible project to better publicise what is available and perhaps to better co-ordinate and support events and resources across the community area. Initial discussion held with Director of Pound Arts and with Penny Bell as the Community Engagement Officer to connect into the role and opportunity of the community campus. Intention is to hold a community wide gathering for all Arts and Culture Groups at the new Campus to identify possible collaboration opportunities.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Corsham Station**

It is now 50 years since Corsham Station closed and the claims and the need for it to re-open is as strong now as it has been in those intervening years. In 2013 Wiltshire Council identified the Station as one of its top 10 transport related projects for medium to long term funding but unfortunately the case did not receive support from the Wiltshire and Swindon Local Transport Body which must now approve all funding for major transport schemes. The suggestion was that the case required further investigation and support which is now in hand. A survey and consultation in Corsham as part of a wider transport review may be the next step. We are keen to work with the SWLEP and Wiltshire Council on this and in support of opportunities that might now exist with the Bristol Metro Scheme and with proposed links between Bristol and Oxford.

### **Health Forum**

Somerset Care took the initiative to bring groups and agencies providing services to adults together and held a number of meetings in the second half of 2014. There was good attendance including the Good Neighbour Co-ordinator, Care Co-ordinator, Food Bank, Stroke Assoc, Alzheimer's and Red Cross with interest in producing a combined Directory of Services and contact list. Many of this group were involved in the Health Fair and Slipper Exchange held in the Campus in November. A priority action for Corsham is to support the Dementia Friendly initiative.

### **Corsham Business Directory**

A suggestion coming from the Chamber of Commerce membership is to bring together a directory of local businesses for the businesses themselves. Local businesses approached have intimated that an area directory would be helpful from the perspective of mutual support, local trading and common services. Research effort would be needed to bring information together from a number of sources. Corsham Chamber of Commerce and Corsham Town Council are planning a Business to Business event at Hartham Park in March 2015.

### **Community Transport**

Still to be fully scoped but there are currently a number of factors combining to suggest that there should be a community wide review of community transport requirements and opportunities. The Campus provides a compelling requirement with a need to consider how it can become a real hub for the community area and public transport reductions provide further justification. Discussions are ongoing with the Area Board and the Community Engagement Officer with a proposed Area Board Meeting likely to be assigned specifically to Transport issues.

### **Community Area Communications**

There are now a large number of websites and communication channels across the community area including 'Our Community Matters' and the many facebook and twitter accounts all of which need to be maintained and kept up to date. Yet still 'communication' is one of the biggest issues identified by the community not knowing that events are happening or that groups exist. A review is suggested of websites and channels and how they might be best brought together. Initial discussions to be held with Penny Bell and with the County Communications Team.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Corsham Town Council have started the significant piece of work to develop a Neighbourhood Plan bringing together local community interests and groups and it would be appropriate for CCAN to be involved given the wider community input and the evidence of the community plan.

### **Time Credits**

Initial meetings held with Spice Time Credits to judge the opportunity to introduce in the Corsham area. Pound Arts is already linked to the scheme to 'spend' time credits – it is already being used in Chippenham and Calne – and the volunteer opportunities and the facilities at the Campus may offer further potential. The Scheme rewards volunteer effort for agreed projects. Further meetings to be held with Penny Bell regarding co-ordination of the scheme.

### **New Projects**

Please contact Kevin Gaskin if you or your group are considering a new community area project and you need any advice on set up or funding support.

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