



Community Engagement Report – Calne Community Area

Calne Area Parish Forum

Update report - 7th December 2021



1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To note the Calne Area Parish Forum has re-convened
- b) To note its discussions laid out in the meeting notes recorded below.
- c) To support the delivery of future actions, in line with the Area Board Status Report/Action Plan.

2. Background

After a period of inertia, mainly due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Calne Area Parish Forum has re-emerged as a local priority within the Calne Area Board Status report (2021), which was developed to reflect some of the impact of the pandemic upon our community, to confirm local priorities for the Calne Area Board to focus its time and resources upon during 2021/22 and to support and encourage collaborative working between local groups and organisations.

The Community Engagement Manager was asked to work with officers from the Town Council to support the Parish Forum to re-engage with Wiltshire Council and to explore opportunities to develop collaborative approaches, addressing shared issues and sharing good practices.



Community Engagement Report – Calne Community Area

Meeting Notes

Wednesday 20th October 2021 via Zoom at 12.15pm

Attendees: Ioan Rees (Calne Without), Isabel McCord (Bremhill), Mel Wilkins (Hilmarton), Rich Jones (Calne), Pete Szczesiak (Compton Bassett), Sue Deedigan (Calne Without), Ashley O'Neill (Calne Area Board), Mark Edwards (Calne Town Council), Jane Vaughan (Wiltshire Council)

Apologies: Dave Grafton (Cherhill), Nancy Bryant (Heddington)

Notes taken by Jane Vaughan

1. Election of Chair:

Pete Szczesiak, was elected unanimously.

It was decided that, in future, minutes of meetings would be reported to Area Board meetings and there was no need for the Chair to attend routinely.

Mel Wilkins from Hilmarton Parish Council proposed a grateful vote of thanks to Ed Jones. Ed was at the first meeting when the group was setup as 'Focus on Five' and continued as chair when the Calne Area Parish Forum was developed. He consistently chaired informative, informal and sometimes humorous meetings and we send him our best wishes for the future.

2. Welcome

The Chair invited everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed them to the meeting.

3. Review of the Terms of Reference

There was a discussion about the existing T-o-R, which had not been reviewed since 2018.

Ashley O'Neill proposed, Ioan Rees seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to amend the T-o-R (appendix1).

4. Calne Area Board Action Plan

Jane Vaughan presented an Action Plan that the Area Board has developed in collaboration with local organisations, groups, and individuals to address priorities that have emerged from the Calne Area Status report, developed during the Covid crisis.



Community Engagement Report – Calne Community Area

It was explained that this was not intended to be a static document, but one which the whole community was encouraged to interact with and use as a framework for individual and collaborative action.

Top Priorities for action currently being championed by Area Board Members were:

- Reconvene the Community Area Youth Forum.
- Develop local youth provision, street based and café style in the town and assess provision in the villages.
- Audit activities/clubs for Older people to establish provision and gaps.
- Hold a Calne ECO-Fair in November 2021 celebrating ideas about living sustainably.
- Establish current issues affecting local business and promote regeneration of the high street.
- ✓ **Re-establish the Calne Area Parish Forum.**
- Develop safeguarding training sessions for local groups and organisations to promote an understanding about contextual safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults.

There followed a discussion, which included questions about the apparent lack of road safety issues in the top priorities. It was felt that the CATG process had been developed specifically to enable local communities to engage with Wiltshire Council Highways dept about such issues and this had helped area boards to develop this action plan, which provided a move towards identifying, understanding and addressing other issues affecting the most vulnerable in the community such as fuel, IT and food poverty, literacy and social isolation.

The group noted that, in starting to meet again they had achieved one of the top priorities for the Area Board!

5. Neighbourhood Plan – parish status and discussion

Pete Szczesiak advised other parishes that Compton Bassett was in the process of reviewing their Neighbourhood Plan and urged others to do the same as it was understood that, in order to be considered valid under planning policies, they need to be reviewed every 2 years.

Ashley O'Neill advised everyone to engage with planning officers in conversations about keeping plans up to date.



Community Engagement Report – Calne Community Area

Isabel McCord reported that Bremhill is in the process of reviewing their plan.

Mark Edwards reported that Calne Town Council/Calne Without Parish Council's Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2018 covering both areas. Both have now approved funding for a review which is underway.

Mel Wilkins reported that, although they produced a Village Plan many years ago, they have not yet completed a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish had started work prior to the pandemic and was planning to restart this project soon.

Sue Deedigan suggested that the 'Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy' should sit alongside the Neighbourhood Plans and that the Community Environment Tool Kit was potentially a useful aid, for instance in undertaking an asset check. Sue said that she was developing this work in Calne without and, as the environment doesn't recognise our boundaries, was happy to try and support other parishes to involve their communities in this area of work.

It was suggested that the Wiltshire Council Spatial Planning Teams, was able to provide advice and support in starting and developing neighbourhood plans.

6. Calne Community Area Eco-Fest

Sue Deedigan provided details of an event that was due to take place on 6th November from 10:30 am at Calne Town Hall. This was being arranged by Sustainable Calne, Calne Area Board, Calne Without Parish Council, and Calne Town Council and designed to be a positive and vibrant day, providing opportunities for local people of all ages to explore and consider ways to live more sustainably.

There would also be 2 'Community Discussion' sessions at which Local groups and organisations were encouraged to send reps and local people were invited to attend to talk about and identify actions that the Councils, organisations, groups and individual people from the community can join together to develop and achieve locally.

- **'Blue and Green'** talking about our green spaces and water ways to see how we can use them better and keep them safe.
- **'Getting around'** talking about travelling to and around our town and villages and out into the countryside using healthy, active types of transport.



Community Engagement Report – Calne Community Area

7. AOB and items to share

- Information would be circulated relating to submitting news items on the Calne Our Community Matters site.
- Ioan Rees explained that transport consultants had been appointed in Derry Hill and Studley and were focussing on changing the way a street/road was perceived by the people using it and how changing the perception might help to address road safety issues. Ioan would share the report with other parishes.
- Ioan Rees also raised the idea of sharing resources to create a community area wide scheme to buy and move Speed Indicator Devices and/or Vehicle Activated Speed signs.
- Jane Vaughan asked people to provide information about activities taking place in the parishes for Older People, Vulnerable Adults and Young People:
 - What activities took place before Covid Pandemic, but have now ceased.
 - What activities took place before and need some support to re-start.
 - What activities have emerged during Covid and need support/advice to develop.
 - What activities have been identified as a need but are not being provided.
- There was a brief discussion about the Local Governance Review looking at amending parish boundaries and it was decided **this should be an agenda item at the next forum.**

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 1st December at 12:30.

Jane Vaughan, Community Engagement Manager jane.vaughan@wiltshire.gov.uk