

Chairman's update

Calne Community Area Board
15th December 2009

This update is to provide information about some of the work that has been taking place since the last meeting of the Area Board on 20th October 2009.

AREA BOARD MEETINGS:

As the first 6 month milestone approaches for Area Boards across Wiltshire we are starting to review the progress made by the Boards.

- In the Calne Community Area, in spite of experiencing bad weather on each occasion, the Area Board has attracted increasing attendances since its first meeting on 15th July 2009, with an average of about 60 people.
 - In addition over 350 local people have signed up to a Calne Community Area Network (Calne CAN) to receive information and to get involved with the things that the Area Board is doing.
 - The Police, Fire & Rescue Service, NHS, Town and Parish Councils have regularly attended meetings and engaged with projects and issues which the Area Board is attempting to progress.
 - The Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group (CAYPIG) has fully engaged with the Board since the start of the pilot phase 18 months ago. This relationship is now evolving, with the re-launch of a more representative CAYPIG and the development of 'Open Space' meetings, using innovative techniques to engage a wide range of young people, Wiltshire Council and other agencies and organisations in discussions and actions to progress the most important issues for young people in the Community Area. These CAYPIG meetings will regularly provide information and updates to the Area Board so that the two can work together more effectively.
 - Feedback from all Area Board meetings continues to be analysed and discussed by the Area Board Co-ordinating (ABC) group and, subsequently, this information is fed into the development of Area Board meetings. So far this has involved changes to room layout, delivery of presentations, chairing styles, running order of the agenda and encouraging a less formal and more participative experience for people who attend the meetings. Overall satisfaction rates have been calculated to average approximately 75% and this figure is improving consistently.
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AREA BOARD WORK BETWEEN THE MEETINGS:

A wide variety of work is ongoing between Area Board meetings, highlighting the fact that the Area Board is more than just one meeting every two months, but an ongoing process working to involve local people and respond to their views.

Abberd Brook Working Group – update

The Abberd Brook group is being chaired by Calne Town Councillor Roy Golding and the Area Board is represented by Councillors Howard Marshall and Tony Trotman. The group also includes representatives from the Town Council, Calne Community Area Partnership, Westlea Housing Association and local residents.

As neither of the Wiltshire Councillors involved in this group will be present at the meeting on 15th December they have asked for the following update to be presented to the Area Board:

At the first meeting of the working group the issues were unpicked and grouped around 2 main areas:

- Short Term Issues – relating to the ongoing management and maintenance of the area alongside aspirations to improve its amenity value through the provision of street furniture, improved lighting etc. and to create opportunities to promote community responsibility/action/pride and cohesion through the creation of projects linked to an awareness of the environment and social and personal health and well being.

These issues will be rolled forward immediately by the working group and the Community Area Partnership's Environmental theme group. An application for a Community Area Grant towards achieving the first of these projects is also on the agenda for the 15th December Board meeting. It is hoped that, in time, the Area Board working group will be disbanded to be replaced by a community 'Friends of the Abberd Brook' group who will continue to champion this issue. In aiming to achieve this, the Working Group is investigating appointing a dedicated project manager to oversee and ensure progress.

- Longer Term Issues linking to the technical restoration of the Brook as contained within Westlea's 'Black and Veatch' report, but extending beyond the remit of Westlea to include the area to the north-east of Prince Charles Drive. In addition, other aspirations that are also emerging from the community may also link into a longer term vision for the Abberd Brook as a 'green artery' running from the north of the town through to the town centre and providing opportunities for safer, healthier and traffic free ways of moving around the town.

The working group believes that the Abberd Brook should form an element of discussions and plans about the future development and regeneration of the whole of Calne town centre and would like to ask the Area Board to support its attempts to be involved in future deliberations and discussions about town centre development.

Community Hub Project

This issue was raised by Calne Community Area Partnership and, in order to progress it, the Area Board set up a working group which is being lead by Councillor Christine Crisp.

Councillor Crisp will provide an update to the meeting.

Participatory Budgeting project – ‘Make a Stand for Cycling’

Evolving from the presentation and discussion that the Community Partnership Transport theme group (CAT) delivered at the Area Board in August 2009. A small working group was formed to advance ideas about a project that would involve local people from across the whole of the Community Area in deciding how the Council should deliver a piece of work that will help to address issues relating to encouraging achievable, sustainable transport that will also help to relieve congestion.

Councillor Chuck Berry has been leading on this group, working closely with Calne Area Transport's Chair Mrs Anne Henshaw. At the Area Board meeting on 15th December, Chuck will introduce and launch a project that will run through until the middle of January and will result in the delivery of creative and innovative cycle stations at sites which will be identified by the Community.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Some of the issues that are being received by the Area Board could be more efficiently dealt with through Customer Services or through the ‘Clarence’ system (Customer Lighting And Roads Enquiry Centre), in these instances the issue raiser is being advised of that process, but it appears that more work needs to be done in publicising this line of customer service.

Calne Area Board has received 37 issues to date through the dedicated issues process. This process was initially quite slow to get off the ground as a result of technical delays in launching the database and officers learning and honing their skills and approaches at unpicking issues and identifying relevant Council/Partner departments/officers to work with. The system is now working more efficiently.

9 community issues have been closed.
10 relate to an issue at Fynamore School and ...

2 further issues relate to Priestley School, all linked to road safety matters at the start and end of the school day. – These are currently being investigated and progressed by the CAM and individual Wiltshire Councillors and officers.

5 issues relate to concerns about speeding – progression of these has been delayed as the ‘Community Speedwatch’ initiative is being developed as a corporate, county wide response to the significant volume of speeding issues across the County. The Community Area Manager is now at a point where she can submit these issues for prioritisation and feasibility reporting by the Police and Highways Department. Once this has been done a priority list will be approved by the Area Board and the issues will be passed to the Camera Safety Partnership for implementation. Information about the remaining issues is outlined in the following table:

The following table details new and ongoing issues received by the Calne Community Area Manager.

Area Board Issues 06/12/2009 12:36:35

ID	Division	Summary of Issue	Submitted	Status
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Agenda Item No.09

618	Calne	Defacing the countryside;- between the A4 and the A361	02/12/2009	Received
585	Calne	Road safety on the A3102 at Hilmarton and Goatacre.	19/11/2009	Received
579	Calne	Poor visibility for drivers turning right from The Green onto the A4.	16/11/2009	Received
557	Calne	Speeding Traffic in Quemerford, Calne	11/11/2009	Received
528	Calne	Surface of Sustrans cycleway between Calne and Cherhill	30/10/2009	Received
524	Calne	Heavy traffic congestion within Calne/Village 'rat-runs'	30/10/2009	Received
518	Calne	No School bus from Lansdowne Park to John Bentley School	29/10/2009	Received
509	Calne	'Rat-runs' /speeding traffic - Bremhill Parish, especially Ratford	28/10/2009	Received
507	Calne	A4 Stockley Lane junction – car parking on grass verge	28/10/2009	Received
549	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	09/11/2009	In Progress
532	Calne	Priestley School – Speeding/Road Safety/Parking	30/10/2009	In Progress
531	Calne	Curzon Street congestion – especially re. retained firefighters	30/10/2009	In Progress
522	Calne	Narrow/non-existent footpaths in Lickhill Road/North Street, Calne. Main route to school from North of town to JB School	30/10/2009	In Progress
517	Calne	Aspiration for pedestrian /cycle path alongside A4 from Derry Hill to Beckhampton.	29/10/2009	In Progress
516	Calne	Overgrown footpath - footpath linking Stockley Lane and the A4 behind Riverside estate.	29/10/2009	In Progress
505	Calne	Lack of allotment provision in Calne, in particular to the east of the town i.e. Quemerford	28/10/2009	In Progress
500	Calne	Church Road ,Derry Hill, rat run plus speeding issues	27/10/2009	In Progress
488	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	23/10/2009	In Progress
416	Calne	Future funding of The Mill Race Centre(Family Action)	16/10/2009	In Progress
333	Calne	Priestley School – Speeding/Road Safety/Parking	02/10/2009	In Progress
285	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	22/09/2009	In Progress
284	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	22/09/2009	In Progress
282	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	22/09/2009	In Progress
274	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	20/09/2009	In Progress
272	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	19/09/2009	In Progress
271	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	18/09/2009	In Progress
270	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	18/09/2009	In Progress
266	Calne	Fynamore School – Road Safety/Parking	18/09/2009	In Progress

COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP:

The Calne Community Area Partnership held its Annual General Meeting on 28th October 2009. After 4 years in the role, Jill Martin stood down as the Chair of the group and Mick Devonport stood down as Vice-Chair. These roles have now been taken by Malcolm Gull as the Chair and John Dawson (JR) as Vice-Chair. On behalf of the Area Board and the Wiltshire Councillors and officers the Chairman of the Calne Area Board would like to acknowledge the significant effort and dedication that Jill and Mick have given to the community in a completely voluntary capacity. This applies especially to the work that they have both undertaken during the pilot phase of the Area Boards and the move to a Unitary Authority. It is sincerely hoped that both Jill and Mick will continue to be active members of the community in whichever role they choose to adopt.

The Chairman also welcomes Malcolm and JR to the Area Board in their new roles, and looks forward to a successful and productive future working relationship with them.

The Community Area Partnership has provided the Area Board with an outline of their proposed work and development in line with the Wiltshire Council 'Community Area Partnership (CAPA). Agreement' This work will include the development of a website and administrative support in developing the Partnership and the Community Area Plan.

The proposal has been considered by the Wiltshire Councillors in line with the guidelines set by Wiltshire Council's Implementation Executive for the 1st year of the Unitary Authority, which agreed that the process of accessing CAP core funding in the first year should be kept relatively simple in order to assist those Partnerships in their early stages of development. As such the conditions have been met to trigger the release of the remaining tranche of Community Area Partnership core funding for 2009/10.

It should be noted that future core funding for Wiltshire's Community Area Partnerships will be in response to the receipt, in advance, of a robust and costed annual action plan.

PROPOSALS ARISING FROM THIS UPDATE:

- 1. That the Area Board supports and promotes the inclusion of the Abberd Brook as a 'green artery' within the town in future plans for town centre development/regeneration.**
- 2. That the second tranche of core funding (£5,672) is released to the Calne Community Area Partnership, in order for it to develop in line with its proposals.**

Prepared by Cllr Alan Hill (Wiltshire Council, Chairman of the Calne Community Area Board) and Jane Vaughan (Calne Community Area Manager) for the Calne Community Area Board meeting on 15th December 2009.

Please send comments/queries to:

Jane Vaughan (Calne Community Area Manager)

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