

PILOT AREA BOARD

for the Calne Community Area

CHAIRMANS UPDATE:
10th March 2009

This update is to provide information about the Area Boards Project in the Calne Community Area and to feed back from the Task Group meeting held on the 12th February and the work that has been progressed from there. It also provides information about the future of the Area Board and the Task Group.

PILOT AREA BOARD TASK GROUP: 12th February 2009:

This meeting of the Task Group was the last to be held during the Pilot phase. The group has been concentrating upon the 3 Specific Action Areas, which were agreed by the Pilot Area Board Community Discussion on the 22nd July 08, and used this meeting to evaluate the progress that has been able to be made during the past 6 months.

In accordance with the terms of reference agreed at the start of this project, the Task group will dissolve before the 1st April 2009. However, depending upon the results of this development phase across the whole of the County, it may be called upon to reform as a part of the new Wiltshire Council Area Board Proper for the Calne Community Area. If this is the case, the membership of the Group would need to be re-established through the new Area Board.

Specific Action Areas:

- **Community Area Assessment** – identification of local issues and priorities for action:

Review of the Community Plan –

The Calne Community Area Partnership has been undertaking a programme of consultation across Calne and the surrounding villages in order to produce an evidence-based review of the Community Plan that will identify issues that are of priority to people who live, work or go to school in the Calne Community Area.

This plan will be published in the summer and will help to inform Wiltshire Council about local priorities. It is hoped that the Partnership will present the new plan in full at the Calne Area Board when it meets for the first time. It is expected that all service providers within the new authority will go on to provide an official response to the plan and that issues arising will be influential as those services adopt work plans. In addition, it is hoped that Partner services and organisations may also choose to respond to the new Community Plan.

Community Visioning Event –

A Community Visioning Event took place at Marden House, Calne on Saturday 31st January. The purpose of this event was to provide local people with opportunities to influence and find out about the Calne Community, the new Wiltshire Council and the Calne Area Board in an informal and fun environment.

It also aimed to help the Calne Community Area Partnership to review the Community Plan so it may adequately represent the views, desires and needs of people from across the Community at the Area Board.

An evaluation of the event is being undertaken, informed by evaluation forms that were handed out at the event, and will be fed into the evaluation of the Pilot phase across the County. This event was well supported by Town and Parish Councils and by Partner agencies and organisations; however, in spite of publicity generated by the Project Manager through the local press and Area Board contacts across the Community Area, it seems as though messages about the event did not filter through very well to large numbers of the general public/community groups. The event could have been a spectacular success had this been achieved. It would be valuable to the future Area Board process if the Community Partnership would link up with the Project Manager to look at identifying good and bad aspects of work that were involved in the organisation of this event in order to inform the way that the future Board runs similar events.

- **Community Decision Making** – setting out budget priorities, allocating project funding for community initiatives using participatory budgeting techniques:

Drop Kerbs Project: This project was identified as an issue at the Community Discussion. Councillor Ross Henning has been leading on it, working with the Area Board Project Manager, the Chair of the Community Area Partnership and Kristian Price, WCC Highways engineer. In addition Lucy Chivers from the WCC communications team has provided advice and assistance in gaining publicity and the Community Librarian, Wendy Beaver, has provided support in running the project through the library. This project has now been completed. 5 sites for new dropped kerbs have been identified and, over a period of 3 weeks, a public decision-making event has involved local people in voting for the sites in preference order. This project started at the last Area Board meeting and was then held at the Library, before finally being run at the Visioning Day. These votes have now been counted and assessed and Highways engineers have confirmed that at least the top two sites will be implemented before the 31st March this year.

1: A3102 – Silver Street at Linden Close

2: A4 - Wessington Park

3: Junction of Woodhill Ave/Abberd Way

4: A3102 – Silver Street at Wenhill Lane

5: A4 – Calstone Junction

In addition, a number of new sites have been suggested for the future. These will be passed on to the Partnership and to the Highways engineers so that they can potentially form part of a list for future community prioritisation.

This project represents an example of participatory budgeting as local people have had direct involvement in deciding where council resources are to be deployed.

Participatory Budgeting – Community awards project: In the original project plan a PB event was outlined to take place at the final Pilot Board meeting in Calne. This was to have been based around the draft version of the CCAP review of the Community Area Plan. As opportunities have arisen to undertake more extensive consultation through the 'Community Corner Shop' in Phelps Parade, the Partnership has chosen to extend its consultation period. It has therefore not been possible to identify a 'broad priority area' for this event to be based upon. As a result, the Task Group has asked

the Project Manager to arrange for this project to be postponed. It is hoped that money that has been set aside by NWDC and WCC to fund this project will be rolled forward.

- **Local Challenge** – identifying persistent ‘sticky issues’ and holding services to account:

Curzon Street Project –

This is an ambitious project to address the persistent issue of traffic flow through the narrow stretch of Curzon Street. Cllr Alan Hill is leading on this project and has been working with a specific project group to progress it as far as possible during the pilot phase of the Area Board Development project. Alan will provide further details of how this might progress in the new authority at the Area Board meeting.

CAYPIG (Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group) –

Sally Willox from the Youth Development Service attended the task group meeting. Sally provided a brief outline of the report that the young people have put together to provide their response to being involved in the Pilot Area Board. This report forms a part of the Area Board agenda and the CAYPIG representative will answer questions later in the evening.

The main issues that young people have brought to the Pilot Board were around healthy eating and transport:

The CAYPIG expressed a desire to try to set up a healthy eating outlet in the town. Although a permanent outlet has not been achieved, the CAYPIG have, under supervision of officers from Wiltshire County Council’s Youth Development Service, run their ‘smoothie bar’ at several community events including the Visioning Day and the Community Corner Shop. Through their involvement in the Pilot Area Board, they have been able to interact with people from a wide range of organisations and groups including Wiltshire NHS and local business people. Hopefully they have picked up some useful advice and information and will continue to run this enterprise as and when they have the opportunity.

The CAYPIG has now created and is developing links with CAT (Calne Area Transport) in order to try to achieve a joint approach to progressing transport issues for the whole community.

Other work:

The Task group also considered and discussed feedback from the previous Pilot Area Board on 13th January. The most positive responses related to people feeling included and welcome, the most negative feedback was again around publicity, but was also, for the first time about presentations. This Area Board meeting had included the trial of the Issues Book at the last minute, and so the agenda had more on it than was initially anticipated, and there was a less relaxed atmosphere as the Board tried to cover all the agenda items and interact with the Issues Book presentation. The Group has discussed the importance of ensuring that agendas are not allowed to be over subscribed and the potential to call additional single issue meetings in order to progress with large agenda items. The agenda for this meeting has been compiled with this in mind and this issue will be fed into the evaluation of the Area Boards project across the County. Feedback will be requested again at the end of the meeting in order that changes can be assessed.

Future work:

This Pilot Area Board meeting forms the final piece of work that the Calne Community will engage with as a part of its involvement in the Development of Area Boards for Wiltshire.

As Chair of this Pilot phase, I will continue to be involved in the pan-county Area Board Chairs and Project Managers meetings until the end of March, at which point the Pilot Area Board for the Calne Community Area will dissolve.

Project Managers from across the County have already begun and will continue to evaluate this pilot phase in the next few weeks and will then put forward a report to the Implementation Executive outlining their recommendations for the implementation of Area Boards proper later this year.

Community Area Managers will run the Area Boards process in each of Wiltshire's Community Areas - these officers have not yet been identified.

Elections for the new Wiltshire Council will take place on June 4th 2009 and it is hoped that the first Calne Area Board will convene before the end of July.

Prepared by Cllr. Nancy Bryant (WCC) and Jane Vaughan (Project Manager - Area Boards Development Project – Calne Community Area) for the Pilot Area Board for the Calne Community Area on 10 March 2009

Please send comments/queries to:

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