

UPDATE TO CORSHAM AREA (4) COMMITTEE
23rd SEPTEMBER 2008

At the meeting held on 8th July 2008, I prepared a report to the Corsham Area (4) Committee asking for nominations for three representatives to sit on the Corsham Area Board Task Group. The Corsham Area (4) Committee nominated three representatives and I am glad to report that all three have attended meetings of the task group.

Membership of the group overall is from the following:

Elected members of Wiltshire County Council, three representatives from North Wiltshire District Council Corsham Area (4) Committee, one representative from Corsham Town Council, one representative of each of the Parish Council's in the Community Area, one representative from the Community Area Partnership, representatives from the Police, Fire Service, PCT and Youth Development Services. It was also decided that substitute members from any of the above-mentioned organisations will be allowed.

The task group have met on two occasions since the last area Committee meeting and have explored or are beginning to explore the following areas of work.

To identify what an Area Board will look like under a Unitary authority, to test out a few ideas, to explore what the role of the Area Board will be in relation to key stakeholders, for example, the Police, Fire and PCT. To identify what the relationship will be between the Area Board and the Community Area Partnership. To work with the project management team to make recommendations to the Implementation Executive for the future arrangements under a Unitary authority.

To identify how the new Area Board will engage with the public and become an inclusive body where the public will be able feel that they can have their voices heard if they have concerns or opinions that are relevant to the wider public.

To agree a terms of reference to allow the group to operate until an Area Board becomes operational under the Unitary authority.

To identify sticky issues as they arise and then to identify key stakeholders who might have a responsibility in connection with the issue or might be able to influence the outcome of any possible solution.

To agree that the task group in partnership with the Corsham Community Area Partnership will carry out a community engagement event to identify key issues, priorities and concerns for the Corsham Community Area and identify priorities for the future Area Board.

I envisage that the Corsham Area (4) Committee will also take part in this in some shape and I expect that we will be asking for some time on the

November 2008 and January 2009 agenda to work through some of the key issues or ideas.

It has already become apparent that some of the key stakeholders in the Community Area are embracing the idea of Area Boards and new ways of working. To this end the Police in Corsham also want to use part of the Corsham Area (4) Committee meeting in November to report Policing matters and if necessary go on to explore a surgery type of approach to try to solve local issues that might arise.

It is early days yet, and there is much to be done, but I am sure that with the support of all those on the Area Board task group and the wider stakeholders, Corsham will be well served under the new single authority. I look forward to offering a much more advanced report to the November meeting.

Dave Roberts
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Corsham Community Area