

Corsham Community Area Task Group
Notes of meeting
25/02/09
Pound Arts Centre

1. ATTENDEES

Julia Stacey WCC Community Planner, Judy Seager WCC Cllr, Nicholas Keyworth Corsham Town Council, Peter Davis WCC Cllr, Sheila Parker, NWDC Area 4 Committee, Jo Howes PCT, Adam Walton & Nikki Kenner Transition Corsham Community, Dave Roberts WCC Project Manager.

2. APOLOGIES

Mike Franklin, Kate Pain, Helen Wright, Glenys Gill, Peter Kallemeir, Elaine Marston, Christine Reid, Alex Reid.

3. HOW CAN AREA BOARDS BEST ENGAGE WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

Dave Roberts explained that Dr Corinne Wales from Southampton University has been carrying out some research into the above topic and to this end some of the pilots in Wiltshire have had the benefit of viewing a DVD and written material called an "issue book" to enable them to try to identify how best to engage with local people. Corsham has been a control group for this experiment so have not had sight of the materials used. Dr Wales was unable to be present at the meeting so this session was facilitate by Dave Roberts

The group were asked to break into two smaller groups and discuss the heading above.

Both groups looked at meetings, venues, timings, partnership, speaking out, publicity, newsletters and surveys.

The notes from this session are being passed on to Dr Wales and findings will be released in due course.

4. STICKY ISSUES

In the absence of anyone from Colerne, Dave Roberts updated the group on progress in Colerne with regard to Anti Social Behaviour and Youth Issues.

In summary, the police have attended the area on several occasions feel they have had an impact on anti social behaviour. They will be monitoring the situation and have asked the anti social behaviour team currently at NWDC if there are any activities they can assist with in the future.

With regard to youth provision several possible venues have been identified and named people have now gone away to look at the feasibility. WCC Youth Development Services have offered up a considerable package to try to assist the community in realising the ambition to provide premises and activities for young people.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

A brief discussion took place about the value of holding the community engagement events in the way we did in the Corsham Community Area. It was felt that this was a valuable way of engaging with the community and the figures speak for themselves. Over 1,400 people in total attended and many of these would not have come to a public event. The evaluation document was seen to be a useful tool for other groups to use for example to update the community plan and to add weight to support for future funding bids.

6. UPDATE FROM CORSHAM AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Nick Keyworth gave a brief update to the group. CACP are currently working on the update to the Community Area Plan and will be using some of the findings from the community engagement events for this purpose. They are looking to develop a web site to keep people informed of progress and enable them to keep any documents live and up to date. They are busy recruiting new members and are looking to have an event in April / May to move the partnership and the plan forward.

7. TRANSITION COMMUNITY CORSHAM (TCC)

Adam Walton and Nikki Kenner were present to give an introduction about TCC.

TCC is about creating a sustainable community area with regard to climate change. This has come about as a response to interest from within the community area and fits in with both Wiltshire Council and Corsham Town council's vision to "create a sustainable community through increased awareness of environmental issues".

TCC priorities also mirror some of the key issues within the Corsham Community Area Plan and some of the issues raised generally across the community area.

One example used was that reducing food miles was better for the local food economy, reduces the carbon foot print and leads to a healthier lifestyle so can link in with other agencies key objectives.

TCC will be working closely with CACP and other orgs across the community area and hope to help to develop one or two key projects in line with the community area plan.

For further information contact TCC via e mail nikki@esd.co.uk

8. MATTERS FOR THE JOINT AGENDA MARCH 17TH

The group felt that the highways issue needed some form of statement in preparation for the joint and final meeting of the Area Board pilot phase and NWDC Area 4 meeting.

DR will ask Kristian Price to prepare a statement if he unable to attend the meeting.

9. ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE

Everyone is aware of the move to One Council and the elections taking place for the new elected members for Wiltshire Council in June.

The elected members for Corsham Community Area will go forward to form the basis of an Area Board for the Corsham Community Area along with other key stakeholders from across the community area.

This task group felt that this meeting should be the last one for this group in this format and that inevitably the NWDC Area 4 will cease to exist after the end of March.

The task group was formed to try out some ideas with regard to the formation of the emerging Area Boards. This they have done and the project management group are now in the process of evaluating this.

The recommendation from this group is that if there are any “sticky issues” or issues that emerge between April and the setting of the official Area Board then a group could be called together to try to resolve or move the issues forward.

The task group felt it unnecessary to have meetings for the sake of having them.