

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** CORSHAM AREA BOARD  
**Place:** Corsham Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 0EZ  
**Date:** Tuesday 13 October 2009  
**Start Time:** 7.00pm  
**Finish Time:** 9.00 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these Minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Dick Tonge (Chairman), Peter Davis (Vice Chairman), Alan Macrae and Sheila Parker

Cabinet Representative – John Thomas (Deputy Leader; Adult Care, Communities and Libraries)

### **Service Director**

Siân Walker (Adult Care)

### **Officers**

Julia Densham (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Basil Nankivell (Community Librarian) and Dave Roberts (Community Area Manager)

### **Parish Councillors**

Corsham Town Council - Allan Bosley (Chairman), Nicholas Keyworth, Isobel Langsford, Dave Martin, Michael Simpkins and Rod Taylor  
Box Parish Council - Fred Sheppard (Chairman)

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Kate Pain and Sergeant Allan George  
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Watch Manager Richard Humphrey

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Corsham Chamber of Commerce – Ian Storey (Chairman)  
Corsham Civic Society – E Knapp  
Corsham Community Area Network - Christine Reid (Chairman) and Adam Walton  
Corsham Station Campaign – Anne Lock  
Pickwick Association – DJ McDermott and Sandra Luke  
Wiltshire Youth Development Services – Peter Kallmeier

**Members of Public in Attendance: 19**

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<b><u>Agenda Item No.</u></b>	<b><u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u></b>	<b><u>Action By</u></b>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Wiltshire Councillors and Officers.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Mike Franklin (Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service), Jo Howes (NHS Wiltshire), Chris Ward (Chairman – LINK Box Colerne Rudloe) and Stuart Little (Ministry of Defence).</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><b>DECISION:</b>  <b>The minutes of the meetings on 21 July 2006 and 26 August 2009 and were approved and signed as a correct record.</b></p>	
4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcement</u></p> <p><u>Planning for the Future of the Corsham Community Area</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council was preparing a new plan for housing and employment development. The first part of this was known as the Wiltshire Core Strategy and would contain spatial planning policies and proposals for the period 2006 to 2026.</p> <p>The first formal public consultation about the Wiltshire Core Strategy would be launched on Friday 30 October 2009 and finish on 31 December 2009. This would be an opportunity for residents and community organisations to have their say on the proposed plans for future development in their area.</p> <p>A series of exhibitions and workshops was to be held in each of the Community Areas and the exhibition for Corsham Community Area would be held on <b>November 12<sup>th</sup> between 1pm and 7pm at Corsham Town Hall, Corsham.</b> Members of the Spatial Planning Team from Wiltshire Council would be available throughout the exhibition to explain the proposals for future development in the Corsham</p>	

	area in further detail and to answer questions.	
6.	<p><u>Corsham Community Area Network</u></p> <p>Christine Reid, Chairman, presented the updated Community Area Plan. She spoke of the aspirations of the Network and its role in influencing the priorities and spending for the area. Mrs Reid also pointed to the many achievements of the original plan by and alongside various partners. Summarising the recent consultations with the community, it was indicated that the top priorities related to transport and the environment. Tribute was paid to Wiltshire Police for their work in reducing anxieties about crime.</p> <p><b>Decision</b>  <b>The Corsham Area Board endorsed the revised Corsham Community Area Plan 2005-2015.</b></p> <p>Other items discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colerne youth issues – the Network was working with the parish council and interested parties to start a youth club. With the professional assistance of Peter Kallmeier from Wiltshire Council Youth Development Services, seven volunteers had been recruited and the hope was to start the club in the New Year.</li> <li>• Funding – the Corsham Community Area Network requested the second tranche of funding from Wiltshire Council. The Area Board Chairman had examined the budget and accounts for the next year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision</b>  <b>The Corsham Area Board endorsed the request for the second tranche of funding to the Corsham Community Area Network.</b></p> <p>In response to concerns presented from various local organisations, the Network's steering group asked the Area Board Chairman to respond to questions on the planning processes surrounding the A4 traffic schemes. The Chairman responded saying that the traffic assessments were to be reviewed. Both he and the Chief Executive, Dr Keith Robinson, had responded to the Pickwick Association's concerns.</p> <p>Transition Community Corsham (TransCoCo) – two action groups had been formed to examine transport and environment issues in the area. The environment group was considering energy-saving, conservation and renewable</p>	

	<p>energy projects in the area. The transport group was looking at speeding, congestion, public transport and provision for walkers and cyclists. The aspiration was to develop a sustainable and integrated transport plan for the Corsham area through feedback from the community. This would inform the Local Travel Plan which fed into the Local Development Framework. The first stage of the project was to consult on local travel issues while the second stage would be to develop solutions. This would require external help and funding.</p> <p>Before endorsing the Local Transport Plan idea, the committee requested that the group remain focussed on a solution that was deliverable and specific to local needs. TransCoCo was also advised to speak to the Community Area Manager to ensure that funds were available at the required stage of the plan's development.</p> <p><b>Decision</b>  <b>The Corsham Area Board endorsed the proposal to create a Local Transport Plan.</b></p> <p>Adam Walton was thanked for the work he had undertaken to get the plan to this stage.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Community Speed Watch</u></p> <p>Sergeant Allan George (Wiltshire Police) introduced the processes of the Community Speed Watch scheme. Due to the limited resources of the Road Policing Unit and the Camera Speed Unit, empowering local people to identify 'speeding hotspots' offered a way to take control of the issue in the local area. It was important to remember that this scheme was concerned with data capture, not enforcement, by the volunteers.</p> <p>Other points were made including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Police would provide training and high visibility jacket</li> <li>• The speed guns have been ordered and a bid for funding of Speed Indication Devices made.</li> <li>• The project length would be determined by the initial metro counts performed by the police</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><u>Community Issues Update on Katherine Park</u></p> <p>The Chairman updated the meeting on the delay in adoption of roads and services at Katherine Park. The Area Board recognised the dissatisfaction of residents and said that</p>	

	<p>Persimmon Homes had declined an invitation to attend this meeting.</p> <p>Until Wessex Water were content with the quality of the drain installation and adopted them, Wiltshire Council could not adopt the roads. Likewise no speeding enforcement could take place until the roads were adopted and the work done with the town council and the previous district council on the green spaces could not move forward.</p> <p>The main drain along Freestone Way was currently being pressure tested, whereupon the testing process would move to the side roads.</p> <p>A meeting to discuss the problems had taken place on 11 September between Wiltshire Council officers, Wessex Water and Persimmon Homes.</p> <p>Senior Development Control Officer, Roger Witt (roger.witt@wiltshire.gov.uk / 01225 713447), was the contact officer for any member of the public seeking clarification.</p> <p>Residents were reminded that, while it was not possible to get developers working more quickly, it was within Wiltshire Council's powers to ensure the work was done properly. It was also pointed out that a bond had been deposited to ensure that any outstanding work was completed should a developer collapse.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council would continue to exert pressure on all the developers concerned.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Funding and Community Grants</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager updated the meeting on the new Performance Reward Grants Scheme. The scheme offered £2.8 million over the next two/three years for bids with an emphasis on innovative projects that addressed the effects of the recession, and working with partners.</p> <p>Expressions of interest forms were available from the Community Area Manager both electronically and in paper format.</p> <p>The Landfill Communities Fund that had replaced the Landfill Tax Credit scheme was described. Community First distributed over half a million pounds each year on behalf of landfill operators to fund community and environment projects within a ten mile radius of landfill sites.</p>	

	<p>To discuss a project prior to application, please telephone Grants Manager Gillian Barber on 01380 722475 or email <a href="mailto:gbarber@communityfirst.org.uk">gbarber@communityfirst.org.uk</a> alternatively contact Grants Assistant Susanne Pidduck <a href="mailto:spidduck@communityfirst.org.uk">spidduck@communityfirst.org.uk</a>.</p> <p><u>Community Area Grant Scheme</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to three funding applications made to the Community Area Grants Scheme.</p> <p>Rachel Dutton addressed the meeting on behalf of Colerne Community Plan Steering Group.</p> <p>Bob Mullins addressed the meeting on behalf of Association Football Club Corsham.</p> <p><b>Decision</b>  <b><u>Colerne Community Plan Steering Group – Award £1,000 to carry out the consultation phase of the preparation of a strategic Parish Plan for the community of Colerne conditional upon the balance of the funding being in place;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Association Football Club Corsham – Award £995 to purchase kit to help expand boys’ football to include under17s and to encourage girls to participate; and</u></b></p> <p><b><u>One Mile Running Club – Award £200 to enable the club to purchase materials to produce certificates.</u></b></p>	
10.	<p><u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</u></p> <p>Richard Humphrey, Watch Manager, introduced the Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation that would run for 12 weeks from 21 September 2009. The plan would describe what the Service would do over the next three years to make Wiltshire a safer place for both the community and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue staff. Mr Humphrey invited interested individuals to register as stakeholders via the ‘Have your Say’ section on the website (<a href="http://www.wiltsfire.gov.uk">www.wiltsfire.gov.uk</a>) or by telephone (01380 732982.) The finalised version of the plan would be published on 1 April 2010.</p> <p>The Area Board thanked Mr Humphrey for the presentation and also recommended the Drive Safe – Stay Alive programme undertaken by all Year 11 pupils. The exhibition was currently scheduled to be at the Corsham School on 20 November 2009.</p> <p>Wiltshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service’s innovative Salamander</p>	

	<p>project had been highlighted at a national seminar. Salamander was aimed at young people between 13 and 17 who were potentially at risk of committing crimes, had some sort of care responsibility at home, or were at risk of social exclusion, such as being suspended from school or not being in work, education or training. This project was well supported by Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>A reminder was made to all with open fires to have chimneys swept before using during the winter season.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Cabinet Representative – John Thomson</u></p> <p>John Thomson, Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council, introduced his role within the authority, detailing his main areas of responsibility. He answered the following questions:</p> <p><i>Sally Fletcher - Corsham Civic Society:</i>  <i>As ‘making a sustainable community’ is part of Councillor Thompson’s brief, could he tell us how this goal was being tackled within the new Wiltshire Council, and could he also indicate how specifically the Council might interact with Transition Community Corsham, as a community group wanting to develop sustainability in this particular community?</i></p> <p>The following points were made in response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council were already working with Transition Community Corsham</li> <li>• A climate change officer had been appointed</li> <li>• The voluntary services were being funded to help local organisations support themselves</li> <li>• Funding was to be sustained over the next year</li> <li>• The Deputy Leader was happy to visit TransCoCo to continue the discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>Ian Storey - Corsham Chamber of Commerce:</i>  <i>Regarding changes in Planning Application policy for listed buildings, the Chambers would like to know if it was correct that, under the new Unitary Authority, planning permission affecting listed buildings was fully devolved to Council Officers without the opportunity for being heard at a planning committee meeting (or equivalent) – other than for full planning consent?</i></p> <p>Currently Development Control was being harmonised across the county. Given that most Listed Building Consent issues were about materials not structural issues, planning officers had been delegated powers to decide planning</p>	



	<p>applications. Larger schemes continued to have the call-in facility for town and parish councils via their local unitary councillor. As a fall-back position, the Service Director Brad Fleet, could refer applications to committee. There would be a complete review of Development Services and the planning cycle shortly when all the Town and Parish councils would be consulted on the process.</p> <p><i>Anne Lock - Corsham Civic Society:</i>  <i>Regarding the Postcard Campaign which I instigated on behalf of the Civic Society's Corsham Station Campaign, I received a letter from Geoff Langridge, the Library Service Manager, informing me that this fell outside the WC guidance on such matters. I have searched the website but was unable to find the guidance referred to and incidentally the "search" option was unable to locate it either! I should also be interested to know when this guidance was produced, as it is not something which has arisen on previous occasions where our Campaign is concerned.</i></p> <p>Handouts describing the library policies had been supplied at the meeting and were also available from the Wiltshire web-site:  <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandculture/libraries/libraryservicepolicies.htm">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandculture/libraries/libraryservicepolicies.htm</a></p> <p>As a general rule, Wiltshire Libraries do not accept petitions on library premises. It was not possible to make value judgments on individual requests, however worthy the cause may be. The only exception to this would be if the Petitioner provided evidence that a Council minute in support of the issue existed. A copy of this minute and details of the petition would then be passed to the Assistant Director, Libraries and Heritage, for a final decision.</p> <p>Regarding the Corsham station campaign, Wiltshire Council was committed to retaining the land for station use; however, until a train service provider was prepared to stop at Corsham the matter could not be pursued.</p> <p><i>Charles Fuller – resident:</i>  <i>Neston required more mobile library stops and better advertisement of the service.</i></p> <p>The libraries were looking at ways to improve all their services. More volunteers were required and there was a desire to increase the range of services by opening the space up to our partner organisations.</p>	
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12.	<p><u>Corsham Library</u></p> <p>Basil Nankivell, the Community Librarian, explained that the opening hours of the Corsham library had been revised and it was now open an additional hour per week. The change would be implemented from 2 November 2009. He requested that the Area Board formally approve this change.</p> <p><b>Decision</b>  <b>The Area Board endorsed the change in opening hours of Corsham library.</b></p> <p>With respect to the issues of mobile library stops, all feedback was welcomed on how to make the service more effective. Avenues for publicity via parish / church magazines and village web-sites would be explored.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p><u>Wiltshire Police</u> – Inspector Kate Pain said that while Neighbourhood Policing targets aimed at keeping officers in the community 80% of the time, they were currently exceeding this at over 90%. The impact of visible officers had a positive effect on community well-being. With Halloween and Bonfire Night approaching, shops were asked not to sell flour and eggs to young people in an attempt to reduce the possibility of anti-social behaviour. There would be higher than usual levels of policing in known problem areas. Further requests for visible police support were welcomed.</p> <p>There had been a disappointing response from the police to vandalism in Leafy Lane both in terms of policing and the effectiveness of the 0845 police contact number. The Inspector recognised that there were difficulties with the system and said she would report the telephone failures to the Head of Communications. While vandalism was a serious problem, violent crime and dwelling burglaries represented a higher priority but it was agreed that prioritising vandalism through neighbourhood policing was an appropriate response to support local communities.</p> <p><u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</u> – The written report was noted.</p> <p><u>NHS Wiltshire</u> – The written report was noted. An issue raised previously regarding Box Surgery had as yet been unanswered by the NHS Community Engagement Manager.</p>	

	<p><b>Decision</b>  <b>The Service Director to chase the issue.</b></p> <p><u>Box Parish Council</u> – Councillor Fred Shepherd asked when more would be known about the services that parishes could take over from Wiltshire Council. A report would shortly be submitted to the Cabinet requesting further work be done on the subject with the possibility of funding an officer to carry the project forward. Currently parish councils were able to undertake street naming, allotments and the possibility of taking over car-parking and public toilets was being investigated. Funding would be provided as the existing budget would be devolved to the town or parish council.</p> <p><u>Corsham Town Council</u> – Councillor Allan Bosley agreed with the desire for a transfer of some assets and service provision. Councillor Thompson said that service provision in Salisbury had monopolised resources while the city was being parished but the team had completed their work and would be able to turn their attention to the rest of the county. Councillor Bosley raised awareness for the positive approach to partnership working between the unitary authority and the town council that had taken place in creating the town's market.</p> <p><u>Colerne Parish Council</u> – Councillor Dick Tonge was pleased to announce that a £50,000 Playbuilder grant had been awarded to build a children's play area.</p> <p><u>Lacock Parish Council</u> – There was nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Chamber of Commerce</u> – Chairman Ian Story announced that the 2009 Business Competition funded by Wiltshire Council to promote new business would be judged at Bowood House at the end of November. This successful project was now being rolled out across the county. In addition, an Economic Partnership for North Wiltshire had been set-up and was seeking a chairman. The organisation would consider the strategic issues of affordable housing, training and transport.</p>	Sian Walker
14.	<p><u>Election of Representatives</u></p> <p>The following appointment to an outside body was made:</p> <p>Viridor Grants Panel  <b>Councillors Davis and Alan Macrae (deputy)</b></p>	
15.	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting</p>	

	<p>and requested that the evaluation forms be completed.</p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 December 2009 at 7pm in the Corsham Town Hall. Refreshments would be available from 6.30pm.</p>	
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