

Draft minutes of the Corsham Area (4) Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 January 2008 the Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Elaine Marston (Chair)

Councillors Jennie Hartless, Sheila Parker, Christine Reid and Dick Tonge

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

Councillor Judy Seager	-	Wiltshire County Council
Councillor Peter Davis	-	Corsham Town Council
Councillor Nicholas Keyworth-		Corsham Town Council
Councillor Helen Wright	-	Colerne Parish Council

Officers Present:

Julia Densham (Democratic Services Assistant), Wendy Gubbins (Member Support Services) and Peter Jeremiah (Legal Services Manager)

Others Present:

Mark Bishop (Big State Theatre), Peter Kallmeier (Wiltshire County Council), Inspector Kate Pain (Wiltshire Police), Dave Roberts (Wiltshire County Council) and Julia Stacey (Wiltshire County Council)

CO35. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Katherine Banks and Tudor Jones.

CO36. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CO37. Minutes

The minutes of the Corsham Area (4) Committee meeting held on 18 November 2008 were considered.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CO38. Chairman's Announcements

Pilot Area Board

The Corsham Area (4) Committee has now completed its funding allocation for the current year, which made up a large part of its work. The Committee decided that it was now appropriate to merge the Area Committee business with the Pilot Area Board

Corsham Area (4) Committee Minutes – 20 January 2009

Task Group work in preparation for the work of the new Corsham Area Board that would come into existence under the unitary council.

The new Corsham Area Board would involve representatives from various partners, including the police, fire and rescue service, primary care trust and youth services. To this end, the look and feel of the meeting would change, hopefully becoming rather less formal with greater public participation. To mark this change, tonight's meeting would be trialling a different room layout, introducing the availability of tea and coffee for all and providing an information point.

HGV Traffic

At the previous Committee meeting, it had come to light that a meeting had been held in North Wraxall to discuss the issue of HGV traffic through that village. As a result of that information, the Committee had decided that a letter should be sent to Mr George Batten, Corporate Director of Transport, Environment and Leisure at Wiltshire County Council that requested that the Committee be included in any future meetings held on the subject of HGV traffic through the villages. Mr Batten's reply stated that the meeting had been an informal gathering called by the parish councillors of North Wraxall specifically concerned with the impact of HGV traffic coming from the CHEP storage facility at Colerne Airfield on that village. Given this issue had a wider impact on Corsham Area villages, Kristian Price, from the Highways Department at Wiltshire County Council, was asked to give a written update on this subject. A full version of his letter was available at the meeting; however in summary he said this:

Another meeting was held with CHEP representatives in late November which included police officers from Wiltshire and Avon & Somerset Constabularies and representatives of the County Council's Transportation section. The meeting discussed the correct routing strategy for access to the airfield site primarily using the A46 from J18 M4 to Batheaston and then accessing Colerne via Bannerdown Hill. The Wiltshire County Council Transportation section produced a route plan which was sent to CHEP and had been passed on to all their sub contractors. Copies of this map were available at the meeting.

An application was made to the Department for Transport for authorisation to use pictorial signs that suggested a route that was unsuitable for HGVs. This application was made on 26 November and the Department of Transport indicated that a decision would be made within 3 months. The new sign would be Informational and not Regulatory; therefore drivers could not be prosecuted for ignoring them. The method available to Highway Authorities to control HGV movement is by means of a Traffic Regulation Order which could then be enforced by the Police, subject to their resources and priorities.

As this affected Wiltshire, BANES and South Gloucestershire, a wider authority approach was considered necessary and a letter from Steve Webb, MP for Northavon, had been sent to Peter Jackson, Director for Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment at South Glos Council, regarding the possibility of additional signing to encourage the use of Bannerdown Road, rather than the A420 Wiltshire junctions.

Finally, in his letter, Mr Batten committed to pass on the Committee's concerns to the Freight Quality Partnership, an organisation made up of representatives from freight operators and their associations that meet three times a year to consider the actions and compromises that might reduce the impact of HGVs on local communities. If anyone had further concerns or information on this issue, they were asked to speak to Dave Roberts, the pilot Area Board Project Manager, after the meeting.

Inspector Pain responded that the police would support the proposed signage where police resource was available.

CO39. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CO40. Corsham Area (Pilot Area Board) Task Group Notes

The notes of the pilot Area Board Task Group were received.

CO41. Community Engagement Update

The Big State Theatre gave an update on the various community events held in December 2008. Mark Bishop introduced the team of Corsham School students who assisted at the events and the DVD of collated interviews entitled 'Democracy in Action' was played. The Chair presented each of the young people with a book token to thank them for their involvement. The Convenor of the Corsham Area Community Partnership also thanked the Area Board Task Group for supporting the idea initially.

Items discussed included:

- The Area Board Project Manager would be circulating a report containing a full analysis of the public responses and copies of the DVD by the next meeting.
- Over 1300 people had been engaged with 440 individuals engaged face to face.
- The top three issues were:
 - Highways, public transport and parking;
 - Shops, health service, young people and environment; and
 - The majority were passionate about the area.

Resolved to note the successful outcome of the project and record the Committee's thanks to all involved.

CO42. Neighbourhood Policing Update

Consideration was given to Report No.8 which provided an update on the latest neighbourhood policing issues and crime statistics. Inspector Kate Pain, Wiltshire Police, responded to questions.

Items discussed included:

- There had been no increase in crime over the Christmas period.
- Crime detection targets were not being met so this would become the focus over the coming months.

Corsham Area (4) Committee Minutes – 20 January 2009

- In the Corsham Town area, there had been little anti-social behaviour at the Martingale Centre.
- In the Corsham South area, the delayed development at Royal Arthur had aggravated car speeding issues, but the co-operation of the landowner had now been obtained and an improvement in the situation was expected.
- In the Corsham North area, there had been arrests for minor offences and the police were working with groups of young people.
- An Action Day was planned to address speeding in the area.
- Two drugs search warrants had been issued with a positive outcome.
- A member of the public present wished speeding along the Lacock Road to be made a police priority.
- While significant improvements had been made, the 999 and 0845 call answer times were still considered to be too slow. Inspector Pain agreed to feedback this concern.

Resolved to note the report.

CO43. Corsham Area Community Partnership

Consideration was given to Report No.9 which provided an update on the Partnership's recent activities. Nick Keyworth, Convenor of the Corsham Area Community Partnership, responded to questions.

Items discussed included:

- The Corsham Area Community Partnership would be re-launched in the spring with a change of membership.
- The Partnership wished to be independent of local government influence, looking to form strong working relationships with other local groups.
- The Community Engagement Events held in December would inform the Corsham Area Community Plan update.
- It was ten years since the Community Centre in Potley had opened and a small celebration was planned for Saturday 24 January 2009 from 12pm-2pm.

Resolved to note the report.

CO44. Ward/Town/Parish Council Update

District Council Ward Members and Parish/Town/County Council representatives updated the Committee on issues in their locality.

Box - Councillor Jennie Hartless

The new Pavilion was now complete and a management committee was being formed. The constitution was being written.

Colerne - Councillor Helen Wright

Renovation of the Victorian school was underway thanks to grants received from North Wiltshire District Council. The village was concerned with issues relating to lorries and youth, and also the lack of a police presence.

Lacock – Councillor Dick Tonge

There was nothing to report.

CO45. Outside Bodies

Joint Services Community Liaison Panel: Councillor Jennie Hartless

The JSCLP had reformed, now known as the MOD Corsham Community Panel, and held its inaugural meeting on 19 December 2008. A meeting to consider the Corsham Travel Plan with MOD developers would be held on 4 March 2009.

Potley and Pockeridge Community Association: Councillor Sheila Parker

An Open Day would be held on Saturday 24 January 2009 to consider funding shortages that could lead to closure after March 2009.

Corsham CAYPIG: Councillor Christine Reid

There had been no meeting since the last update; the next meeting was scheduled for 4 pm on Wednesday 4 February 2009 at the Mansion House.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.15pm.

There were 22 members of the public present.