

*North
Wiltshire
District
Council*

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**CORSHAM AREA (4)
COMMITTEE**

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THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Minutes of the Corsham Area (4) Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17 March 2009 the Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, SN13 0 EZ commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor Elaine Marston (Chair)

Councillors Jennie Hartless, Sheila Parker and Dick Tonge

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

Councillor Peter Davis	-	Corsham Town Council
Councillor Allan Bosley	-	Corsham Town Council
Councillor Nikki Kenna	-	Corsham Town Council
Councillor Nicholas Keyworth-		Corsham Town Council

Officers Present:

Jo Cogswell (Community Partnership Manager), Julia Densham (Democratic Services Assistant), Wendy Gubbins (Member Support Team Leader), Peter Jeremiah (Legal Services Manager), Dave Roberts (Corsham Area Board Manager – WCC) and Julia Stacey (Community Planner – WCC)

Others Present:

Mike Franklin (Relationship Manager – Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service) and Sergeant Mark Gale (Wiltshire Police)

CO46. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Banks, Jones and Reid and County Councillor Judy Seager. Apologies were also received from Les Davies (Civic Society) and Jo Howes (NHS Wiltshire).

CO47. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CO48. Minutes

The minutes of the Corsham Area (4) Committee meeting held on 20 January 2009 were considered.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CO49. Chairman's Announcements

CHEP Update

Further to the chair's announcement at the last meeting regarding the HGV issues in and around the CHEP storage facility in Colerne, Wiltshire County Council was informed on 3 March 2009 that authorisation to use the "Unsuitable for HGV sign" which incorporated a lorry symbol with a red diagonal line running through it had been given. A more detailed response was available as a handout at the meeting.

Corsham Rail Link Survey

Councillor Tonge updated the meeting on the recently completed Corsham Rail Link Survey to which there was very high response rate. 3000 paper and 500 online questionnaires had been returned and were being collated to produce a report to be published in March. The majority of responses supported the idea to re-open the railway station at Corsham.

CO50. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CO51. Corsham Area Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2008/09

The Community Partnership Manager gave a presentation on the projects funded by the 2008/09 community area award scheme.

Items discussed included:

- This had been the first year that energy efficient grants had been given and many buildings, including the Corsham Town Hall, would have had energy audits to ascertain areas for improvement.
- Almost £80,000 had been spent to improve council-owned play areas increasing accessibility for all children, and a further £80,000 had been made available to town and parish councils to install additional disability play equipment.
- Corsham had received grants to fund two mobile CCTV camera units to help combat vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- The Committee had awarded £96,575 to 25 community projects in the Corsham area.
- The Executive Committee had also awarded grants to two projects in the Corsham area: £55,000 to build the new pavilion in Box and £25,876 to Colerne to convert the Old School for a variety of uses including affordable

accommodation and community rooms.

- Community funding would continue to be made through the new Area Board.
- Councillor Bosley thanked the Corsham Area Committee for awarding this money which gave the community a sense of ambition and achievement.
- Councillor Keyworth spoke of the value of grants in adding sustainability to the area's organisations.

Resolved to note the grant funding distribution for the year 2008/09 and record the Committee's thanks to all involved.

CO52. Corsham Area (Pilot Area Board) Task Group Notes

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

CO53. Pilot Area Board Update

The Corsham Area Board Project Manager gave a verbal update on the conclusion of the Corsham pilot Area Board. The recommendation originally contained within the agenda had now been superseded by a later decision to end the pilot scheme on 1 April 2009.

The pilot Area Board had tested a variety of areas including participatory decision-making, voting and a review of the Area Board Handbook. The 'sticky' issue of anti-social behaviour in Colerne had largely been resolved through partnership working.

The theatre-based Community Engagement events that had taken place in December had been an innovative approach, fostering a broad spectrum of local opinion. This idea had been passed to the Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships as a possible future model for community engagement.

The task group had been dissolved and the first Corsham Area Board meeting set for 21 July 2009. The Project Manager thanked the Corsham Area Committee for supporting the pilot scheme.

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

CO54. Community Engagement Evaluation – Feedback

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 on the evaluation of the Community Engagement events held in December 2008. The Community Planner from Wiltshire County Council gave a verbal summary of the report.

The project commissioned by the Community Area Partnership and the pilot Area Board Task Group had been very successful, visiting 19 venues across the Corsham area during December 2008. The events had reached many people who would not normally have attended a council meeting, allowing a much broader range of opinions to be sought.

The 'theatrical officialdom' style of delivery had been well received and involved the Big State Theatre and drama students from the Corsham School. The responses and

statistics had been collated and the report was circulated at the meeting. A DVD of interviews had also been distributed.

The main findings concluded that the local people valued the sense of community and environment in which they lived. The responses would inform the review of the Community Plan with goals to be achieved via partnership working with NHS Wiltshire and Transition Community Corsham.

Resolved to note the report and the success of the project.

CO55. Neighbourhood Policing Update

Consideration was given to Report No.10 on the latest neighbourhood policing issues and crime statistics.

As of 1 April 2009, the Neighbourhood Policing Teams would provide one team for Corsham Town Centre and another for the rural areas, comprising of one sergeant, two Community Beat Managers and three Police Community Support Officers in total. Each of the five Response Teams based in Chippenham would have an officer responsible for Corsham issues.

Wiltshire Police were happy to report that the number of crimes has gone down 2.3% compared with the previous year and the crime detection rate was 28.8% (target set was 28%).

Items discussed included:

- Anti-social behaviour was noted outside the supermarket, the library and on Pickwick Road. The police had either returned the young offenders to their parents' homes, written letters to the parents and were working with the supermarket to consider displaying banning notices. Existing CCTV camera units in the area were being assessed for their suitability in catching offenders; however, the police said that telephone complaints were still welcomed in addressing anti-social behaviour.
- Chippenham police officers had been seconded to support the Neighbourhood Police Team deal with the issue.
- The police were thanked for their success in reducing anti-social behaviour in Colerne.
- The Relationship Manager from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service pointed out that reducing anti-social behaviour was not the sole province of the police and that all partners had a duty of responsibility to address such issues.

Resolved to note the report.

CO56. Corsham Area Community Partnership Update

Consideration was given to Report No. 11 on the Partnership's recent activities.

It was noted that the Community Area partnership's meetings were attracting new people and had engaged with partners including Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. The next task was to update the Community Plan.

A synergy had been established between the Partnership and Transition Community Corsham and five task groups had been set-up to address the following areas:

- a. Transport
- b. Energy
- c. Food and Sustainable Shopping
- d. Recycling
- e. Awareness and Celebration

The re-launch of the Corsham Community Area Partnership would take place at 7pm on 21 April 2009 at The Pound, Corsham. A steering group and Chair would be elected at this meeting and the Partnership looked forward to working with the new Corsham Area Board.

Thanks were extended to Councillor Keyworth for his work as Convenor of the Partnership over the past few months.

Resolved to note the report.

CO57. Ward/Town/Parish Council Update

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

Councillor Tonge updated District Councillors with the procedures for on-going casework during the interregnum period. Aside from those members co-opted onto Planning and Licensing Committees, all other councillors would no longer be in post and as such should contact their local County Councillor to discuss continuing case work.

Lacock – Councillor Tonge updated the Committee on land in Notton that had been bought and sold recently. He was also pleased to announce that the village Post Office was to stay open.

Corsham – Councillor Bosley talked of a series of meetings that had taken place between the market towns of Wiltshire to share information on sustainable retail viability. He also stated that work continued on the possibility of creating a market in Corsham.

Box – Councillor Hartless spoke of the Pavilion that was now complete and due to be opened this week. Resurfacing work was also complete at the Valens Terrace car park thanks to the grant awarded by the Corsham Area Committee.

Colerne – Councillor Tonge spoke of the successful installation of under floor heating at the play group due to an energy grant received. A contract had been signed for the four affordable flats that had commenced construction in the Old School and they will be completed by November. Another £50,000 was being raised for the Community Rooms.

CO58. Outside Bodies

Joint Services Community Liaison Panel – A meeting had been held that discussed the impact of the range that would re-open shortly. Given the scale of the redevelopment and the significant vehicle movements in the area, roads had been kept clean and no problems were noted.

Potley and Pockeridge Community Association – The Open Day had been successful and the AGM was to be held on 24 March 2009.

Corsham Area CAYPIG – There had been good attendance at the last meeting. The group was aware that their time at the Mansion House was limited and the young people were being consulted on future meeting venues. Money had been given to the Mansion House to refurbish the room previously used by the play group which was now being used by the young people. Also funding had been given to hold a two-day mini-CASE event at the end of March involving the primary schools of Corsham, Broadwood and Regis.

Drawing the last meeting of the Corsham Area Committee to a close, the Chair remarked on the achievements of the Committee's work over the last two years. She thanked the Legal Services Manager for his contributions and congratulated him on his long service award. The Chair also gave thanks to the Democratic Services Assistant for her organisational assistance and wished good luck to all those standing at the election.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.05pm

There were 0 members of the public present.