

CORSHAM AREA BOARD DEVELOPMENT PHASE &
CORSHAM AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Report on Community Engagement Events Dec 2008

This report will present a brief summary of the findings of the Community Engagement Project. A full written report and DVD are now available.

The project was devised and carried out, during the month of December 2008, at 19 venues across the community area of Corsham by BIG STATE THEATRE COMPANY and students of Corsham School. By selecting a variety of venues and events at which to appear it was envisaged that it would reach a wide cross-section of the community.

The 'roadshow' engaged the public by using a theatrical style of officialdom, and requesting that they 'step on to the carpet' to answer simple questions about their locality. The style was adapted to suit each venue and individual needs. Responses were recorded under 'theme' headings.

The total number of people who actively engaged with the consultation was 440. Over 1400 attended the events and were made aware of the project. It reached many who would not normally attend more conventional public meetings or have their voices heard.

Overwhelmingly, people valued the SENSE of COMMUNITY and were proud of their locality, particularly the access to the countryside, and enjoyed living in the community area of Corsham. The most frequently mentioned areas of concern or interest were ENVIRONMENT/COUNTRYSIDE, TRANSPORT, ACCESS and TRAFFIC and these ranked well above other themes.

The results will contribute to the revised Corsham Area Community Plan currently being compiled by the Community Area partnership. It should also be noted that the results will inform work with other partners such as NHS Wiltshire (PCT) around 'healthy lifestyles and well being', and with Transition Community Corsham, who will be addressing all of the main areas of concern.

All involved with the project are proud of the outcomes; there was only positive feedback from the public, and we can conclude that this was a meaningful and very informative project.

Julia Stacey - Community Planner, Wiltshire County Council