

Trowbridge Community Area Future partnership

Annual Workplan 2014-2015

Partnership Development – “To establish and maintain a partnership, Steering group and thematic groups as necessary.”

Our partnership meets once per year at the AGM. TCAF attends the ABC meetings with the Area Board to plan the Area Board agenda, allowing TCAF to understand the workings of the Area Board whilst ensuring that local community issues are raised through the correct channels. Most members of our Steering Group attend the Area Board meetings.

The Steering Group is elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Partnership in September. The group has representatives from each of the Theme Groups as well as partner representatives from Wiltshire Council, the Community Area Manager (CAM), WfCAP, Trowbridge Chamber of Commerce, Trowbridge Town Council and the Parish Councils. TCAF will support the Campus Operations Board in maintaining engagement with the community while the working proposal is developed and goes to cabinet and then during the period of design and construction.

As a result of staffing changes we will be appointing a new Project Officer from September 2014 along with Administrative support. Both the Project Officer and Administrative assistant will be employed by TCAF with the payroll function being carried out by Trowbridge Town Council. A key focus of the Project Officer will be to investigate and secure funding from outside of Wiltshire. This will go alongside the responsibility of focussing on projects within the community area. In the light of the uncertainty of future funding, the Project Officer will be responsible for researching the feasibility of finding alternative funding, including possibly changing the status of TCAF to charitable status.

As a partnership we have streamlined the way we support our theme groups in response to advice from our Steering Group. We look for opportunities to support other established groups and projects in order that we make the very best of the resources we have.

Under the theme group Economy and Transport, TCAF will support the development of the BID (Business Improvement District) over the coming year and will be involved again in the AMT Benchmarking exercise.

We will seek ways to prioritise housing as a theme group as the town develops with a focus on ensuring we have enough affordable housing to include smaller 2 and 3 bedroom houses.

BA14 Culture continues to meet every 3 months and is supported by TCAF's Project Officer and administrator. BA14 Culture continues to hold the funds for the Trowbridge Arts project and will continue to support Arts projects locally, sourcing funding as appropriate. We are supporting the writing of a cultural strategy as highlighted by the JSA. We are working closely with the Town Council on this.

Our focus on Environmental projects will continue throughout this coming year, working with established environmental groups including Fair-trade, the Big Community Grow and Trowbridge in Bloom. In response to a desire to highlight environmental issues within Trowbridge we will look to

bring these partnerships together to develop a community event. Part of our role will be to seek out funding to make this happen.

We are working with partners to deliver the national Safe Place scheme for Trowbridge through our Community Safety theme group.

Our Health and Social care group will continue to engage with health practitioners and NHS organisations to reduce health differences in Trowbridge and improve facilities including the merging of Bradford Road and Adcroft GP surgeries as well as the creation of a Primary Care centre as part of the campus.

Working closely with Collaborative Schools, TCAF will continue to drive the Polish Interpreters project, support the delivery of a new Free School and will report back to the Area Board on their behalf.

The Neighbourhood Partnership's main focus is on creating and developing resilient neighbourhood groups to begin to tackle the degree of inequality and isolation in Trowbridge as identified by the recent JSA. The Tasking group continues to meet ahead of the Neighbourhood Partnership meetings.

We will continue to support the Parish Council Liaison Group (PCLG) keeping them updated with the rest of TCAF's activities and projects. Should the Parishes wish to develop Neighbourhood plans, TCAF will support this.

Accountability – “To be open and inclusive of the wider community and to account and seek affirmation from the wider community for its actions, activities and forward plans on an annual basis.”

We will continue to meet with a wide range of groups to ensure that the issues that we have identified and the revised priorities that have come out of the JSA and Community Area Plan are current. We hold theme and other group meetings and we will publicise these meetings through our database and via the Town Council. TCAF will continue to promote its work through our networks of local groups as this is vital to our success as a community partnership.

Communication – “To engage and communicate systematically with all sections of the community and to maintain a contacts register of key organisations and volunteers.”

Our primary means of communication will continue to be through our theme groups and our partners and other groups in the community whose projects we support. At the same time we will engage with the local, wider community in new ways as well as being out on the street where it's especially useful for the development of community projects. We will endeavour to make full use of public spaces available to us including the Atrium, Shires and Fore Street. TCAF will also attend the Area Board meetings, responding to local issues raised there.

With the support of our administrator we are easily contactable at the office in the Civic Centre. The Admin Officer will respond to emails, website queries as well as Social Media platforms.

We are mindful of the breadth of community that we need to engage with and will ensure that we engage all of our diverse community, including those hard to reach groups.

Consultation – “To consult widely on a range of community issues and hold public engagement events and activities.”

We will strive to consult with as many groups as possible, including older people, YAG, Youth Parliament and the general public. We are currently looking at sourcing external funding to hold a ‘Trowbridge Earth’ event, encompassing the environmental theme. We will continue to support public consultation within Trowbridge Arts.

We will build on and develop the Older Persons Area Board ensuring that we develop the audience. Consultation with local businesses will take place to gain support for the Business Improvement District.

Members of TCAF Steering Groups will continue to represent TCAF at local and county-wide events as appropriate.

Community Planning- “To prepare and regularly review a community plan that takes into account major issues affecting the area and to develop an action plan and identify projects to address these issues. This will be done in consultation with the wider local community, in order that it properly represents their concerns and aspirations.”

We will have just carried out a mid-term review of our Community Area Plan to encompass priorities from the JSA, Steering Group, elected members and other partners. This will be treated as a live document and it will be published electronically until 2016, when it will be re-written.

Local Action – “To champion local issues and help with the planning and delivery of local projects, including community fundraising and community volunteering where these meet the priorities of the community plan.”

TCAF have been key in supporting the development of the Town Hall through asset transfer to the community. Over the next 12 months TCAF will continue to support the project with in-kind Officer support and resources where needed. We will support the Town Hall Trust, a community action group, who are leading on this project, to access funding from trusts, Foundations and the local Area Board as is necessary.

Other projects that TCAF will continue to support over the coming year include Trowbridge Arts, Trowbridge Arts Festival, Campus development, development of outdoor sports pitches, Trowbridge in Bloom, Collaborative Schools, the museum development, the BID development, proposals for a merged GP surgery, a Primary Care Centre as part of the Campus development and the bid for a new Free School.

In 2013-2014 TCAF was instrumental in securing over £140,000 of external funding for the Community area. Attracting external funding will remain a key priority for TCAF as will supporting the funding applications for other local community groups.

We have Theme Champions who head their Theme Groups. Working closely with the Project Officer they will help in identifying priority projects and will aim to set up project groups to develop specific projects working with our partners who have expertise in fundraising and project development to ensure that the projects are successful. We will provide guidance and encouragement so that project teams and their volunteers are sustainable.

When developing projects we will take into account the disparity in Trowbridge between lower super output areas and the more affluent areas.

Signed:

Mr Colin Kay, Chair of TCAF

26th April 2014.