

**Chesham Action Partnership  
Management Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 13th April 2010 at Chesham Town Hall**

**M-04.10-1**

In attendance:

Dr Tom Gorsuch (Chairman)	Chesham Society
Mr David Carter (Treasurer)	Chesham Society
Ms Kathryn Graves (Secretary)	Chesham Town Council (CTC)
Ms Mora Walker	Chesham Museum
Mr Phil Folly	COPAG/Chesham Environmental Group (CEG)
Mr Hugh Wilson	Chesham Resident
Ms Irene Perrin	Shed@ThePark
Mr Malcolm Godwin	Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)
Ms Alison Derrick	BCC
Mr Mark Young	Nexus Community
Mr Jed Elverson	YourChesham
Mr Tony White	Chesham Town Twinning Association
Ms Jan Longhurst	Chesham Methodist Church
Cllr Gill Walker	CTC, CDC
Mr Brian McCullom	Chesham Park Community College
PCSO Anish Sharma	Thames Valley Police (TVP)
PCSO Mike Shepherd	TVP
Ms Beverley Trevitt	Bucks Community Foundation
Ms Angela Martin	BCC Adult Learning and Libraries
Cllr Roy Abraham	Chiltern Racial Equality Council
Mr Richard Hoyle	Chesham Museum
Cllr Merrin Molesworth	CTC
Mr Lee Marshall	Buckinghamshire Wider Family Learning
Cllr Noel Brown	CTC, CDC, BCC

Apologies:

Management Committee: Mr Bill Richards – CTC, Mr Fred Wilson - Chesham Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Mr Ken Austin - Chesham Community Vision/CEG, Ms Rachael Tomkins – BCC Community and Youth Engagement, Ms Barbara Richardson – COPAG, Mr Geoff Gigg- Paradigm Housing and Mr David Gardner – Chiltern District Council.

Ms Deborah Taylor – NHS Bucks, Cllr Mark Shaw – Pond Park Community Association, Ms Lesley Perry – Chesham Museum, Dr Alan Morris – Rotary Club of Chesham, Mr Ed Fraser – Compuhealth, Mr Kevin Patrick – Chesham Park Community College.

**1. Minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010**

The minutes of the meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

## **2. Matters Arising**

### **(i) Insurance**

Arising from *Minute 5(iii)*, Dr Tom Gorsuch (TG) asked the group to note that ChAP will be taking out officers' insurance.

*Cllr Noel Brown and Ms Jan Longhurst arrived at 2.02 pm.*

### **(ii) Town Twinning Sign**

In relation to *Minute 2(ii)*, Mr Tony White (TW) from the Chesham Town Twinning Association reported that the association is keen to progress with the idea of creating a twinning sign. However, the association has some concerns regarding the project: the association itself has limited funds, the project is likely to involve a lot of work, the sign would need to be vandal-resistant and an appropriate sign for the site would need to be identified. Mr Malcolm Godwin (MG) advised that it is easier to work up the project, find out the costs and then look for funding, rather than trying to raise funds initially. Cllr Merrin Molesworth (MM) suggested that the need for planning permission should be investigated early in the project as obtaining any necessary permission could take some time. TG asked whether the association would consider a local appeal for fundraising. TW said that the association would look into this and is also intending to make an application to civic authorities.

*Ms Alison Derrick and Mr Brian McCollum arrived at 2.06 pm.*

## **3. Finances**

Mr David Carter (DC) gave a summary of ChAP's accounts from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009, which included the provision of eight donations to local organisations. As a copy of the accounts had previously been circulated to the Management Committee members, TG advised that spare copies were available at the meeting for any other interested parties.

## **4. Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation**

TG explained that the Core Strategy is open to consultation until the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010 and urged as many individuals and organisations as possible to let CDC know their views on the proposal to build 650 new dwellings in Chesham by 2026. The full document is available on line for people to view. TG asked the group for their comments.

Cllr Noel Brown (NB) said that the strategy is intended to protect the Green Belt. He stressed that it was important that CDC can demonstrate that there are sufficient sites available for a five-year housing supply; otherwise it makes it easier for the Planning Inspectorate to uphold appeals for development in the Green Belt. Furthermore, NB said that most of the new housing is expected to be located on windfall sites, but that it was important to identify large development sites because these will enable affordable housing to be built and for developer contributions to help alleviate some of the problems created by development.

DC referred to the submission by the Chesham Society which had been circulated to the group. He explained that the society is concerned that there are several infrastructure problems specific to Chesham, e.g. air pollution and the pressure on the River Chess, which will be severely exacerbated by additional housing.

TG raised a concern regarding the suggestion within the strategy that whilst increased supermarket space is needed for Chesham, it is unlikely to be found and could be relocated to Amersham instead. TG said that this would increase car journeys and associated pollution. Cllr Gill Walker (GW) said that such a move would go against the objective of Chesham having a vibrant and sustainable commercial centre. NB said that he interpreted the strategy to mean that the town's population demographics may mean that Chesham cannot support as much retail space as it once did.

TG asked for a volunteer to develop a submission on behalf of ChAP. MM offered to do so.

**Action: Cllr Merrin Molesworth**

## **5. High Speed 2**

TG explained that the favoured route for High Speed 2 passes between Great Missenden and Chesham and that Chesham is likely to face severe problems if Chesham is used as an access route to the construction site. TG urged that Chesham Town Council should be encouraged to consider this problem at a very early stage. NB reported that each household will be getting a copy of the proposed route and that information is already available at the library.

MM said that whilst ChAP is predominantly focused on with urban issues, ChAP should be concerned at the threat to the local countryside. Objections are being led by the Chiltern Society and the Chilterns Conservation Board and MM urged people to lodge their objections to prevent the route going ahead by default. NB said that a formal consultation should take place in November 2010.

*Cllr Noel Brown left the meeting at 2.35 pm.*

## **6. Church2Community**

Ms Jan Longhurst introduced Church2Community, a new project being launched by Chesham Methodist Church. The objective of the project is to work with other organisations to reach out to vulnerable and isolated people in the community. Aspects of the project include the provision of a regular coffee shop and a lunch club for older and vulnerable people combined with activities and learning opportunities. A weekly discussion group will be held in the Misty Moon and on Sunday evenings a cafe style church will be held to reach out to young singles. Opportunities will also be provided for families and young people to watch the World Cup in an alcohol-free environment. It is hoped to increase the frequency of the existing youth club meetings and provide minibuss transport. Jan explained that the church has committed to funding a lay worker, but that additional funding is required for other elements of the project.

In response to a query, Jan explained that the Methodist Church is liaising with other churches during the development of the project to ensure that the services provided by Chesham's churches are complementary rather than duplicating effort. In addition, they have also spoken to representatives of the Mosque and Chiltern Racial Equality Council. GW applauded the holistic approach of the project but raised her concern that there could be a duplication of effort because of the successful Youth Club already operating in town. TG stressed the importance of providing services to people within their own area, as many people are unable or unwilling to access services elsewhere, and to provide a platform for other agencies to bring outreach services to the area. Jan said this would be a focus of the project as it develops.

Jan said that anybody interested in the project could contact her via ChAP's secretary.

#### **7. Funding Application from Thames Valley Police**

PCSO Anish Sharma (AS) outlined the Shopwatch scheme which is being established by TVP to enable the town centre PCSOs to communicate with four of the major High Street businesses to pass on information about crime.

Whilst the group were supportive of the project, there was a consensus that it is not within ChAP's remit to provide funding to the police and for this reason the funding application was declined.

#### **8. Bucks Community Foundation**

Ms Beverley Trevitt (BT), the outreach officer for the foundation, explained that the foundation is an independent, registered charity that specialises in making grant awards to voluntary community organisations dedicated to improving the quality of life in Buckinghamshire. In addition to providing funding from an endowment, the foundation also looks to bring external grants into Buckinghamshire and will support groups in making external applications. BT said that the foundation is particularly keen to support older people in the Chilterns and is looking for feedback from ChAP to help identify the needs in Chesham.

*PCSOs Sharma & Shepherd left the meeting at 2.57 pm and Ms Irene Perrin left at 3 pm.*

#### **9. Local Area Forum Consultation**

TG explained that a consultation event had been held with representatives from local organisations to look at the priorities for the Local Area Forum (LAF). Ms Alison Derrick (AD) said that the results of the exercise are still being analysed, but will be used to guide the LAF agenda and how money allocated to the LAF will be spent. When the analysis has been finalised, AD will circulate the results.

#### **10. Chiltern Police Area Commander's Review**

TG drew the group's attention to the review which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **(i) Election Forum**

TG advised that the Churches on the Hill, Amersham, are holding a public election forum on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at 8 pm at Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre. All the local parliamentary candidates will be in attendance to give brief presentations and answer questions from the public. MM reported that Chesham High School is holding a similar hustings event on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

### **(ii) Club Sports Facility Development Workshop**

Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council, Wycombe District Council and Bucks Sport are running a free Club Sports Facility Development Workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup> April to help local clubs develop their facilities.

### **(iii) Play Builder Fund**

TG informed the group that the deadline for applications to CDC for Play Builder funding for play facilities has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

### **(iv) Walkers Are Welcome**

Mr Phil Folly (PF) reported that Chesham has now been accredited as a Walkers Are Welcome (WaW) town and advised people to look at the WaW section of [www.chesham.gov.uk](http://www.chesham.gov.uk) to find out more. He stressed the need for local shops and businesses to support the WaW campaign.

PF said that WaW had spent £100 of ChAP funding on the campaign to date, but asked whether it would be possible to draw on the additional £150 that was agreed at the committee meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 (*Minute 6*) despite the ending of the financial year. The committee agreed to this, providing the Walkers Are Welcome group provided up to date information on their funding requirement.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be circulated with the minutes.

*The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.*