

**Chesham Action Partnership  
Management Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 1st December 2009 at Chesham Town Hall**

**M-12.09-1**

In attendance:

Dr Tom Gorsuch (Chairman)	Chesham Society
Mr David Carter (Treasurer)	Chesham Society
Ms Kathryn Graves (Secretary)	Chesham Town Council (CTC)
Mr Bill Richards	CTC
Mr Fred Wilson	Chesham Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Ms Barbara Richardson	COPAG
Mr Phil Folly	COPAG/Chesham Environmental Group (CEG)
Mr Cecil Sinclair	Chiltern District Council (CDC)
Mr Umar Hayat	Chesham Asian Welfare Society (CAWS)
Mr Masud Ahmed	CAWS
Mr Ken Austin	Chesham Community Vision/CEG
Mr Hugh Wilson	Chesham Resident
Mr Malcolm Godwin	Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)
Mr Rod Culverhouse	FastBreak Sports
Mr David Gardner	CDC
PCSO Anish Sharma	Thames Valley Police (TVP)
PS Mel Mutch	TVP
Ms Deborah Taylor	Bucks PCT
Cllr Merrin Molesworth	CTC
Cllr Noel Brown	CTC, CDC, BCC
Dr Siobhan Bygate	Chesham High School
Ms Pei Harper	BCC Adult Learning and Libraries

Apologies:

Management Committee: Cllr Gill Walker – CTC, Ms Alison Derrick – BCC, Ms Rachael Tomkins – BCC Community and Youth Engagement.

Ms Irene Perrin – Shed@ThePark, Ms Moira Hamer – Amersham & Wycombe College, Mr Mark Young – Nexus, Mr Kevin Patrick – Chesham Park Community College, Ms Rachael Tomkins – BCC Community and Youth Engagement, Mr Ed Fraser – Compuhealth, Ms Angela Martin – BCC Adult Learning and Libraries, Dr Alan Morris – Rotary Club of Chesham, Ms Julie Murdoch – Business Link.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Noel Brown.

**1. Minutes of the Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

The minutes of the meeting of the 20th October 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

## **2. Matters Arising**

### **(i) Profile of Chesham**

Dr Tom Gorsuch reported that the Profile of Chesham had been distributed to Chiltern District councillors.

*Mr Rod Culverhouse, Mr Masud Ahmed, Mr Hugh Wilson and Ms Pei Harper arrived at 2.08 pm.*

## **3. Proposed New Projects**

### **(i) Fairtrade Town Award Celebrations**

Ms Kathryn Graves (KG) explained that Chesham was the first town in Buckinghamshire to achieve Fairtrade Town status and that a community celebration was being held in the Town Hall during March 2010 to celebrate five years of maintaining Fairtrade status and to raise awareness further. The event will include presentations, activities for children, food tasting and will feature local producer stalls to promote local trade as well as Fairtrade. The Chesham4Fairtrade group made an application for £250 to assist with the cost of the event.

TG opined that this application was peripheral to the objectives of the Chesham Community Vision (CCV). Mr Ken Austin said that part of the CCV is to preserve the unique identity of Chesham and that Fairtrade Town status is one of the characteristics that distinguish the town from its neighbours. There was a consensus that this project was worth supporting and it was agreed to provide a grant of £250.

*Cllr Noel Brown and Dr Siobhan Bygate arrived at 2.11 pm.*

### **(ii) CAWS Education Event**

CAWS submitted a funding application to assist with the costs of an education event held in October 2009 to raise awareness of education attainment issues and concerns in the Asian community.

Some people raised the concern that the event appeared to be exclusive in that it was aimed specifically at the Asian community, and it was suggested that this project could also have targeted white, working class boys who are also known to suffer from educational under-achievement. However, Cllr Merrin Molesworth said that she had attended the event and found it well-attended and open to the whole community.

TG explained that he had received an email from Chiltern Racial Equality Council (CREC) stating that educational under-achievement in British-Pakistani pupils is a substantial part of their five-year strategy and that CREC is looking to work with CAWS. Mr Masud Ahmed (MA) responded that it was not the intention of CAWS to duplicate CREC's work and that CAWS would be happy to hold discussions with CREC.

Cllr Noel Brown (NB) felt that the group should support CAWS because it has been active in getting the British-Pakistani community more involved in education and

wider activities in Chesham. NB suggested that CREC should be encouraged to link in with CAWS, rather than vice versa. NB opined that he was in support of the bottom-up, community-led approach of CAWS.

Mr Fred Wilson (FW) noted that there had been limited funding support from local businesses for the October event and suggested that CAWS contact CCTC for assistance.

Following some discussion, the group agreed that it would be permissible to provide a grant to cover the funding gap for the October event. As the exact funding gap was not known at this time it was agreed that, subject to the provision of the accounts, a figure of up to £400 would be granted to cover the funding shortfall.

TG said that the Management Committee would welcome an application in 2010 for further, inclusive activities.

(iii) Pond Park Community Building

A project form was distributed and Mr David Gardner (DG) updated the group on the work being done to assess the need for a community building in Pond Park. The Pond Park Community Association (PPCA) intends to present the findings of its research after Easter 2010.

(iv) Shelley Gardens

Copies of the grant application from PPCA for £1100 were distributed to the group. The purpose of the project is to provide professional support to write a bid for a £50,000 grant from Changing Spaces to fund fencing, tree work, planting, signage and sculpture in Shelley Gardens, with the possibility of additional work in Batchelors Way. This would be a continuation of the successful £10,000 project conducted to regenerate Shelley Gardens during 2008-09.

It was noted that Mr Peter Yerrell will be standing down from the chairmanship of PPCA and concern was expressed that the project may flounder in the absence of a chairman. DG explained that a new chairman will be in place shortly and that the working group is comprised of many partners, so he is confident that the project will be able to continue.

There was widespread support for the objectives of the project and the committee agreed to provide £300, to match the funding provided by Chiltern District Council. Mr Malcolm Godwin (MG) offered to investigate whether he can release any funds to assist with this project.

#### **4. Chesham Sign**

KA outlined his idea to identify and define Chesham using signage at the entry points to the town. The aim of the project is to encourage people to stop in Chesham and explore the town rather than just driving through. KA also said that we needed to

generate greater civic pride within Chesham, as the town's residents will be its most effective ambassadors.

Concern was expressed that signage alone would not be effective and could be an ineffective use of money. NB said that traffic surveys indicated that only 30% of traffic comprises vehicles travelling through the town, so signs at the town's periphery may not be the best location. However, the age of these data sets was queried in terms of their relevance to the current situation.

During further discussion, the opinion emerged that this project was unlikely to have much impact in isolation, but could be successful if combined with other projects that celebrate and promote a sense of place in Chesham. DG said that projects such as this should be considered as part of revisiting the Visitor Strategy. This could be done by a small sub-group that reported back to ChAP. FW said that the Chamber would be interested in contributing to this work. KA and DG will work together on revisiting the Visitor Strategy.

An ancillary proposal for a four-sided display in the town centre, carrying information about Chesham itself and about each of its three twin towns was considered interesting but that it should be forwarded to the Twinning Association for progression.

*Dr Siobhan Bygate left the meeting at 2.59 pm.*

##### **5. Reappraisal of the Chesham Community Vision**

Mr Bill Richards (BR) outlined the discussions held by a sub-group to re-appraise the CCV. The group had agreed that the basic aims had not changed, although many members of the group were comfortable with the idea that the town's global responsibilities should be acknowledged within the vision. TG was keen to emphasise that he did not believe that this should be a prime objective.

As a next step, the sub-group members are identifying projects relevant to the vision which have been completed and those which are outstanding. The group identified six priorities with a lead member for each. The priorities were: Education, Pond Park Community Centre Development, the Built Environment, Business Services, the Sustainable Environment and the Visitor Strategy.

FW stated that the group were very keen to receive feedback from other members of the group on these priorities and that any information should be provided to TG or KG.

BR said that the sub-group would welcome the input of Thames Valley Police in relation to any particular priorities relating to crime and anti-social behaviour. PS Melvin Mutch agreed to feedback to BR.

**Action: PS Mel Mutch**

*Mr Umar Hayat, Cllr Noel Brown and Ms Pei Harper left at 3.10 pm.*

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **(i) Flooding**

Cllr Hugh Wilson (HW) queried whether one organisation had been designated as the lead organisation responsible for dealing with flooding. HW opined that many landowners and tenants in Chesham, particularly in the High Street, are not aware of the flooding risks, or what their responsibilities are. HW also informed the group that the county council has been allocated £200,000 to investigate flood risks, with High Wycombe and Chesham being the priority areas. It was agreed that this issue should be raised at the next Local Area Forum (LAF) meeting.

### **(ii) Victorian Shopping Evening**

FW provided feedback on the Victorian Shopping Evening event which was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November. The event was well attended and the Chamber is currently collecting feedback from the groups who held stalls to find out how successful their fundraising was. FW thanked all of those who had been involved in the organisation of the event.

DG said that some small groups may have been unable to participate in the event because of the prohibitive cost of public liability insurance required. FW agreed to feed this back to the Chamber.

**Action: Mr Fred Wilson**

MG suggested that if ChAP held the appropriate insurance and the event was held under ChAP's auspices, it could be possible for the groups to come under ChAP's insurance.

### **(iii) Local Area Forum**

DG reported that Chiltern District Council and Nexus have made an application to the LAF for money to fund diversionary activities for young people.

BR reported that representatives from the county council had consulted with the town council on the format of the LAF. Whilst the town council's preferred option for representation was to have three town councillors and two ChAP representatives, they agreed to two town councillors and one ChAP representative. This will be fed back to the LAF.

### **(iv) Chesham Methodist Church**

DG informed the group that the Chesham Methodist Church would like to bring some informal proposals to ChAP and suggested that ChAP should extend an invitation to the church to become a member of ChAP. DG offered to contact the church on behalf of ChAP.

**Action: Mr David Gardner**

### **(v) Walkers Are Welcome**

Mr Phil Folly (PF) reported that the Walkers Are Welcome campaign has achieved more than the 500 required signatures for its petition and has now set up a steering group, which includes two town councillors, one of whom is also a district councillor.

The steering group are now actively looking for a business representative. FW asked (PF) to forward the details on to him, so that he can approach the Chamber for assistance.

**Action: Mr Phil Folly**

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The group agreed to hold future meetings at two-monthly intervals. The date of the next meeting will be circulated with the minutes.

***[Post-meeting note: The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 2 pm.]***

*The meeting closed at 3.28 pm.*