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DT11 Forum Community Partnership

Chairman's Report for DT11 Forum Meeting 15th October 2008.

The draft CSP

The CSP has been completed, at least in its consultation draft and you should all have had a copy. This is an important document and has involved a great deal of effort from all in the community. It shows where our concerns are but it also points to our aspirations for our communities. When we have received approval from SWRDA and other funding bodies we should start looking at projects that will deliver these aspirations.

The CSP has been written by Jo Rose and I think we all owe her a great deal of thanks for her successful efforts to pull all the data together and put it into an interesting and meaningful format.

Morrison's.

I attended a meeting on the Blandford Chamber of Trade in August where the speaker was Roger Owen, Property Director of Morrison's. He was very upbeat about the new store which will be what he called a 'Community Store'. Although smaller than their normal stores it will still have a wide range of products. Opening date is 4th November. It will be a great relief to have the site occupied again.

Sowing Seeds

The successful LARC bid has now moved into the next phase. A meeting was held at Springhead, Fontmell Magna on 9th September where nominations were sought for members of the executive committee. A Chairman and Vice Chairman were elected from the floor. The first meeting of the executive committee will take place towards the end of October. The executive role will be to assess project applications for funding. I have attached an executive summary that was issued before the 9th September meeting.

Dorset Market Towns

Mark Goodman, who was our counsellor for the MCTi process has moved to a new role and is trying to get Dorset Towns Forum together. The basic idea is that this would be a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing experiences of delivering projects. There was some reluctance from several community partnerships and town councils but these seem to have been allayed. I attended the first meeting and have attached the notes Maria Clarke has issued from this meeting. If the Towns Forum does get up and running I am of the opinion that our representation should be through CPEND.

DCA AGM

Dorset Community Action is holding its AGM on 14th October and I will give a brief report at the DT11 Forum meeting on the 15th.

Improved Access to Healthcare Workshop for Older People in North Dorset

This workshop was a CPEND initiative ably organised by the CDW team and was a replacement for what used to be called the 'Negotiation Round Table'. These Round Table meetings were just too large and rarely came to conclusion or achieved any outcome so it was suggested that we try a new format where we simply addressed a single item which had been flagged as a concern by all four of the North Dorset Community Partnerships.

For this first meeting the subject was Access to Healthcare for Older People in North Dorset. The meeting was well attended and I believe that we made some real progress. We certainly came away with a number of achievable actions which will go some way to improving this very important issue. Minutes will be circulated as soon as they are published.

Local Delivery / Tough Choices.

I will be attending a Tough Choices meeting in the afternoon of 15th October and will give a brief up date at the DT11 Forum meeting later that same day.

The Trailway.

I have asked Scott Norman from Stourpaine to lead a working party to look at the possibility of delivering a bridge over the Stour at Stourpaine for the next link of the Trailway. Scott comes from a commercial background and was a senior board member of a national company.

Lesley Gasson has asked me to let you know that the Trailway AGM will take place on the 16th October at 6.30pm in the Portman Hall Shillingstone.

Blandford Leisure Centre Action Group.

DT11 Forum continues to support the BLCAG Action Group. Unfortunately Nathan Fazakerley, NDDC Leisure Manager is unable to attend this evening due to prior commitments. However, further presentations have been made to give information to parishes and there has been huge support from local schools through the Rights Respecting initiative to promoting the value of the leisure centre to young people. Articles will be appearing in the Village newsletters and magazines in the DT11 area over the next couple of months.