

Area West Committee – 15th September 2010

7. Progress of ABCD (A Better Crewkerne & District) and the Crewkerne Community Plan

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Purpose of the Report

To provide members with an update on the work of ABCD and the progression of projects identified in the Crewkerne Community Plan.

Public Interest

ABCD is a registered charity that works in partnership with Crewkerne Town Council, South Somerset District Council, Somerset County Council and local voluntary and community groups to progress projects that benefit people living and working in and around Crewkerne.

Recommendations

To note the content of the report and subsequent presentation.

Background

The Crewkerne Community Plan was launched in 2006. Since that date ABCD has developed a number of projects including working with SSDC to extend the Conservation Area of the town and putting on a youth fayre.

Since the last report to Area West Committee in 2008, ABCD has been involved in a varied work plan, details of which are outlined below:

Progress since January 2008

The Formalisation of ABCD

In 2009, ABCD became a registered charity. It now comprises an Executive Committee, which oversees the work of the charity and a number of working groups that are tasked with progressing particular projects.

Phase One of Crewkerne Clutter Clearout

This phase of the project is now complete and has resulted in the removal of a wide number of redundant poles and signs. A number of litter bins have been replaced and others were relocated elsewhere in the town.

Arts Trail & Exhibition

The New Arts Group have now put on three arts exhibitions including the recent jazz gathering and exhibition at the Methodist Church Hall. In November 2009 they incorporated an art exhibition at Henhayes with an arts trail around the town.

Crewkerne in Motion

An A5 booklet containing information about a wide variety of transport services available in the town was produced. This was launched at a public exhibition involving a number of transport providers and services in the Henhayes Centre in September 2008.

Shoppers Leaflet

In 2009, ABCD produced a colourful A3 folded leaflet giving details of all the shops located in the town centre.

Traffic Management

The Community Plan highlighted traffic flow as a major concern for people in Crewkerne. The Urban Design Framework group concentrated on a movement strategy for the town and held discussions with County Council Highways to devise a traffic management plan for the town centre. A draft traffic plan was presented to the public at an ABCD meeting in October 2009. This was followed by a month-long public exhibition where the public were invited to submit comments on the proposals. A further presentation was given at the Annual Town Meeting in March 2010. The Group prepared a report on the public consultation exercise together with proposals recommended for further investigation by the County Council. The proposals were largely accepted by the Head of Highways and Passenger Transport and they formed the basis of a further presentation to the Town Council on 14 June 2010. The Town Council agreed to support the traffic management proposals and the County Council will now draw up detailed design proposals to be presented formally for public consultation.

Current Projects

Traders Board

ABCD have commissioned a designer and manufacturer to create a traders board for the town centre.

Pedestrian link between Falkland Square & George Precinct

ABCD worked with officers from SSDC and began negotiations with all relevant landowners to look at providing a clear demarcated walkway that runs through the top of the service yard area. Plans are in place to create the new pedestrian link and three landowners have agreed a financial contribution towards the scheme. ABCD received grants from the SSDC Market Town Investment Group and County Councillor John Dyke to help fund these works.

Looking ahead

Phase 2 of Crewkerne Clutter Clearout

Work will commence shortly on Phase 2 of the Crewkerne Clutter Clearout and this will include rationalising and resiting traffic directional signs.

Ongoing Work of the Urban Design Framework

The work of the UDF group is currently on hold.

Volunteers Fayre

This will take place in Victoria Hall on Saturday 26th March 2011 from 10am to 1pm.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Corporate Priority implications

- 1.11 A vibrant and sustainable Yeovil, market towns and rural economy.
- An enhanced built environment
- 4.19 Increase civic participation in the local area from 16.4% in 2008/09 to 18% by 2010/11.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

There are no implications currently arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no implications currently arising from this report.

Background Papers: *Progress Report on the priority projects of 'A Better Crewkerne & District' Community Plan - Area West Committee, 16th January 2008*
Progress Report on A Better Crewkerne & District – Area West Committee, 17th October 2007.
Progress Report on the Community Projects of A Better Crewkerne & District – Area West Committee, 18th July 2007.
Progress Report on 'A Better Crewkerne & District' and the Community Plan Projects – Area West Committee, 17th January 2007
Progress of the Crewkerne & District Community Plan and associated projects – Area West Committee, 18th October 2006
The launch of Crewkerne & District Community Plan – Area West Committee - 19th July 2006