

## **Westbury Town Council**

### **Area Board Report – 13 April 2017**

The main items for this report are a number of significant decisions taken by the Town Council at the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The major decision was confirmation that we would be reinstating two hours free parking in the three Pay and Display car parks in Westbury. These are the High Street, Warminster Road and Westfield House car parks. This measure will cost approximately £35 000. However the Town Council believe that this move will help to arrest the gradual run-down in the number and variety of shops in the town and hopefully reverse the trend. Accessibility has been cited as the main reason for people to visit a town centre and this move will definitely improve that.

The Town Council also voted to make grants to the Westbury Festival of £4900 in this financial year and £5000 in the next. The Council further agreed to look at a future financing package in subsequent years. This grant will enable the Festival organisers to plan for upcoming events with more certainty and engage an even higher standard of performers. In making this grant the Town Council acknowledged how much the Festival does to raise the profile of Westbury, not just in this part of the County but throughout Wiltshire.

The Town Council wishes to congratulate both the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in achieving CiLCA qualification this year. This qualification covers a Clerks responsibilities in law, procedures, financial matters and community involvement. It also means that the Council can assume a General Power of Competence for the first time. This allows the Council to do anything a “legal person” can do.

Stephen Andrews

Mayor of Westbury