

**Draft Minutes of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Area (2) Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Wootton Bassett.**

**Present:**

Councillor Councillor C. Wannell – Chairman.

Councillors: A.M. Bucknell, G.R. Greenaway, M.E.M. Groom, M.P. Hatton, P.S. Roberts, W. Roberts, S.J. Still and A.M. Wannell.

**County, Town and Parish Council Representatives:**

Councillor M. Bell	Purton Parish Council
Councillor P. Colmer	Cricklade Town Council
Councillor J. Stratton	Wootton Bassett Town Council
Councillor S. Bucknell	Wootton Bassett Town Council

**Officers Present:**

S. Parker (Community Partnerships Officer), D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), C. Keane (Temporary Principal Housing Enabling Officer), J. Freegard (Higher Technical Officer), J. Moore (Research & Projects Officer) and J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant)

**CR14. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Doyle, T. Clements and C. Berry.

**CR15. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions**

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

**CR16. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007(circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.



**CR17. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman, Councillor C. Wannell:

**Community Area Awards**

I was, along with other members of this Committee, very pleased to be invited to the inauguration of some new play equipment at the Hive at RAF Lyneham on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September. An award of £2,065 was made by Area 2 in June towards this innovative new soft play equipment which is for use by both the civilian and military communities in Lyneham. It was good to see how this small voluntary group known as YELL – Youth Entertainment and Leisure in Lyneham - has raised funds for this and a number of other projects for the benefit of young people in the village.

**Cricklade in Bloom**

I would like to offer this Committee's congratulations to Cricklade for its success in winning a national award at the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom Competition. It is the only town in Wiltshire to have achieved this. Cricklade has been successful in a number of regional competitions in the last few years but has done particularly well to have been awarded the Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt Award 2007. The District Council granted some money from its regeneration budget towards advertising costs, etc and we are delighted that things have gone so well.

**Area Boards in North Wiltshire**

At the last Executive meeting Members considered a report that outlined the proposal to create 20 Area Boards in Wiltshire. These Area Boards will form a key part of the new Unitary Authority for Wiltshire - Wiltshire Council. North Wiltshire has been invited to form pilot Area Boards in advance of the formal vesting day of April 2009. In North Wiltshire the Area Boards will cover the same geographical areas as our own Area Committees and will build on the strengths and successes of our area working.

At the next meeting of this Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, officers will present a report so that Members, key partners and members of the community can put forward their views and comments on how the process to implement Area Boards in North Wiltshire should advance. The comments of each of the Area Committees will inform a report that will go back to the Executive in January. More information about area boards can be found on the Wiltshire County Council website on the Towards One Council pages.

**Repatriations at RAF Lyneham**

I would like to publicly thank the staff at RAF Lyneham for the kind and considerate manner with which they are conducting the repatriations of our servicemen who have been lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. I would also like to thank the (approximately) 400 people of Wootton Bassett who came out to pay their respects.

I have asked that a letter be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the Station Commander at RAF Lyneham expressing these sentiments.

**CR18. Declarations of Interest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>Action</b>
M.P. Hatton	Item 9	Personal	Member of Cricklade Town Council	Spoke but did not vote.

**CR19. Neighbourhood Policing**

The Committee received a brief presentation from Sgt D. Stephenson and representatives of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the area.

Issues raised included:

- The changing nature of police work;
- An incident involving graffiti on St Michaels Church Hall dealt with by the Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- Thieves arrested in Wootton Bassett by the Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams can call upon specialist support if required;
- Problems with the 0845 number;
- Vandalism in Wootton Bassett; and
- The need to renovate the CCTV in Wootton Bassett.

**Resolved** that the Policy & Democratic Services Assistant ascertains whether there is available revenue funding to contribute to the maintenance of, or capital funding to improve, the CCTV system in Wootton Bassett.

**CR20. Choice Based Lettings**

C. Keane and J. Moore, Officers from the Housing Department of North Wiltshire District Council outlined to the Committee the Choice Based Lettings Scheme which was a new way of allocating affordable housing.

A summary of the information is outlined below:

- Choice Based Lettings (CBLs) is a new way of allocating affordable housing in the district, in which accommodation is allocated to applicants in the highest band who have been waiting the longest. The government has issued a target for all Local Authorities to be operating a CBLs system by 2010; sub-regional schemes are also encouraged. NWDC has been working on a joint policy with the other Wiltshire district councils since last year, with the view to implement CBLs in North Wiltshire by March 2009.
- The Council currently operates a points based system, whereby points are awarded for things like local connection or overcrowding and applicants then wait to be offered a property in a particular area. CBLs, however, allow applicants to

choose. In Kennet and West Wiltshire, where they already operate a CBLs scheme, a list of the available properties are advertised on a weekly basis and applicants express an interest in the properties that would meet their needs (this process is known as bidding).

- The Council consulted with 3,000 applicants on their Housing Needs Register in June 2007 and We received 440 responses. The majority of respondents thought that CBLs would be a fairer way of letting properties, easier to understand than the current system and would offer more choice. Kennet and West Wiltshire found that tenants were less likely to apply for a transfer once they had implemented CBLs.

- The main costs involved will be the software costs. The Council has applied for government funding which will cover this cost and the outcome of the bid should be known by January 2008.

#### **CR21. Air Quality Monitoring in Wootton Bassett**

Consideration was given to Report No.8 reporting on air quality monitoring in the High Street, Wootton Bassett in September/October 2006 and January/February 2007.

Issues discussed included:

- That PM10 and NO2 levels meet the Government targets set out by DEFRA;
- Problems with heavy vehicles coming through Wootton Bassett;
- The site on the High Street was chosen as it could provide conditions for the 'canyon effect';
- Wootton Bassett is passively monitored all the time, however, the work carried out to produce this Report cost £4,000;
- Whether air quality would improve if there was free parking;
- The next Town to be monitored will be Cricklade; and
- That Purton is not identified as a hot spot.

**Resolved** that the Committee note the findings of the Report.

#### **CR22. Area 2 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2007/08**

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 which presented 2 applications for funding from the 2007/8 Community Area Award Scheme.

Representations were received from Mrs S. Smith of Bradenstoke Village Hall and from Councillor P. Colmer of Cricklade Town Council.

Issues discussed included:

- The importance of village halls in local communities;
- Fundraising undertaken to raise funds for the Bradenstoke Village Hall works;
- The near dangerous state of the gable wall; and
- The original purpose and siting of the Meer Stone.

### **Resolved**

- (1) Bradenstoke Village Hall and Recreational Centre – Award £2,723 from the capital budget towards the cost of repairs to the gable wall of the Village Hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
- (2) Cricklade Town Council – Award £600 from the revenue budget towards enhancement works to the Meer Stone in Cricklade, conditional on:
  - i) The balance of funding being in place;
  - ii) That any relevant planning permissions are granted;
  - iii) That the Historic buildings Officer at North Wiltshire District Council and the County Archaeologist oversees any excavation work and is informed of progress; and
  - iv) That the award is spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

### **CR23. Community Planning Update**

The Chairman of the Northern Community Area Partnership gave a verbal update to the Committee on Community Planning issues.

Since the last Area 2 Committee meeting in June, a Steering Group and a Full Partnership Meeting have been held.

#### **Area Boards**

NCAP has indicated its willingness to work with the proposed new Area Boards in a letter to the Chief Executive of the County Council. Members of NCAP attended a meeting of the Wiltshire Federation of Community Area Partnerships (WFCAP) in September where the possible structure and membership of these new boards were discussed.

#### **European Social fund (ESF)**

This grant money has now come to an end and we are grateful for the opportunities it has offered us in buying IT equipment, display boards, hiring of venues, a feasibility study, consultation exercises, etc.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

This was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Memorial Hall in Wootton Bassett. I was delighted to be re-elected as Chair, Richard Pagett will again be our Vice -Chair and Tom Pepperall, our Treasurer. The Steering Group now includes 3 new members.

There was a presentation from the Great Western Community Forest, an update about NCAP activities over the last year and updates on Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Primary Care Trust's plans for neighbourhood working.

Yesterday I attended a meeting of the Wiltshire Strategic Board where we learned that, in future:

1. Voluntary bodies will have a bigger input into local democracy;
2. Area Boards will be allotted capital sums from Wiltshire Council (if it goes through) and will be able to decide themselves on the priorities of which monies should be spent. Quite frankly I thought it was a clever way of ensuring that agreement could be reached on local area agreements.
3. We had the inevitable workshops where ten workshops of ten people each had to address in workshop 1:  
What are the opportunities to develop strong and resilient communities in Wiltshire?  
What are the barriers to doing this?  
What are the five issues/challenges that should be considered priorities for action over the next three years?

And on workshop 2:

In the light of what you have heard today from the National perspective and local opportunities and challenges, how can the voluntary and public sectors help one another to achieve more for local people and local communities?

It was interesting to see how the various groups homed into similar themes.

The Tavistock Institute will be interviewing some partners as part of its programme for developing partnership and performance in Wiltshire. It was emphasised by an eloquent speaker that it would be working with us to address the challenges. I suggested to a lady on the project board who happened to be sitting at our table that our Area Partnership could be a suitable choice as one which would be interviewed. So that the lady does not forget I have sent her some information and there is more to follow!

The next Partnership Meeting will be in March 2008.

#### **CR24. Parish Council Update**

Parish and Town Council representatives updated the Committee on any issues in their locality.

Cricklade Town Council: - Whether funding from North Wiltshire District Council for tourist information will run out in 2008.

Wootton Bassett Town Council: - The Town Council would like to see the car parking charges scrapped. The need to improve CCTV in the Town. When will the public conveniences be re-opened?

**Resolved**

- 1) To determine whether finding for tourist information will cease for Cricklade Town Council in 2008.
- 2) To determine when the public conveniences in Wootton Bassett will be reopened.

**CR25. Outside Bodies**

Cotswold Water Park – Councillor M.P. Hatton stated that the draft Master Plan for the Park would be published shortly.

The Cricklade Country Way - Councillor M.P. Hatton stated that the lottery bid was still to be determined.

**Admin Note\*** - *Subsequent to the meeting, North Wiltshire District Council has learned that the Cricklade Country Way project has not been successful in the bid for lottery funding.*

Cricklade Leisure Centre Advisory Committee - Councillor M.P. Hatton stated that he was very grateful that Councillor R.L Tonge and V.A. Vines had visited the Centre to lend their support and to see what the people of Cricklade had achieved.

Community & RAF Liaison Group – That the recent exercise involving 700 people and 8 Euro-fighters had been carried out successfully and that there were no noise complaints. The base and it's surrounds have suffered from the recent flooding due partly to collapsed drains and ditches not being dug revently.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.35pm

There were 14 members of the public present.