

Draft Minutes of the Malmesbury Area (1) Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2007 at the Malmesbury School, Corn Gastons, Malmesbury, commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Councillors R.L. Cinnamond, V. H. Greenman, R. Sanderson, T. R. Sturgis, J.P.S.S. Thomson and V. A. Vines.

County, Town and Parish Representatives

Councillor A. Woodcock	Malmesbury Town Council
Councillor J. Woodcock	Malmesbury Town Council
Councillor J. Hampton	Minety Parish Council
Councillor T. Fraser	Crudwell Parish Council
Councillor J. Cull	Lea & Cleverton Parish Council

Officers Present:

M. Gilmour (Principal Community Partnership Officer), L. Bell (Deputy Chief Executive) and J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), J Moody (Partnership Development Officer)

M16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor C. Soden, Mrs V. Price, Councillor M. Bawden, Councillor M. Rea and Councillor I.J. Henderson.

M17. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

A public question was received from Councillor O. Gibbs of Brinkworth Parish Council.

Councillor Gibbs asked whether he was right in saying that the Cowbridge replacement bridge scheme was behind schedule and if so would there be compensation for local residents who will be affected?

Councillor T.R. Sturgis responded by stating that the project was heading for an over-run. But at a meeting held yesterday, it was made clear to the contractor that an over-run would not be acceptable. An agreement is likely to be reached to adopt 24 hour working (where it does not disturb local residents) in order to get the project back on track.

M18. Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2007 (circulated with the Agenda)

Resolved

- 1) That the Minutes be amended to record Councillor O. Gibbs' attendance.



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- 2) That Minute ref M9 (first bullet point under issues discussed) be amended to record the correct date that the Hall burned down; 17th March 2004.
- 3) That subject to the two amendments, the Minutes of the Meetings of the Malmesbury Area 1 Committee held on 6th June be approved and signed as a correct record.

M19. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman, Councillor J.P.S.S. Thomson:

Good evening everyone, I would like to thank you all for coming along and taking part in this event with us.

I would particularly like to thank the people who gave up their time to come along and contribute to the exhibition. I am sure we will all leave the event a little wiser now! Finally, I'd like to thank those at the School for letting us use the Hall this evening.

The Chairman drew people's attention to Palestinian Olive Oil on sale in the Hall which has been smuggled out by a lady in the Malmesbury area.

M20. Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr R. Sanderson	Item 8 – Area 1 Funding Distribution 2007/08	Prejudicial	Present of Malmesbury Youth Football Club	Did not speak or vote

M21. Malmesbury and the Environment

Introduction:

The Chairman, Councillor J.P.S.S. Thomson Introduced the item:

“Last year the District Council undertook some research about Area Committees and one of the topics local people told us was important to them were environmental issues. We are also aware that in Malmesbury there have been discussions to make it a Fairtrade Town and the Town Council are keen to investigate the opportunities for Malmesbury to become a 'bag-free' town. While the Malmesbury & Villages Community Plan identifies a number of environmental concerns that I am sure the members of the Partnership want to address.

It seemed appropriate to hold this meeting during Climate Friendly Fortnight (15-30 September), when we are all being urged to make changes in order to make the way we live more sustainable.

Tonight's meeting has been designed to give local people an opportunity to talk to specialists. We now have the opportunity to identify through a series of 4 workshops

the key environmental concerns of people living and working in the Malmesbury Area. You will all have an opportunity to raise issues in four 10 minute workshops on Waste, Energy, Shopping and Bag-free. Don't worry you can stay seated, your facilitators, will move round.

Your most important issues will be fed back to the Panel and there will be also an opportunity to take individual questions.

But we don't want to simply create hot air – at the end of the evening my intention is that there will be a set of agreed actions taken up by Town, District or County Council, local voluntary and community groups and all of us as individuals.”

Workshops:

Councillors and Members of the public then split into four groups to take part in four ten minute workshop sessions. The topics were as follows; Bag-free Malmesbury, Waste & Recycling, Energy efficiency and Shopping. Participants were asked to identify their two most important issues within the topic areas, which would be addressed during the Panel question and answer session.

Workshop Feedback

Key issues are listed below. A full list is attached

Bag Free Malmesbury

- Opt for paper 'bag for life' rather than plastic and make them free
- Any cloth bag to promote bag –free and publicise the reasons
- Charge for all plastic bags (charge could go to charity)
- Central Government issue to become bag free (like in Ireland)
- Gradually move to 'bag free' starting with a charge for bags
- Negotiate with local businesses to 'give up' bags and give them opportunities to advertise elsewhere e.g. shopping directory (although would that be eco friendly?)
- Total bag ban
- Have a cloth 'Malmesbury' bag, fabric has to be eco friendly/sustainable

Waste & Recycling

- Cardboard and plastics (all homes, businesses and schools etc) - picked up at kerbside
- More information on web i.e. TVs Awareness – direct to households including what's available, what you can do etc
- Plastics and cardboard - carbon emissions created
- All collections(not towns rural areas) on the same day – wheeled bin, boxes etc
- Not alternative week, unless more pick-up on recycling
- Need alternatives for recycling as much as possible
- Alternative fuels for freighters
- Kitchen waste for recycling (Bristol)
- Food digesters (possible grants)
- Managing recycling materials for the elderly or disabled
- How do we stop being a 'throw away' society
- Computer chips and measures and fines
- Packaging less, including plastics that can't be recycled

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- Electrical equipment – always upgraded options for recycling – produce batteries, local shop/publicity
- Education – involvement of schools, younger age groups
- Recycling timings – communicate
- Commercial waste – possibility of one supplier for local businesses

Energy Efficiency

- Street lighting – 1am (shut off), Malmesbury shut off
- Business – shop lighting at night, lamps etc
- Schools – lights left on here but will new primary school have sensors?
- Renewable energy – looking at local features in town
- Local planning system and the blocks it creates to change – listed buildings etc
- Setting a local target for reducing electricity (community project)

Shopping

- Suggestion – 1 hour free parking – penalise longer users. Create quicker turnover, would need enforcing
- Make it easier for bicycles in town – bike racks in Cross Hayes care park/station yard
- Full support for Malmesbury to become a Fair Trade town
- Accessibility into town is difficult and costly
- Suggest survey for half hour parking
- Old Station car park should be free
- Co-op would be best shop to stock Fair Trade as already lead and open longest
- Hand land back over to community – allotments – shortage/not enough, waiting lists, White Lion Park – used for building. Ensure access to water
- Use them or lose them (shops)
- Farmers market – prefer to buy local food or British goods
- Restrictive parking prohibitive
- Older people need to be able to get into town
- Increased housing – more cars
- Lack of public transport – infrequent

Panel Question & Answer Session

The Panel was comprised as follows:

Cllr Toby Sturgis - Lead Member for Waste & Recycling at North Wiltshire District Council and Waste and Planning at Wiltshire County Council
Tessa Polniaszek - Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Waste Minimization Programme Manager
Martin Litherland - Wiltshire County Council, Waste Contracts & Development Manager
Mel Scott – North Wiltshire District Council, Waste Management Strategy Manager
Colette Som - Traidcraft
Cliff Carter - Hills Mineral & Waste Ltd. Recycling Manager

Issues discussed included:

Bag Free:

- Whether there should be a charge for plastic bags;
- The example of Ireland, where there is a tax on plastic bags;

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- The possibility of a reusable Malmesbury bag;
- The views of traders on reusable bags;
- That plastic bags offer traders free advertisement; and
- Bulk buying of reusable bags may be possible at a reasonable price.

Cardboard & Plastic Recycling:

- Problems with recycling plastics in Wiltshire include no plastic processors in the County, the bulky nature of plastic makes it costly to collect, that there are different types of plastic and that collection in a rural area increases the cost;
- There is a market for clean cardboard, but some cardboard is plastic coated which can contaminate the collection; and
- The importance of avoiding products which are excessively wrapped in any material.

Energy Efficiency:

- Whether street lights need to be on after 1am in safer areas;
- Sensor switches in new buildings;
- Plans to install a wind turbine at the North Wiltshire District Council depot;
- What sources of renewable energy do we have in Wiltshire?; and
- The possibility of having a local target for energy reduction.

Shopping:

- The future of the Farmer's Market in Malmesbury;
- The need for education about FairTrade;
- Accessibility barriers to shopping locally including parking charges and a lack of bicycle racks; and
- The need for allotments in the Malmesbury area.

Resolved

- 1) That the possibility of producing a 'Malmesbury Bag for Life' be looked at by a small Working Group of the Committee in order to bring groups together to find a way forward.
- 2) The Chairman will raise the issue of energy efficient lighting with the Malmesbury school.
- 3) The Chairman will speak to Wiltshire County Council about the possibility of switching off every other street light after 1am in safer areas.
- 4) Councillor T.R. Sturgis to raise the possibility of installing bicycle racks at the Station Yard car park.
- 5) That the provision of allotments when developments take place be raised as an issue with the Spatial Plans Team.

- 6) The Chairman will raise the issue of FairTrade produce at Malmesbury School including the canteen.
- 7) That a Report be produced ahead of the next Committee meeting, outlining progress on the actions above.

M22. Area 1 Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08

Consideration was given to Report No. 8 presenting recommendations relating to 4 funding applications for the 2007/08 Community Area Award Scheme.

Resolved that

1. Malmesbury Youth Football Club – Award £ 20,000 from the capital budget towards the cost of the erection of a clubhouse and changing facilities, conditional on receipt of Planning Permission and the balance on the funding being in place.
2. Alderton Village Hall Committee – Award £300 from the revenue budget towards the cost of connecting the village hall to the main sewer, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
3. Lea Village Hall Committee – Award £300 from the revenue budget towards the provision of lightweight tables for the village hall, conditional on the balance of funding being in place.
4. Sherston Parish Council – Award £1,750 from the revenue budget towards the provision of a community wood for the coming 25 years, conditional on the balance of the funding being in place.

The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 9:30pm

There were 61 members of the public present.