

Town Council Report to Area Board, January 2011

1 Museum & Information Centre

Exhibitions - Dancing Days and Christmas exhibitions are currently open. Dr Andrew Murrison, MP will open our next exhibition 'Trowbridge Villages' on Saturday 19th March at noon.

Tourism Event – is to be run on Saturday 7th May to coincide with the Lions May Fair.

Marketing - the Washington Post has recently used Trowbridge Museum as a resource for a story about teasels and publicized our details in the paper and on their website.

2 Community Services

Sunday Club – Next one is 13th February at Longfield Community Centre.

Pancake Race – Will take place in the town centre on Shrove Tuesday, 8th March 2011.

Mayor's Garden Party – Sunday 8th May, to be hosted by Trowbridge Cricket Club.

Wiltshire British Armed Forces & Veterans – Plans are now in hand for June 25th and 26th which the council are supporting with a grant.

Active Trowbridge – planning is underway for National Play Day on Saturday 6th August.

Summer Show – Will be combined with the Carnival Country Fair on Saturday 3rd September.

Carnival – Will once again take place in October in 2011 on Saturday 22nd.

Christmas Lights – In 2011 we anticipate holding the switch-on on Friday 25th November and a community street market on Saturday 26th.

3 Town Development

The Association of Town Centre Managers gave a glowing report on the town in early December.

Gateway. Boots and Argos now open.

Cradle Bridge & St Stephens Place. Owners; Parkridge and Legal & General are considering a joint development scheme.

Bradley Road – Comet now open, Matalan underway.

County Hall Remodelling – plans were considered at committee on 4th January, raising no objection, but expressing concerns about access for pedestrians and parking for library users.

Persimmon: H8c Green Ln N & H8d N Paxcroft Way, each have approval for 150 homes. **H11 Green Lane S**, has approval for 650 homes, primary school and sports pitch contribution. Expected to commence late 2011.

Wain Homes; H9 Southview Farm. Homes now occupied including Wiltshire Council homes.

Strategic Planning & the Localism Bill – The Bill has been published, promising powers over neighbourhood planning for parish and town councils. **New Homes Bonus**; NALC have responded to the consultation suggesting the following allocations; In Unitary 93% principal authority and 7% parish and in other areas 75% district, 20% county and 5%

parish. We await confirmation of how WC will implement the **Community Infrastructure Levy**.

4 Properties

Civic Centre Project – Beard of Swindon have been awarded the contract following termination with the previous contractor. The steel framework has arrived on site and is currently being erected. Completion is now due on November.

5 Policy

County Court Closure – HMCS have confirmed that the County Court will close.

Street Trading – The Town Council will be considering a recommendation to request that Wiltshire Council undertakes a review of the street trading policy to reduce the extent and nature of street trading and in particular food sales.

Governance Review – The town council has been discussing the possibility of a Governance Review of the town boundaries with WC, a requirement identified by the Implementation Executive prior to the establishment of Area Boards. The Town Council considers that there are a number of areas around the town where it would be appropriate to consider revisions and others where it would not, due to impact on electoral divisions, parish councils and community identity.

6. Finance

Budget 2011/12 – The Town Council will be considering its budget and precept request on Tuesday 18th, with an expectation that there will be an increase of 3.1%.

7. Marketing/promotion

Newsletter – The next issue will be published in March 2011, using recycled paper.

Website – the new web-site was launched in early January.

8. Partnership

Wiltshire Council

Community Area Transport Group – The Town Council is supporting those proposed by residents groups and for St Thomas Road.

Neighbourhood Services Department – The town council has been advised of staff changes for highways and streetscene based at the Melksham depot.

Allotments – Discussions on transfer are currently on hold pending legal analysis by WC.

Stallard Playbuilder – copies of the proposal for new equipment at the play area have now been provided by WC and circulated to those members requesting a copy.

9. Meeting Dates. Council and committee meetings for the next 2 months are:

Tuesday 25 th January	Town Development	TTC Office
Tuesday 1 st February	NO MEETING	
Tuesday 8 th February	Community Services	TTC Office
Tuesday 15 th February	Town Development	TTC Office
Tuesday 22 nd February	Museum & Tourism	TTC Office
Tuesday 22 nd February	Properties	TTC Office
Tuesday 1 st March	Policy & Resources	TTC Office
Tuesday 8 th March	Town Development	TTC Office
Tuesday 15 th March	FULL COUNCIL	Longfield Community Centre

Lance Allan
Town Clerk

