

Update for Malmesbury Area Board

Update From: Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership.

Date of Area Board Meeting: 3 March 2010

Headlines/Key Issues/Project report:

Rural Broadband

Objectives (set in February 2009)

Agreed that the purpose of the group was to identify whether the Partnership could assist the community to improve the quality of broadband provided, in the interests of - opportunities to work effectively from home, locally based business, reduction in number of work journeys and prevention of social exclusion.

Update

- Awaiting a meeting with Cotswold Wireless
- Vtesse – we have discovered another business which has an interest in providing broadband to ‘not-spots’, where provision is currently poor. They however want to deliver by optical fibre and therefore at significantly faster speeds, altogether a more ambitious project. They have pilots in Cornwall and Corsham and are now looking at our area. The Wiltshire Assembly sub-group was introduced to them and supported their application for SWRDA funding.
- Wiltshire Council – it turns out (from the December Open Meeting) – have completed a survey of all Wiltshire to show the broadband speeds currently available, the state of development of BT exchanges and the effect of BT’s future plans. This is the basic information that we had been looking for in a meeting with BT
- BT has announced Broadband Enabled Technology (BET) which purports to double the distance that broadband can be successfully carried by copper cables. This would significantly reduce the current problem but is only in pilot – none in Wiltshire – and BT have floated the cost obstacle without suggesting a solution. Their claim is that it would technically be available from spring of 2010.

Publicity & Communications

Aim - To improve publicity and communication of M&VCAP and make sure that M&VCAP is the people’s voice and the people’s choice.

Objectives for April 2010 – March 2011

1. Having a logo that is easily recognisable to gain interest from the community in the Partnership and its work/role within the community.
2. Gaining quotes and hold meetings (with at least three prospective website designers) and report back findings for decision at SG meetings.
3. Creating a more user friendly website that is updated on a regular basis, by having a deadline and agreed protocol of work.
4. Working with the M&VCAP Administrator to create a comprehensive database to enable publicity for M&VCAP's work, Open Meetings and other Community Events.
5. Writing any press releases to publicise all M&VCAP Open Meetings and Events e.g. the Community Day in May 2010.
6. Publicising all new teams/groups, their role/work including the specific purpose and outcomes/impact of any team/group meetings, to help enable the formation and continued work of the team/group.
7. Working with the SG to promote one off or short term projects within the community.
8. Producing (when required) all other publicity materials required by the Partnership and its teams/groups, in the context of their work e.g. at external community events.
9. Applying and obtaining funding on behalf of the P & C team so that the above objectives happen

Cycle Routes into Malmesbury

Negotiations re land ownership are still ongoing for the section between Malmesbury and Cowbridge. Also talks are ongoing with Sustrans.

Malmesbury Area Pathwatch is currently planning the production of a leaflet of circular walks in the area by means of the public footpath network. The aspiration is to include between six and eight walks of varying lengths radiating in all directions from Malmesbury, and the plan is for this to be ready for publication in the spring or early summer this year, and widely distributed around the town and available in the Town Hall.

Transport Hub

This is working well at the moment. Malmesbury Town Council has the software to support this and use it regularly. All timetables for local busses, National Express and trains are covered. M&VCAP's task now is to analyse the responses from the survey and see where the Hub might help. From a casual glance it would appear that communication is lacking.

We have money put aside in our budget to cover training of staff and also further publicity for the Hub if required.

Cartmell Minibus

Part funded by M&VCAP with our logo on the back doors. To date a very successful initiative. Information can be found on the Town Council and Wiltshire Council website.

The rules for the hiring of the bus are clearly spelt out. We have money ring fenced for special local events which may not be self funding. The bus is charged at 85p/mile and the driver is either extra or gives his time free. It is available for hire by bona-fide organisations but this can be loosely applied. Disabled clubs and hard to reach organisations benefit from using the bus. The bus has 16 seats and seats can be removed for wheelchairs.

Community Safety Group

The purpose of The Community Safety Group of M&VCAP is as follows:-

In the original plan and the recently launched Plan (consultative document) most villages and Malmesbury expressed concerns about perceived safety problems, whether it be "speeding" the "bumps in Malmesbury" road conditions, pavements, or foot paths. With key people in place the group can take action to try and improve or eliminate these problems / concerns by liaising with the appropriate person in the Wiltshire Council or other statutory bodies.

Regular meetings are held. In October / November representatives of Parish Councils, Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service outlined the progress so far in their various topics.

The police outlined their priorities and reported on crime figures, the number of reported breakings, the up to date position on station yard and the pub-watch scheme. There was positive reaction to increasing the area of the pub-watch scheme. A presentation was given on the speed watch programme which operates in Dauntsey and Charlton, and a progress report on the proposed Malmesbury scheme.

Ian Mace of NHW outlined the purpose of the scheme and the need to increase the number of volunteers and areas that have NHW in place.

CCTV

The area board have agreed the £1750.00 +/- subject to Malmesbury Town Council agreeing to own and manage them (with M&VCAP assistance) (MTC have now agreed to this). Although it was minute and approved in both the November 2009 and January 2010 full council meeting, another meeting is being arranged to put in place a report to be heard during the March Council meeting.

Future Events/Dates for the Diary:

1st April 2010 Community Safety Event at the Kings Arms Hotel, Malmesbury commencing at 7pm



Signed:

Co-ordinator/Administrator for M&VCAP

Dated: 18th February 2010