

Chippenham Area Board – Monday 14 November 2011

ITEM 5(iii)

Chairman's Announcements

Time Credits Project

Wiltshire Council has been chosen by the government and department of health to work with three other local authorities on introducing a new time credits programme. The other Councils are Lewisham, West Norfolk and Lancashire.

Time credits is a simple tool that encourages more people to get involved in their local community by rewarding every hour of time they give with one time note, or credit. These credits can then be used by them, or a friend or relative, to attend training courses or local events and activities, as well as at participating businesses, such as cinemas and other leisure outlets.

Proposals include starting our Wiltshire time credits project in the Chippenham community area, working closely with the Children's Centres and families and also with the schools and residents of local housing associations. Work is underway planning how the scheme will be developed – we are working closely with a social enterprise called Spice, which has successfully introduced time credit schemes in Wales over the past seven years.

Some workshops held at Chippenham college on October 13th consulted over 70 local people on how the scheme will develop in Chippenham and the villages. This will involve working with many people, groups and networks in the area, including the community area partnership and the area board.

Pauline Monaghan of The Rise Trust, which runs the three children's centres in Chippenham attended the event and said:

"This was the best piece of public consultation I have ever attended. It was brilliantly run and gave people the chance to really shape this wonderful initiative. I think this scheme will give children and young families the opportunity to get involved in improving their communities. They can also bank credits so they can get better things and opportunities for themselves. I think it will build a better sense of community in the Chippenham area."