

MINUTES

Meeting: DEVIZES AREA BOARD
Place: Devizes Sports Club, London Road, Devizes SN10 2DL
Date: 23 January 2012
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.50 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer), on 01249 706610 or alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Laura Mayes (Chairman), Cllr Jeffrey Ody, Cllr Jane Burton (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE and Cllr Liz Bryant

Wiltshire Council Officers

Mandy Bradley (Service Director), Richard Rogers (Community Area Manager) and
Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer)

Town and Parish Councillors

Devizes Town – Ted East, Peter Evans*, Sue Evans, Simon Fisher (Deputy Town
Clerk), Ray Pearsons, Margaret Taylor and Ray Taylor
Bromham – Jean Collens and Jo Partt*
Cheverell Magna – Chris Hall, Ann Lumb and Lynda Wearn*
Easterton – Chris Saunders*
Erlestoke – Stan Jonik
Etchilhampton – Mervyn Woods
Great Cheverell – Jane Andrew and Thomas Andrew
Potterne – Tony Molland*
Roundway – Anthony Batchelor and A Wooldridge
Rowde – Jackie Bawden
West Lavington – Peter Baxter and Julia Ford

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ron Peach and Superintendent Matt Pullen

Wiltshire Police Authority – Cllr Chris Humphries
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Devizes Community Area Partnership – Simon Jacobs, Doug Roseaman and Tony Sedgwick

Gazette and Herald – Jill Crooks

St Mary's Future Group – Tony Scorer

Total in attendance: 124

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>Councillor Mayes welcomed everyone to the Devizes Area Board youth themed meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Mayes then asked people to help encourage walking in Devizes by clearing away any foliage overhanging paths from private gardens.</p> <p>She drew attention to the Chairman's announcements included in the agenda pack. The Localism Act received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. Although the Act contained a number of important measures, most of these were not yet in force. It was anticipated that the key areas would come into force from April 2012. The Government had produced a guide to the Act, which summarised the main measures as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New freedoms and flexibilities for local government • New rights and powers for communities and individuals • Reform to make the planning system more democratic and effective • Reform to ensure that decisions about housing were taken locally. <p>Land adjacent to the Caen Hill Flight had been chosen as a Diamond Jubilee Woodland in partnership with the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This would secure the site as public open space for the foreseeable future, a very positive outcome for Devizes and the surrounding villages.</p> <p>The area board had been asked by the Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire to participate in a unique event in Salisbury Cathedral and Close to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The area board had been asked to fill a jousting style tent with items to celebrate Wiltshire's history and all that was good in the local area. The intention was for each area board in the county to be represented in Salisbury. Please contact the Community Area Manager, Richard Rogers, on 07771 547522 or richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk if you had any good ideas about what should go in the tent to represent Devizes.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had also produced a toolkit to help if you or your town or parish council would like to plan a local celebration event. Please email 2012celebrations@wiltshire.gov.uk if you would like to be sent one.</p> <p>Please note, there would be a public budget consultation forum on Tuesday 24 January at 6.30 pm at The Corn Exchange.</p> <p>Please also find an update on the Wiltshire Core Strategy attached to the minutes.</p>

2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Nigel Carter, Chris Callow (Roundway Parish Council) and Paula Winchcombe.</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2011 would be approved and signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment that the x ray facilities in Devizes were being repaired rather than replaced and should be in operation from mid February.</p>
4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
5.	<p><u>You Decide</u></p> <p>Six projects led by young people were invited to present their applications for funding from Devizes Area Board. People at the meeting were each given an electronic voting handset and asked to vote if they were in favour of the project or otherwise. The Chairman explained that each group of young people were given five handsets, regardless of how many individuals were linked to the group, to make the procedure fairer.</p> <p>After the excellent presentations, the Chairman stated there would also be some prize money awarded. Prizes would be made to the group that gave the best presentation, the most innovative project put forward and the room's favourite project.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Netball in Devizes were awarded £2,000 towards an academy for 12-16 year olds in Devizes.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Wrestling in Rowde were awarded £1,912 (in an amendment to the agenda) towards tuition for a wrestling course and two sumo suits. They were also awarded an additional £75 for the most innovative project.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The wildlife area at Southbroom School was awarded £2,000 to develop an existing boundary of trees. They were also awarded an additional £75 for the best presentation and £200 for being the room's favourite project.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Mixing in Potterne were awarded £1,270.87 towards DJ equipment and tutoring.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p>

	<p>Table tennis in Cheverell Magna were awarded £598 towards all weather table tennis tables.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Conservation in Devizes School were awarded £600 to develop a conservation area.</p>
6.	<p><u>Devizes Skate Park and BMX Update</u></p> <p>Two potential sites had now been identified for a skate park in Devizes; Station Road and Green Lane. A noise survey was required for each site and this had been commissioned and would go ahead next month. The intention was for both sites to be ready for consultation from Easter 2012.</p> <p>With regards to BMX provision, Wiltshire Council owned a full site at Windsor Drive, after a quarter of the site was donated to the project by the developer who had owned it. BMX users would be involved in the design of the project. If there were no problems or objections, then installing it by this summer was a realistic timeframe.</p> <p>The update was followed by a short question and answer session. Main points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over local traffic • Maintenance of the facility • Timescale – the BMX project was moving faster than the skate park as this was a less expensive and intrusive facility • The skate park at Rowde had been identified as a model for Devizes (though Devizes would be on a larger scale). <p><u>Resolution</u> Devizes Area Board were in full support of the skate park and the BMX projects moving forward at the earliest opportunity.</p>
7.	<p><u>Progress on the Future Use of St Mary's Church Building</u></p> <p>Tony Scorer, Project Manager for the St Mary's Future Group, gave a short update about where the group was in the planning process, how St Mary's would be run and project funding since the last report made to the area board in 2009.</p> <p>St Mary's Church had effectively been made redundant as a place of worship in 2006. A survey had been conducted which had found that the church building would best be employed for community use. A business plan had been developed and an architectural competition had been held. From this, Batterham Matthews Design Limited were selected as the chosen architect for the project. Their proposed design was based on cloisters set into the churchyard. Permission from Wiltshire Council and the Salisbury Diocese was required before the work could start taking place.</p>

	<p>A charity, St Mary's Future Group, had been set up to run the building and ensure the church would be revitalised as a community asset. If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact Reverend Canon Paul Richardson, on 07747 583954 or admin@stjohnwithstmary.org.uk or Tony Scorer, Project Manager St Mary's Future Group, on 01380 720168 or tonyscorer@yahoo.com.</p> <p>There was then a short question and answer session. This covered the points below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The acoustics of the church building were good for singing • Regular worship would continue in the church building • St Mary's Future Group had a funding team who were working to make up the shortfall in funding • Plans were being made to attract the wider community into the church building – there were, for example, opportunities for Wharf theatre productions to be staged.
8.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The written update from Wiltshire Police was noted. Inspector Ron Peach introduced Superintendent Matt Pullen. He explained that it had been a busy year for the county and Marlborough, Devizes and Pewsey had been handed to the special constabulary to manage for a weekend in a trial to see how they would cope. The special constabulary had done an excellent job and it was reassuring for the county to know this contingency arrangement was in place. Police visibility in villages was being increased and a schedule of their visits was available on the Wiltshire Police website. 125 young people had attended the previous Blues n Zuz pyjama party and the next event was a cops and robbers themed disco on 17 February 2011. b. The written update from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service was noted. c. The written update from NHS Wiltshire was noted. The Chairman explained that Lisa Hunt, the new deputy Chief Executive for the Royal United Hospital, had attended the meeting to confirm that x ray facilities in the town would be repaired. d. Devizes Community Area Partnership would expand on the written update included in the agenda pack in the succeeding item. e. The Traffic Working Group had had a good meeting with a presentation from Whistley Lane residents. A review of speeds on A and B roads had taken place and a review of C roads was due to commence in spring this year. Whistley Lane, Conscience Lane and Folly Road would be included in this stage of the review. The Chairman reported that crossings at Rowde were proceeding and the traffic model had been validated. The model had found that 70% of traffic in Devizes was locally generated and

	<p>the intention was to reduce this by 5%. A challenge was to reduce the number of short journeys made in the town. St Peter's School had been contacted regarding producing a travel plan. The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved.</p> <p>Councillor Gamble then addressed the meeting about concerns over lorries travelling through Great Cheverell. The High Street road was too narrow for two lorries to pass. There were difficult turnings in the road and a low bridge was hazardous for high vehicles.</p> <p>A signage change had been made at the end of 2011 to direct traffic to an alternative route; however complaints and concerns had since been raised by those residents affected. Given the concern expressed at the meeting about the suitability of both the original and the alternative route, the Chairman felt the area board did not have sufficient information to make a resolution on this issue.</p>
9.	<p><u>Devizes Community Area Partnership</u></p> <p>The purpose of Devizes Community Area Partnership was explained to the meeting. The Partnership had been asked to produce a community plan to supplement the Wiltshire Core Strategy and help shape local development until 2026. The aim was to publish this document by the end of February. The next stage in the process would be to work on how to achieve and deliver the community plan.</p> <p>The Partnership had 50 volunteers at present and seven thematic groups, who met on average four times a year (most work was conducted by email). These groups were; community area safety, culture and leisure, health and social care, housing and the built environment, countryside/land-based and the economy. Devizes Community Area Partnership were seeking more volunteers, please email admin@dcap.org.uk with the group(s) you would be interested in joining and any particular skills or experience you could offer, if you would like to become involved.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Devizes Area Board would release the second and final tranche funding of £5,819 to the Devizes Community Area Partnership.</p>
10.	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>Councillors were asked to consider the Community Area Grants report and make recommendations on the applications received. The Chairman clarified this funding was the funding awarded at each area board meeting and separate to that awarded to the young people's projects earlier in the meeting.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Devizes Lions Club were awarded £2,000 towards an annual coaching weekend.</p>

	<p><u>Reason</u> <i>While the application failed to meet all the 2011/12 grant criteria as an annual event, the grant was awarded as the community benefit from such a project would be substantial.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club were awarded £3,500 towards the purchase of the walled garden cricket club, on condition the additional funding required to make the purchase was secured.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the 2011/12 grant criteria and the club was well used with a large membership.</i></p> <p>The Chairman also reported that West Lavington had been awarded £100 towards printing a leaflet on rights of way to be used by all parish councils.</p>
11.	<p><u>Evaluation and Close.</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked those who were able to attend the meeting. A show of hands was taken as to whether a new start time for Devizes Area Board meetings of 6.30 pm, with refreshments available from 6.00 pm, was preferred. The vast majority of the room were in favour of this change in start time, which would be in place from the next meeting.</p>