



Parish Council Forum Update for Devizes Area Board March 2012

The Parish Council Forum met in January with eight parishes represented. Peter Hanson, Divisional Highways Manager was welcomed to discuss the role of the Parish Steward and to clarify what work can be expected of a Steward. Parishes were encouraged that they could make contact with Peter Hanson regarding any further queries. Separate discussions were needed with those responsible for maintaining rights of way.

At the same meeting parishes received a presentation about the DCAP consultation results and had a useful discussion about making the most of recreational facilities in the villages, envisaging how neighbouring parishes might liaise with one another to boost culture and leisure opportunities.

At the March meeting, where seven parishes were represented. Tony Sedgwick was welcomed as the new DCAP Chairman. He shared his vision of DCAP's role as a catalyst, enabling a variety of groups to take action in their community. He encouraged each parish to find an additional representative each, to sit on DCAP's thematic groups, in order to maintain a balance between the needs of the town and villages.

Parishes were hoping that new community groups would emerge and grow as a result of coming together to arrange celebration events for both the Royal Wedding in 2011 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Parishes which were still encountering difficulties in clarifying insurance arrangements for jointly run Jubilee events were encouraged to ask the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils for further advice.

Having identified a desire amongst a number of Parish Clerks to meet together for mutual support and the sharing of useful information, there has been difficulty finding a date and time that suits enough people. It is still intended that a gathering of interested clerks should take place.

The Parish Councils look forward to information and advice from the Area Board about Neighbourhood Plans. The date of the next Parish Council Forum will be notified to Parishes. It will not now take place on May 1st as this clashes with Jubilee celebration events in Salisbury.