

## Chippenham Area Board Chairman's Report 30/04/12

Area Boards have been in existence since Wiltshire became a Unitary Authority in May 2009.

After three years, there has been both praise and criticism.

Whilst accepting that we are still a long way from getting things exactly right, I remain convinced that Area Boards are the local face of what would otherwise seem a very remote and distant authority.

This last year has provided both challenges and results and it is right that we should look back at some of these events and remind ourselves how working with partners can enhance our Community Area.

Last May at Chippenham Town Hall we held our first Community Awards. I still remember the yell of delight from the Museum Volunteers when they received their well deserved recognition.

You helped us to select 5 priorities for the Area Board to focus on. Tonight you will be doing it again. It will be interesting to see if there are any changes.

In July, at the Neeld Hall, we were delighted to provide a temporary home to Jungle Jim, as part of the WOW Gorilla project from Monkton Park School.

The Area Board supported the launch of the Street Art Wall and would like to acknowledge our partners from the Police who ensured the success of the project by preparing the white background and supplying the paint, not to mention the ongoing support.

We welcomed the formation of a Shadow Campus Operations Board, and look forward to their plans for the future.

In September, we presented the case for a reduction in Car Parking charges, and in November the first hour was reduced to £1.00. A small success, but a success nonetheless.

We held two Participatory Budgeting Events for young people during the year and I hope we will be updated on the success of their projects in due course.

The Community Area Transport Group (CATG) met on 4 occasions through the year. It is worth noting that the CATG made 5 recommendations that were agreed by the Area Board:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Christian Malford	Footway Link/Pedestrian improvements	£6,000
Lowden/Rowden Hill	Pedestrian Refuges	£10,000
Pewsham/Forest Lane	Pedestrian/Cycle improvements	£4,000
Canal Road/Pewsham Way	New Footway link/improvements	£9,000
Queens Crescent	Pedestrian Crossing assessment	£1,500

**There were 15 Community Area Grants to various local projects. These ranged from a contribution for dust extraction for Wiltshire Wood Recycling and Camping equipment for 10<sup>th</sup> Chippenham Guides to improve toilet facilities at Chippenham Sports Club.**

**Area Board Projects included high visibility jackets and vests for door staff and funding Taxi Marshalls at peak times such as Christmas.**

**A continuing success is the Street Pastors scheme. These kindly people spend their weekend nights ensuring the safety of people who may be vulnerable when emerging into the night air having enjoyed themselves rather too well!**

**We had 95 Community Issues logged during the year of which 93 were resolved or referred to the appropriate service.**

**An important function of the Area Board is to hear from our fellow Councillors in the Town and Parishes. We are able to share good practice and pinch good ideas from our neighbours, in the nicest possible way!**

**Regretfully we have been unable to continue with the Just a Minute Newsletter due to resource issues. However, Vicky Welsh, our Community Area Manager has continued to develop the Community Area Network (CAN) and around 1500 people are signed up to receive it electronically.**

**At this point I would like to express my gratitude to Vicky for her hard work and support both to myself and Area Board Councillors.**

**We very much appreciate the participation and contributions made by Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and the updates from NHS Wiltshire. Not to forget Chippenham Community Area Partnership, Chippenham Vision Board, the Partnership of Schools, the Children's Parliament and the Community Area Young Persons Issues Group.**

**Finally, I would like to thank not only our visiting Cabinet Members, but our Service Director Parvis Khansari, his reassuring words and good humour have been very helpful to me.**

**Also, Penny Bell, the Democratic Services Officer, who among other things produces the minutes that I know you all read avidly.**

**Any suggestions for future agenda items are very welcome and we look forward to life after the Jubilee and Olympic Torch Celebrations!**

**Desna Allen**

