



Update for Devizes Area Board May 2012

Community Area Plan

DCAP is pleased to have published the new Community Area Plan following two years' worth of consultation and development. The Plan can be viewed at <http://www.dcap.org.uk/devizes-area-community-plan.html>. This planning will be a living document, the aim being to update it each year as different goals reach fruition and new issues arise.

Each thematic group is now developing strategies to bring to action the many goals of the new Plan. DCAP seeks to act as a catalyst, facilitator and enabler as a wide variety of Partners offer their skills and expertise in delivering the necessary projects and services. DCAP is beginning to see some thematic groups working together on specific projects, where issues are of concern to more than one group.

Thematic Groups

The Transport group now has a new Chairman – Kate Freeman of Devizes Passengers, enabling Tony Sedgwick to focus on his Chairmanship of DCAP. The group's priority continues to be reducing the impact of traffic Devizes, through the development of travel plans, and encouraging cycling, car sharing, and the use of public transport.

The Countryside and Environment group welcomes Ian Rose as its new Chairman. The name of the group has been changed to promote environmental and sustainability issues. DCAP thanks Cllr Chris Callow, the former Chairman of this group for his contribution to DCAP over the last few years and hopes he may be offer his services again when time permits.

The Housing Group continues to watch the progress of Wiltshire's Core Strategy in its journey to legalisation. A key priority for the group is the need for affordable housing for local people. It is hoped that the Parishes can work alongside the Housing Group to offer creative solutions for affordable homes in our villages. The group is working closely with Wiltshire Council on the fulfilment of the Wiltshire Older People's Accommodation Strategy

The Economy group is working closely with the Chamber of Commerce and has facilitated a relationship between Devizes School and local businesses, through which older pupils are offered a mentor from the world of business during their last year of school. It continues to seek ways to assist existing businesses to weather the storm of the economic downturn and to encourage new business start-ups. To this end DCAP has formed a close relationship with the Devizes Development Partnership to identify and cooperate on common interests.

The Culture and Leisure group's Chairman Doug Roseaman has been working tirelessly to identify which signposts in Devizes need updating / repairing and which bodies will then assume long-term ownership and maintenance of them. The group continues to look for creative ways to engage young people in local culture & leisure activities and partner with schools and local groups in doing this.

The Health & Social Care Forum has been renamed the Health & Wellbeing group. Chairs of these groups from several of Wiltshire's CAPs are waiting to engage with representatives of the new Clinical Commissioning Group, in an example of a cross-CAP project being initiated by the Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships (WFCAP). At the recent WFCAP conference representatives from different Community Areas were enabled to forge relationships and begin to work together on issues which are common to a number of towns and villages.

The Devizes Community Area Safety Committee next meets on June 13th.

Communication with the public

DCAP's recent newsletter is still available. It can be read on the DCAP website: www.dcap.org.uk. Hard copies are also available. If you would like some for your Parish or organisation please email admin@dcap.org.uk to place your request.

DCAP has invited commercial tenders for a more user-friendly web site with an integrated polling facility and allowing the public to register issues and problems. This work should be commissioned very shortly.

The next DCAP meeting will be the AGM which takes place on **Wednesday 6th June 2012 at 5.30pm at the Cheese Hall, Devizes**. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend and contribute to the debate.