



### ***Parish Council Forum Update for Devizes Area Board May 2012***

The Parish Council Forum met in May with five parishes represented. Esther Daly, Wiltshire Council Rights of Way warden was welcomed to discuss the work of her department, and the way in which Parishes could embark on voluntary maintenance schemes. Funding from a £60,000 pot could contribute to parish schemes of work. Applications could also be made to the Pathway Improvement Grant Scheme. There had been a suggestion that such a grant could enable Parishes / DCAP to create cycle links between the town and some of the villages.

Cllr Rick Rowland, Chairman of DCAP's Housing & Built Environment group discussed issues about the lack of affordable housing, especially in rural areas. He has offered to write a paper with information and guidance for parishes.

Ian Rose, the newly appointed Chairman of DCAP's Countryside & Environment group invited parishes to find representatives to work with him in the group, to ensure the group was not Devizes-centric. This invitation remains open for all of DCAP's thematic groups.

Richard Rogers reminded parishes to claim the money they had been granted for Jubilee celebrations by returning their letters.

Parishes are reminded that the Parish Council Forum is the place at which common issues can be explored and then passed on to the Area Board. In order for this to be an effective means of communication it is important for as many parishes to be represented as possible. It would be useful if each parish could email [admin@dcap.org.uk](mailto:admin@dcap.org.uk) with the day of week / week of month that their Parish Council meetings take place, in order to try to give representatives from each parish the opportunity to attend.

The next meeting of the Parish Council Forum will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm at Browfort.