

Chairman's Announcements

Malmesbury Area Board 5 September 2012

Substantive Highways Funding Scheme 2012/13

I am delighted to report that three schemes submitted by Malmesbury Community Area Transport Group (CATG) were successful in being awarded funding towards major schemes which we would otherwise have been unable to achieve. They are:

- Silver Street footway, Minety (£15,000)
- Pedestrian improvements, Sherston (£25,000)
- High Road footway, Ashton Keynes (£30,000)

In each case the parish councils have contributed towards the schemes in addition to the funding from Malmesbury CATG.

I think this achievement of the Malmesbury CATG (a subgroup of the area board) reflects the very successful way in which this group is operating.

Special Housing Event

The area board is hosting a special housing event specifically related to Malmesbury and the surrounding villages on Wednesday 3 October from 7.00 – 9.00pm in Malmesbury secondary school.

The programme is very varied and will include:

- Affordable housing
- Rural needs surveys
- Community right to build
- The Housing Register
- Social Housing
- Greensquare (Westlea Housing Association) including the potential impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and Neighbourhood issues
- Fuel Poverty
- Review of Allocations

This event is being held as a result of the concerns expressed by local people earlier this year and during the event you will have an opportunity to voice your views and opinions.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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Results of Mini Recycling Sites Review

Following the recent review and public consultation about mini recycling sites, the service will be reduced on 1 October 2012. This will primarily affect those sites used by schools (and not accessible to the general public), which include:

- Luckington Primary
- Malmesbury Upper/Lower
- Sherston Primary
- Somerford's Walter Powell Primary
- Minety Primary School
- Oaksey Primary School

In the case of schools, bins will be removed shortly after that 1 October 2012.

Plastic bottle and cardboard recycling will cease at Station Yard, Malmesbury mini recycling centre at the end of September, although existing paper, glass and can collections will remain.

Hands on Help to Ensure that the our Community Matters Blogsite for Malmesbury and Surrounding Villages Gets Off to a Flying Start

Local voluntary and community groups, town and parish councils are being invited to get a 'hands on' introduction to the Malmesbury and villages interactive community blogsite on Monday 17 September between 10.00am and 12.00pm at Malmesbury library.

Using the blogsite local people will be able to use virtual notice boards to find about local news, local debates, events, jobs, and volunteering. The site will be fully interactive and local people will be able to post stories and have their say on what other people are talking about and start their own conversations. There will also be a free channel for local organisations to publicise community events. Through social media we hope to make it easier for local people and groups to talk to one another.

So if you are involved with a local group or organisation and want to learn how easy it is to use and want to have a go, please come along and join us. To book your place please contact Miranda Gilmour email miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk as soon as possible as places are limited.

Answers Raised to Questions at Previous Area Board Meeting about Redoubling of Line Between Swindon and Kemble

The Network Rail position on Hullavington:

As part of the Great Western Route Utilisation Study (established in 2010), a number of new/reopened stations were identified by external stakeholders - Hullavington was not raised and we have had no approach since to discuss reopening this station. However, we are always happy to work with third parties to achieve their aspirations, subject to a firm funding commitment; supportive feasibility and business case analysis. We have also produced a guide to outline the required process for third parties who wish to invest in stations.

We are aware of aspirations for a reopened station near Wootton Bassett on the Great Western Main Line and as part of the Swindon – Kemble redoubling scheme provision exists for a potential new station at North Swindon, should this be required with funding confirmed by third party proposers.

The Network Rail position with regards to a footpath at Minety:

The level crossing proposals at Minety are reasonably well advanced and the current proposal is to lower the road and footpath. We are looking at dropping the road by up to 300mm over the crossing surface, however, this is all subject to approval from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) and highways; we have had a preliminary meeting with the ORR, but until we submit ground plans and crossing orders for consultation I am unable to provide any further clarity.

Supermarket Update

Both applications for supermarkets in Malmesbury remain to be determined and the case officer is in discussion with the applicants regarding timescales for determination.