

Devizes Community Area Partnership Update:

The Forum met on 4 September, and has been discussing the benefits for communities in the provision of Outdoor Gym equipment, Trim Trails, and the concept of Green Gyms. All are capable of starting small and growing with the availability of funds and space, although none are without challenges in their organising, locating, and maintaining amongst other issues. It is hoped that parishes will consider the benefits to be gained for their local communities, when the more traditional indoor gyms are located either in schools or further afield in Devizes and other towns. Having easy access in the open air can also seem less forbidding to many, providing added incentive to have a go. Further publicity and encouragement will be offered through a proposed future joint meeting of the DCAP Health & Wellbeing Interest Group and the Parish Council Forum, with invited presentations from the Public Health dept. and potential suppliers.

The Forum has now filled five of the six available representative roles for parish councillors in DCAP itself, and continues to make itself available to parish councils to discuss matters of common interest or concern and to bring those shared experiences to the Area Board.

One matter that the Forum, or indeed many parishes themselves, have been unable to consider is the recently published consultation on the Devizes Transport Strategy, regretting the timing of its launch in the summer 'recess' period, and the length of time available (just a few weeks) for comment. It has proved virtually impossible for parishes to meet and consider a meaningful response, although the Forum is aware that the Transport Group of DCAP itself has made representations separately.