



Westbury

Area Board Review 2009 - 2013

Westbury Area Board is almost four years old!

Area boards were established as a new way of working in Wiltshire to bring local decision making back into the heart of the community. They are a formal part of Wiltshire Council that work to find solutions for local issues such as road repairs, traffic problems, speeding in villages, litter, and facilities for young people.

Since the Westbury area board held its first meeting back in July 2009, your councillors have been working hard to make big differences in your community area, and as the first four years of the area board come to a close, it provides an opportunity to look back over the period and review what your area board has achieved for you.

Acting on your concerns

Since 2009, local people have submitted more than 100 issues to the Westbury Area Board for action via the Community Issues System. Concerns raised cover a wide variety of subjects including speeding traffic, pedestrian safety, graffiti, litter, dog fouling, parking, HGV movements and anti social behaviour.

More than 80 per cent of these issues have now been resolved and the remainder are under active consideration. Just a few of the actions taken include the formation of local Community Speedwatch groups to tackle speeding, the launch of a dog fouling awareness campaign and the installation of pedestrian crossings.

One of our most recent projects concerns the transport to the newly opened White Horse Health Centre. Following local concerns the board is funding an awareness campaign to help people make the most of the local bus service. The board also funded signage, dropped kerbs and bus stops for the routes to the new centre.



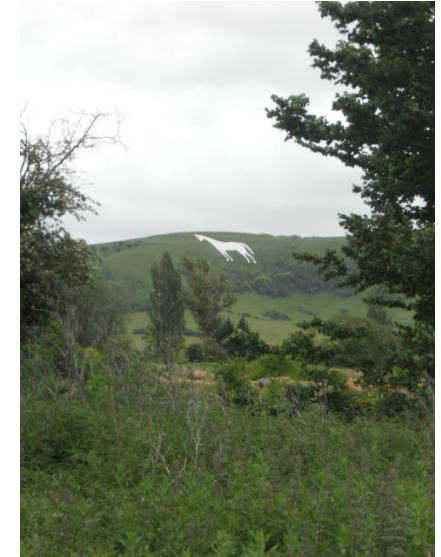
Focusing on community needs and priorities

Working with you

The Area Board ran the Westbury Forward event at the Laverton to work with you to identify key priorities. These were eventually embedded in the latest Westbury Community Area Plan.

Following this event, the area board together with its partners took action on a range of highlighted issues and concerns. Here are just a few:

- More help for vulnerable families – the area board has funded a range of parenting courses and children/family events
- Need for youth activities in rural areas – the area board funded a rural transport project to serve young people living into the villages
- Concerns about childhood obesity – the area board funded a Healthy Eating project with local schools
- Need to boost local heritage and pride in area - the area board funded a blue plaque trail and interpretation boards highlighting local history and interest. The board also helped fund the restoration of the iconic White Horse.



Stepping outside the box



While formal public meetings are only one aspect of the area board's work, we have rotated these between venues in Westbury, Heywood and Bratton so as to ensure that the board is actively seen as representing the concerns and interests of the wider community area. But we know that formal meetings aren't for everyone so we have worked hard to reach as many people as possible by holding events outside of the usual arena of the council meeting, by staging informal special events and by keeping in touch with regular newsletters and newspaper coverage. We are shortly to launch a community blogsite which we hope will be another way of keeping in touch and getting community involvement

We held a successful Saturday open day in the centre of Westbury where we invited all our partners to have stands providing a one stop shop for

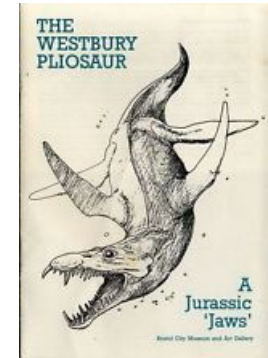
information and action as well as enabling people to chat face to face with their local councillors. Following our successful marquee at the Royal Jubilee event we wanted to ensure local people got a chance to see the exhibits as well as learn more about the area board so we staged a well attended (200 plus visitors) show at the local heritage centre. We also ensure the area board has a presence at other events like street fairs



A year of celebration!



In 2012 the area board supported the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Grants were made to the town and surrounding villages to help support a range of celebration activities that benefitted the whole community. In addition, a tent showcasing our area was on display in Salisbury Cathedral Close for the Queen's visit. The Westbury tent was specially honoured to be selected for a visit by both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Items on display ranged from the reproduction skull of a gigantic pliosaur to the Bratton community orchard. Young people from Westbury Youth centre served smoothies and music was provided by recorders and lutes. The board staged a further display at the heritage centre in Westbury which attracted more than 200 visitors.



The area board also supported another Royal project with the purchase through the Bratton community orchard of a special Wiltshire species of apple tree that we donated to the Queen and which is now planted in Windsor Castle gardens.



Two projects backed and funded by the area board have also been cause for celebration. The community orchard at Bratton won a countywide award in the 2011 Voluntary and Community Service awards scheme while the Crosspoint Welcome centre in the Market Place was runner up in the 2012 awards.

Supporting community groups

Since its formation in 2009, the Westbury Area Board has awarded over £151,000 to support local community projects in the area, benefiting all ages from the very young to the elderly. Here are just some of the many projects supported:

- Reeves Orchard Community Project Bratton – tools to use for maintenance
- Trowbridge Tigers – LGBT football festival
- Coulston Village Hall Management Committee – replacement chairs
- Westbury Art Group – secure storage for art materials
- Bratton Pavilion Management Committee – upgrade toilets
- Leigh Park Community Centre – set up funding
- Dilton Memorial Hall – installation of windows and doors
- Westbury Town Council – Diamond Jubilee celebrations & White Horse renovations
- Bratton Recreation Ground Committee – resurfacing car park
- Dilton Marsh Leisure Development Group – leisure facilities
- Dilton Marsh Flower and Handicraft Show – tables for flower show
- Edington Recreation & Leisure Action Committee – Diamond jubilee celebrations
- Dilton Marsh Carnival and Party in the Park – carnival and party in the park
- Bratton Jubilee Hall Management Committee – table replacement project
- Heywood & Hawkeridge, Bratton Parish Councils – Diamond jubilee celebrations
- The Jubilee Players – Scenery, sound and lighting
- Dog fouling awareness campaign
- Set up of job club at Crosspoint
- Dental health awareness campaign
- Bratton Silver Band – new instruments
- Bratton and Coulston – village allotments



Village allotments

Village and community halls from the traditional to the modern have benefited from area board funds



You can see the full details about where the area board spent its grant funds on our [Google map](#)

Working with older people



The area board has been working on the [Wiltshire Voices project](#) with a focus on the needs of older people.

The project, which aims to give a voice to older people in our community, was launched with a stakeholder event involving individuals and organisations from Age UK to Carers Support. There followed a series of workshops and focus groups where older people in our community got the chance to air their views, issues and concerns. This has resulted in a film produced by BAFTA Award winning film makers True Vision. The film which will be publicised across the county, will be launched in Westbury in February.

Working in partnership



Volunteers from the local Ramblers group helped build steps from the White Horse viewing area

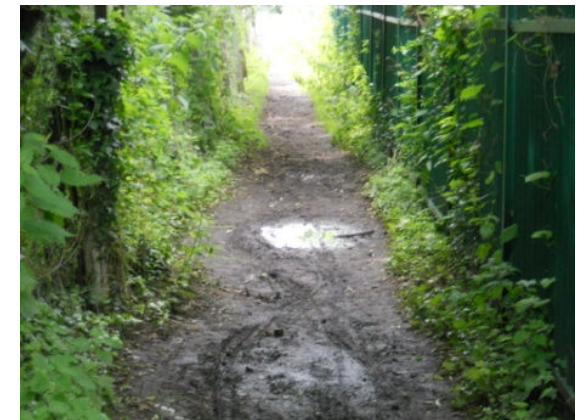
The area board works right in the community with a whole range of partner organisations and community groups and volunteers. These range from town and parish councils through to youth groups, the police, the White Horse Health Centre, Crosspoint, sports and leisure groups, schools, nurseries, community halls, residents groups - the list is endless. One of our key partners is the BA13+ Community Area Partnership which worked with the area board to develop a [community area plan](#) outlining the area's needs and priorities.



Local highways improvements

The area board has set up a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) to prioritise local highway improvements. It consists of representatives from Westbury and the villages along with the police and highways officers. We have a delegated budget and each year look to make improvements in the area. Recently delivered schemes have included:

- Westbury: coloured road markings at town entrances to reduce speeding
- Westbury: installation of pedestrian crossing on Warminster Road
- Improved pedestrian signage on main routes in and around town centre
- Increased dropped kerbs to aid mobility
- New crossing at the White Horse Health Centre
- Speed Indicator Device programme
- Improvements to footpaths
- Pedestrian /pupil safety scheme in Springfield Road



A word from your area board



The area board is intended to represent the public face of Wiltshire Council locally within our community area and over the first four years of our new unitary council that is what we have sought to do. Thank you to all those many people who have contributed so enthusiastically to the work of the area board over the first four years. The board is part of your community so please do continue to help shape its future development in the years ahead. The Westbury area board has four members. They are **Mike Cuthbert-Murray** (Westbury East Tel: 07738 873640), **Julie Swabey** (Ethandune Tel: 01380 830043), **David Jenkins** (Westbury North Tel: 01373 823605) and **Russell Hawker** (Westbury West Tel: 01373 822275). Your community area manager is Sally Hendry (01373 864714). Everyone is welcome to attend our area board meetings and you will get the chance to have your say on a variety of local concerns and issues. The

meetings are held every six to eight weeks in a variety of locations around the Westbury area. For more information about your area board, to raise a local issue, apply for grants or look at our agendas and minutes please visit our website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

