

South West Wiltshire Area Board Priorities 2013/14

ACTION LOG

Area prioritised by Area Board	Issue identified	Action identified	Latest update (16 October 2013)
1 - Economy, jobs and skills	Assisting existing small / medium sized businesses and encouraging new businesses	Support required for managing role (business mentor)	Wiltshire Business Support Service is available through Wiltshire Council partnership with Wessex Chambers. More information available at http://www.wessexchambers.org.uk/business-support/introduction.php .
		Favourable business rates for new businesses	Tisbury campus site will benefit from successful European funding bid for business incubation units. Consultation on Tisbury campus business and workshop space closed on 27 Sept 13.
		Supporting the needs of local businesses	Area Board project approved on 6.2.12, to support work of local businesses through the local business chambers/association for a series of projects that will be delivered over 2 year period. 6 month update provided at Area Board meeting on 16 Oct 13. Includes close working with the AONB, particularly in connection with sustainable rural tourism pilot programme in the Nadder Valley.
	Cost of heating oil	Bulk buying schemes	Bulk buying scheme available through Community First; more information available at http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/index.php/cf-bulk-oil-buying . Service has been promoted through blogsite and newsletters.
	Broadband / mobile phone reception	Increase in downloading speeds, filling in 'not spots.'	£35.6 million project announced - Wiltshire Council, in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, has agreed a deal with BT which should enable 91 per cent of homes and businesses in the Wiltshire authority area to have access to world class broadband speeds by the end of March, 2016. The remaining premises within the project area will see a significant improvement in their speeds with the vast majority receiving greater than 2Mbps. Installation of new fibre network due to begin in Wilton community area in early 2014 and Mere/Tisbury community areas in late 2014. The Area Board will receive area specific updates in the future as they are made available. More information available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireonline . Grant funding awarded to East Knoyle Village Website on 17.10.12 to complement infrastructure work. Digital Literacy grants available through the Area Board. Volunteer co-ordinators recruited in area as part of Wiltshire Online Digital Literacy programme. Ron McKinlay in Mere, Mike Lennard in Tisbury and Wilton.

	Promoting tourism / training opportunities	More awareness of events happening across the community areas	Community blogsite launched in September 2012. Weekly mailshot sent to Community Area Network. Professional cycle tour race due to take place in Wilton in 2013/14. 2012 Legacy discussed at AB meeting on 17.10.12; AB open to consider grant funding applications for events in 2013. Area Board agreed on 6.2.13 to fund expenses for an intern to work alongside AONB on their sustainable rural tourism pilot programme in the Nadder Valley. Community Area Manager continuing to work closely with AONB on this project; new walking routes promoted with cycling/horse trekking routes due to be released in coming months.
	Youth unemployment	Transportation required - cost of car insurance and fuel means car ownership not viable	Plans to provide educational training at Tisbury Community Campus are part of proposal agreed by Cabinet.
		Young people need to be able to access local, relevant training opportunities	Plans to provide educational training at Tisbury Community Campus are part of proposal agreed by Cabinet. Wiltshire apprenticeship campaign launched in Salisbury on Tuesday 9th October 2012 http://bit.ly/Orhjrj
		Volunteering a way into work	Volunteering item brought to Area Board in June 2012 to raise awareness. Local groups/organisations engaged to promote opportunities on new community blogsite.
2- Health and the Environment	Water supply / demand	Represent interests of South West Wiltshire community areas to ensure future water supply is secured	Wessex Water grid project in progress, aiming to improve supply and deal with water quality issues. Planned reduction of some abstraction licenses. Wessex Water is working with the Mere Rivers Group to undertake a trial to show the effect of water abstraction on the river; updates available at http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/threecol.aspx?id=10318
	Sustainable living	Promote toilet hippos / water butts and other forms of sustainable living	Opportunities to promote issues through the new community blogsite - information provided in March 2013 about free water saving devices being offered by Wessex Water (on blogsite and in newsletter).
	Highest rate of asthma per ... in Wilton out of all 20 Community Areas Wildlife	Establish reasons and suggest possible actions Create wildlife corridors and link all wildlife areas rather than isolated pockets, encourage biodiversity	WilCAP members were working on a report but this has now been stopped due to the dissolution of WilCAP. Burcombe PC received grant for community orchard and wildlife area in August 2012. The Area Board would encourage funding applications from other parishes that meet this aim.

	Health issues relating to aging population		WC consultation in Sept 2012 considering a strategy which aims to prevent older people from falling and breaking bones. Area Board granted funding for Nadder Close Gardening Club on 17.10.12 to launch group, enabling people to socialise and remain fit/healthy. Link established with Health Community Network and Community Health Awareness Team for future closer working.
3 - Housing	Affordable housing	Get empty homes back in use	Info sent out to Community Area Network re. Empty Homes Officer on 18.6.12. On 3rd October there were 109 properties identified as long term empty properties (more than 6 months), 5.91% of total number of empty properties, 1.08% of total number of households in area.
		Change social housing criteria	Area Board consulted on 17.10.12 on a future review of Wiltshire's Housing Allocations System. This led to an extraordinary meeting being held on 12.12.12 to explore issues around housing in more detail. Attendees were invited to vote and a majority voted that a priority for social housing should be given to those with a local connection to the area. This feedback from South West Wiltshire Area Board will form part of the full, future Housing Allocations review. Further details on this are available - please email stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk . Area Board Councillors due to meet with New Housing Officers on 17 Oct 13 to discuss building of affordable homes in SW Wiltshire.
		Local houses for local people	
		Key worker housing	

