

COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOP 22ND June

Held at Lyneham Primary School

Invitees

Parish & town councils
Chamber of Commerce & Bus Assn
Key Community groups
Schools
NPT team
Leisure Centres managers
Youth & community development officers

Attendees total no 19 representing the following organisations:

WB & C Area Board
Cricklade Town Council
Wootton Bassett Town Council
Broad Town Parish Council
Lydiard Millicent Parish Council
Lydiard Tregoze Parish Council
Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council
Purton Parish Council
RAF Lyneham
St Bartholomew's C of E V A Primary School
Cricklade Business Association
NCAP (Northern Community Area Partnership)
WFCAP (Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships)

Apologies

Cllr Jacqui Lay WB & C Area Board
Shelley Parker Cricklade TC

The workshop explored different aspects and functions of the community planning process, and how they could work effectively in the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area.

HOW LOCAL COMMUNITIES WORK

There exist in the community area a variety of successful local organisations and clubs. These effectively engage people with shared interests. It was noted that there are many active groups for older people and the Age Concern Support Network.

Information is disseminated through notice boards, newsletters and magazines as well as by word of mouth, in pubs, shops, school playgrounds, Hive info centre and parish halls.

Public & civic events, fetes and carnivals attract local people who are ready to give their views and engage in face -to -face consultation.

The NPT is well established within the community and is working well.

THE COMMUNITY PLAN

- The community plan requires ongoing work to keep it up to date, to be robust, and to be representative of the needs of the wider community.

There was agreement that in order to keep the community plan relevant and robust, there was a need for an organised and co-ordinated approach, and that could best be achieved by a dedicated project worker.

It was suggested that achievable issues should be identified and targeted on a rolling basis. The results should then be recorded as part of the community plan, and success measured.

A model was given of the NPT task groups.

A request was made for examples of success stories where other community plans had made a difference.

WORKING TOGETHER

- In order to plan for the whole community area and to work effectively with the area board, parish and town councils need to work together.

There was an agreement that issues or projects should drive any working together by parishes and towns. Most issues cross boundaries and there should be a flexible model.

Although the concept of parish alliances or clusters was discussed it was not felt that these would be of value unless they were formed to address specific issues. There should be a flexible model enabling the various parishes to come together as issues arise.

It was suggested that there could be separate network for the rural parishes, also that hubs could be formed around the 2 market towns.

It was suggested that an up to date register of town and parish councillors was made readily available.

EFFECTIVE NETWORKING & COMMUNICATION

It was agreed that a variety of mechanisms should be used for different purposes in order to achieve effective communications throughout the community area.

Those methods which already work in the area had been noted when exploring what works in the community.

There was a need for improved connectivity and broadband speeds.

Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter bridge generations and provide interactive opportunities but need regular input and monitoring.

There was a need for an investment of time and resources into local community web-sites and on-line forums.

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