

New partnership arrangements for Salisbury

Report of the outcome of a roundtable discussion held at City Hall, Salisbury on 7th March 2014

Present:

Wiltshire Council	Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Ian Tomes, Steve Milton and Ariane Crampton.
Salisbury City Council	Cllrs Michael Pope, Mike Osment, Patricia Fagan, Margaret Willmot, Tom Corbin, Caroline Corbin and Annie Child (Assistant Clerk).
Wiltshire Vision	Richard Walters
Salisbury BID	Amanda Newbury
Salisbury Greenspace Partnership	Nicola Lipscombe
Salisbury Arts Centre	Simon Morris
Salisbury Festival	Helen Neal
Salisbury Playhouse	David Orme
RSA	John Potter
WfCAP	Laura Pictor
SCCAP	Debrah Biggs

Introduction:

The roundtable was arranged by Salisbury Area Board to discuss and agree new community partnership arrangements for the City. The board had drafted a proposal that was presented at the start of the meeting – [view online](#). In brief, this proposes a new local partnership arrangement that:

- moves away from a formal organisation-led approach towards a more open network of existing community groups
- focuses on supporting existing community groups in the City, rather than duplicating or controlling activity.
- works alongside and in partnership with the Area Board and City Council.
- focuses on encouraging and supporting practical community-led actions by existing community groups
- builds stronger relationships and improves communication between existing community groups
- brings community groups together to identify shared priorities for action in Salisbury and provides a way of coordinating action to take those priorities forward.
- encourages community-led activity at neighbourhood level by supporting existing neighbourhood groups.

The Board's proposed partnership model is summarised below:

- Establishing a small, informal group to coordinate and represent the network
- Improved use of social media and regular email contact
- Adopting a thematic and issue based approach
- Periodic informal meet-ups and social events
- Asset mapping and resource sharing across the City

- A biennial priority setting and action planning conference linked to the Joint Strategic Assessment for Salisbury

Points emerging from the discussions:

Following discussion of the proposed approach around tables, the following points were reported back:

- Broad support for the overall approach and direction of travel
- Welcome the focus on supporting existing groups
- Appreciate the work that SCCAP has done to establish a local partnership approach and produce a community plan.
- There is a need for arrangements to span strategic and local issues and to work collaboratively across community areas
- Thematic approach welcomed, important to work with interested groups to tackle local themes – such as flooding, young people, etc.
- Important to establish effective communications channels – possibly supported by community reporters
- Make use of the established and well recognised ‘Our Community Matters’ branding and media channels.
- Important to consider how this will be resourced, project funding is available but support to maintain the network not yet established.
- Salisbury City Council very effectively engaged with thematic work and opportunity to build more effective partnership with the area board
- Important to support and build on existing work in the City – get the right groups to lead on specific themes.
- Is there available revenue funding to support the approach?
- Flexibility is key to making the new arrangements work effectively.
- Wessex Community Action still a key local network for the VCS and this should be incorporated into new arrangements
- Could a collaborative approach to supporting the new arrangements be developed with different groups leading on different themes?
- Whatever arrangement is adopted can it keep bureaucracy to a minimum and focus on doing things.
- Would there still be a Chair or would there be leads for different areas of work?
- Direct available resources at projects and not admin.
- Is there adequate funding to support local projects? The area board funding is limited and capped at £5k per project – is this enough?
- Would SCC be open to a request to help coordinate the approach? They have not been formally approached.
- Theme groups need to be rationalised to remove duplication and overlap, but they do have an important role.
- Will the SCCAP database be available if they are no longer leading the work?
- Can the event on 27th March at the Arts centre be used to promote the new approach and build awareness?
- New arrangements may be able to help facilitate the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the City.