

## BA13+ Partnership Report

The BA13+ Community Area Partnership met on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. The evening's theme was HOUSING, with particular reference to the Key Issues identified in our current Community Plan:

Key issue & aspirations	Suggested action from consultation	Actions since last publication	Partners involved
1 Match the provision of new affordable housing to local demographics and housing need.	Integrate more affordable homes and social housing with appropriate infrastructure. Location and mix of housing to be peppered rather than clustered, with more 'shared ownership' and priority for local young people & families.	Neighbourhood Plan steering group set up.	Wiltshire Council, developers, housing associations.
1 Empty Homes Initiative – work to pro-actively bring some of the empty homes back into use.	There are allegedly up to 60 empty homes in the Westbury Area. A list needs to be established of where they are. An Empty Homes Initiative Officer should work with landlords to help them take part in bringing homes back into use – include farm buildings in rural areas.		Town Council; Wiltshire Coun

Unfortunately the Head of Neighbourhoods at Selwood Housing was unavailable to give a presentation at short notice; however the meeting enjoyed a presentation by Wiltshire Council's Head of New Housing, Janet O'Brien, who gave an overview of their work, and followed up with a focus on empty homes, which is a significant local issue.

At the subsequent Steering Group meeting, which took place on Tuesday of this week at Crosspoint, it was agreed that since the sum available for grants was dwindling, a new upper rate of £250 per application was to set with immediate effect.

Phil McMullen, BA13+ Partnership Coordinator