



Community Engagement Report – Devizes Nov 23

The Devizes Area Board in June 23 agreed local priority themes for the year, each of which has one or more specific local actions associated with it. Some of the recent progress made includes:

Addressing Climate change and protecting the environment

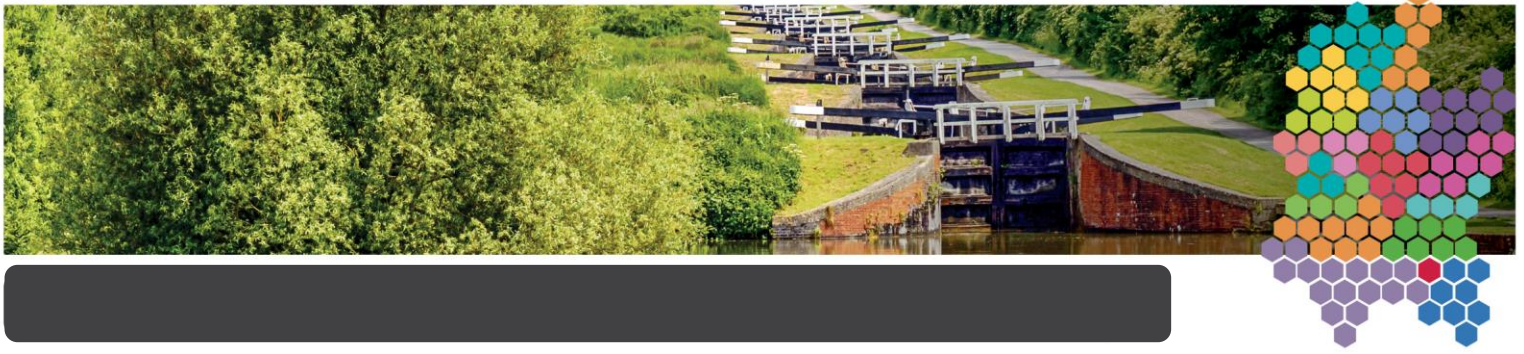
- The Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) bus service introduced in the summer for the Pewsey Vale is going very well with patronage up over 25% compared with 2022. The new service from Devizes to Marlborough is now also running.
- The Town Centre bus service review is unlikely to be implemented until after April 24. The key challenges are a severe shortage of bus drivers and costs for running the services increasing by over a third.
- We are working with Sustainable Devizes to improve air quality, engage the community in developing a shared vision for Devizes whilst delivering infrastructural improvements and behaviour change. A useful meeting with the cabinet member recently took place on how to deliver Devizes Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructural Plan (LCWIP).
- Work has been taking place to take forward the Devizes Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and a helpful and productive meeting has taken place with the Cabinet Member for highways to share our plans and gather support.



Improve opportunities for children and young people / Increasing the safety of our communities / strengthening our local economy

We have been focussing upon work that encompasses all these three priorities including:

- 4Youth began their detached youth work in October operating 2 evenings a week in Devizes
- A bid is being finalised for the Million Hours Fund that will bring in additional resource to enable us to deliver more youth work than we currently do.
- A very useful meeting was held with the headteacher of Devizes School to discuss improving joint working and additional support of young people who would struggle to find employment.
- We are teaming up with a piece of work taking place in Devizes up until April 2024 and will work with a cohort of young people who have been identified as being at risk of moving into serious crime. The project is externally funded and will focus not just on prevention but also on community and interventions especially to help them into employment.
- We are looking to work with the PCN and partners to look into identifying and responding to the needs for young carers.



Valuing and supporting our vulnerable and older people

- Several meetings have taken place between partners to look at potential topics for a Neighbourhood Collaborative.
- Discussions are ongoing with the PCN to find ways to make Devizes more dementia friendly and provide activities for those with earlier stage dementia
- A networking event to bring together those who work in the health and wellbeing field is planned.