

AREA BOARDS IN WILTSHIRE

Workshops conclusions and findings

The following list sets out the most commonly raised issues during the table discussions

PEOPLE

- Making meeting more interesting – use themed agendas – crime/health/environment – linked to CA plans (13 stars)
- Getting the right issues on agenda (12 stars)
- More devolved powers to enable decision making – more visible/immediate results (11 stars)
- Greater publicity (not just in council), more ‘co-production’ with public partners, etc (8 stars)
- Engage with those who will never come to board meetings – more community consultations on community issues outside of meetings (6 stars)
- People need to feel confident that something will happen & that they are being listened to (5 stars)
- Suggestion that the best meetings and best agenda items are local ones, not imposed Wilts stuff (5 stars)
- Ask people what they want on the agenda (4 stars)
- Community groups under represented – do they know? Promote. (4 stars)
- Different venues are attracting new audiences (4 stars)
- (Young people) CAYPIGS recognised as a partner (4 stars)
- Need to engage parish Councils in agenda settings (3 stars)
- Apathy – 40% vote in general elections – national problem and a local challenge to motivate participation (3 stars)

POWER

- More real local issues that ABs can vote on (4 stars)
- More devolved powers (4 stars)
- What are the local priorities and plans? What is role of Abs in setting local priorities? (4 stars)
- Need to know what powers ABs actually have (4 stars)
- Less interference from the Centre/Council (4 stars)
- Too many conflicts of interest arising (4 stars)
- Let each AB come up with a wish-list of the powers it wants (3 stars)
- Spelling out what the ABs actually are & do (3 stars)
- Local issues that board can have control over are rushed at the end (3 stars)

PARTNERSHIP

- Clarify role of CAPs and Boards (10 stars)
- How is CAP held to account? (9 stars)
- Summarising what CAP is doing at area board – raise profile – put at top of agenda – written report and spoken (7 stars)
- Communication – newsletter, good news stories (5 stars)
- Possible conflict of interest – twin-hatted members (5 stars)
- Board too big/cluttered. Can be off-putting (4 stars)
- Boundaries need definition (4 stars)

PUBLICITY

- Must ask why would a member of the public would want to go to an Area Board? Make the agenda 'sexy/juicy' (7 stars)
- Use parish magazines to promote the Boards (6 stars)
- If more decisions were taken at meetings, people would be more interested – more decision making power should be devolved (5 stars)
- We need to publicise successes and link them back to the Abs. Evidence/results/outcomes – TANGIBLE – make it more relevant and personal. (5 stars)
- BUY space in local papers in weeks before ABs (4 stars)
- Find out what people want – what is relevant to them? What is on the agenda. And how it is worded (4 stars)
- Use of newspapers – lack of reporting in local press – need details of where, when and what is on the agenda (3 stars) .

PARISHES

- Ensure agenda reflects parish issues (6 stars)
- Council should go to Parishes to inform them about Boards/about parishes – more communication & education – also PCs can help tell public about ABs (5 stars)
- Sticking to time – chairmanship (5 stars)
- Being inclusive and drawing more people in (but make sure there's enough parking for those who come later!) (4 stars)
- Tangible projects/outcomes (4 stars)
- Special parish meetings (3 stars)
- Getting around the area (3 stars)
- Need clearer remit for PC/TC (3 stars)
- Meetings/working groups outside of Area Boards to feed into the AB (3 stars)