

Partner Update for Warminster Area Board

Name of Partner: Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP)

Date of Area Board Meeting: 10th September 2015

Headlines/Key Issues:

- Warminster Community Hub – a new facility is open staffed by experienced volunteers providing a much needed drop-in service following closure of the Warminster Information Centre. WVCP has created the Hub with grant support from Warminster Town Council and Warminster & Villages Development Trust. It is a centre for local residents and visitors to seek information about local activities, attractions, events, organisations and businesses serving the town and surrounding villages. It will also be part of the Safe Place & Dementia Friendly Town schemes to be rolled out in Warminster during the autumn.
- Updated Community Plan – WVCP has published the 2015 update of *Your Community Plan 2013-2026* for the Warminster area. The purpose of this plan is to help groups, service providers, Warminster Area Board and Wiltshire Council to tailor their services and direct funding more specifically to the Community Area's needs, as well as provide a guide for community groups and volunteers to take on projects where possible. *Your Community Plan* is a living document that results from extensive public consultation and is updated as projects progress and new priorities are identified. Appendices that support the Community Plan have been revised and increased to include: a directory of local organisations under the 10 themes of the Community Plan; publicity guidance for local events; and research of grant funding opportunities to assist clubs and community groups. The document can be viewed and downloaded from the Partnership's website via this link: <http://www.westwilts-communityweb.com/site/Warminster-and-Villages-Community-Partnership/Community-Plan.htm>.
- Social Isolation and Loneliness Survey 2015 – Age UK has completed the report commissioned by WVCP's Health & Social Care Group that consulted older people in Warminster. It notes that 'Warminster is a vibrant community where there are a great many activities that attract older people'. However over 50% of those surveyed felt lonely some, most or all of the time – well above the estimated national average of 5-16%. Closure of day centres has left a void and there is a long waiting list for befrienders in the town. The report observes that in order 'to achieve the best provision, all organisations – statutory, voluntary or commercial – need to work much more closely in effective partnership in the health and social care arena.'

Future Events/Dates for the Diary:

- WVCP Management Committee meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Organ Inn, Warminster in the meeting room upstairs.
- Notice of our Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 22nd September 2015, 6pm.

Ongoing projects:

- Economic and Tourism Group – monitoring of town scene and empty buildings; benchmarking; media contact list.
- Health and Social Care Group – monitoring and information sharing between organisations and the community.
- Current volunteering opportunities in the Warminster area can be accessed via the website www.volunteercentrewiltshire.org.uk/

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