

MINUTES

Meeting: DEVIZES AREA BOARD
Place: Devizes Bowls Club, Long Street, Devizes SN10 5BY
Date: 3 October 2011
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.25 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer), on 01249 706610 or alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Laura Mayes (Chairman), Cllr Jeffrey Ody, Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE and Cllr Liz Bryant

Wiltshire Council Officers

Richard Rogers (Community Area Manager) and Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer)

Town and Parish Councillors

Devizes Town – Ted East, Peter Evans*, Sue Evans and Simon Fisher (Deputy Town Clerk)

Bishops Cannings – G Mansell

Bromham – Jean Collen and Jo Partt*

Erlestoke – Dean Moore

Etchilhampton – M Woods

Roundway – Chris Callow*, John Parker, Rick Rowland, J Von Berg and A Wooldridge

Rowde – Peter Alfrey and Jan Barber

West Lavington – Julie Collins

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ron Peach

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Devizes Community Area Partnership – Margaret Nightingale

Gazette and Herald – Jill Crooks
Wiltshire Heritage Museum – David Dawson

Total in attendance: 103

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philippe, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning.</p> <p>Councillor Mayes explained that two late grant applications would be considered at the meeting, because the next Area Board meeting, on 28 November 2011, would be too late.</p> <p>Councillor Mayes congratulated the town for those involved in it winning a Gold Award in the Best in Bloom competition.</p> <p>Information was provided about a new free home insulation scheme and a youth club in Market Lavington. The new warm and well scheme was open to all home owners and private tenants and enabled residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes through installing loft and cavity wall insulation. To access the scheme, freephone 0800 512012, or go to http://www.warmandwell.co.uk.</p> <p>Market Lavington Youth Club reported they held the first meeting in the old school on 23 September 2011. The group had thanked the Area Board for their grant towards the purchase of equipment and its storage and West Lavington Youth Club for their help getting the meetings up and running.</p>
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies had been received from Hilary Burn, Hugh Burn, Councillor Burton, Roger Chadwick (Devizes Community Area Partnership), Chris Saunders (Easterton Parish Council), Paula Winchcombe (Devizes Community Area Partnership) and Noel Woolrych (Devizes Community Area Partnership).</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>To follow up a question raised at the last Area Board meeting, there was no byelaw for bonfires and their monitoring relied on statutory nuisance law. Consideration of a bonfire as a statutory nuisance would depend on various factors, such as the nature of the material being burnt and the frequency of the bonfire.</p>
4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Ody declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10a, the</p>

	<p>community area grant application from Wiltshire Heritage Museum. He left the room for this item and did not vote.</p> <p>Councillor Grundy declared a personal interest in the same item as a former member of the Executive Committee for Wiltshire Museum and a member of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, which is closely involved with the museum. He remained in the room for this item and did vote.</p>
5.	<p><u>Partner Updates - To Include Request for Review of Parking</u></p> <p>The Chairman provided information about the request for a review of parking. A paper had been presented to Cabinet and would be taken to a Full Council meeting in November. The Area Board were waiting for data to be collected from across the county before making any decisions.</p> <p>a. The written update from Wiltshire Police was noted. Inspector Ron Peach reminded the meeting of the new non emergency telephone number for Wiltshire Police: 101. Wiltshire Police were moving to a different response model. This would have no impact on the service provided and a lot had been invested in new technology to help with the changes. A question was raised about racing cars in the Sheep Street car park. This was a common issue across the county.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Mandy Bradley would become involved in addressing racing cars in the Sheep Street car park.</p> <p>b. The written update from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service was noted.</p> <p>c. The written update from NHS Wiltshire was noted. The Chairman explained that a representative would be invited to the next Area Board meeting as they had not recently attended.</p> <p>d. The Chairman spoke about the traffic working group. The group had completed a comprehensive cycling plan. The Quakers Walk developer was predisposed towards including a cycling route in the development. Barriers were requested on the bridleway to stop motorised traffic. The Chairman confirmed that the traffic model data was complete. The traffic working group would now develop an overall traffic plan for Devizes to ease congestion and reduce pollution. The model would also be used to assess the impact on the road network of any future development.</p> <p>e. The written report from Devizes Community Area Partnership was noted. The Chairman was pleased with the progress the Partnership had been making. She informed the meeting that ITV had also broadcast a feature on the town and it was hoped to show this at the next Area Board meeting.</p> <p>f. A question was raised under the Town and Parish Council update item about errors in the Core Strategy and communication. There would be another round of consultation in spring with an opportunity to correct the document. This would come to the relevant Area Board meeting. It was</p>

	<p>underlined that it was important to finish the Core Strategy as quickly as possible in order to prevent unwanted development. The strategic planning team were also working on improving communication with members of the public.</p> <p>g. Richard Harris, Locality Team Leader, circulated a written update about the Devizes Development Centre for Young People and CAYPIG (Community Area Young People’s Issues Group). The youth centre was very busy and had recently started Friday and Saturday opening. Street based work was taking place on a Monday in Devizes and on a Thursday currently in the Lavingtons and Potterne. Young people had taken part in the 13-19 strategy consultation. Several groups and individuals had also been nominated for awards at ‘The Event’, including a group who had taken part in Devizes Carnival. The next meeting would take place on 19 October at 7.00 pm to discuss fundraising. Please contact Richard if you would like to support the work of the youth centre: richard.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk or 01380 722598.</p>
6.	<p><u>Tackling Air Pollution together in Devizes</u></p> <p>Mandy Bradley, Service Director for Public Protection, gave a presentation about air pollution in Devizes. This included the following main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council’s legal obligations – Wiltshire Council had a statutory duty to manage local air quality under part IV of the Environment Act 1995. • Action so far in Devizes – monitoring air quality over the last 15 years, declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in the Shanes Castle vicinity and extended air quality monitoring at key sites around the town. • Next steps for Devizes – the next step would be to complete air quality monitoring in the form of a ‘Detailed Assessment’ and report findings to Devizes Area Board and Defra by May 2012. In the longer term, an Air Quality Action Plan would be developed by March 2014. • In the meantime Wiltshire Council was: developing a county-wide Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan, producing a guideline for developers, developing the Core Strategy to reflect the need for consideration of Air Quality, working with local transport groups to improve traffic flows and developing practical measures to encourage green modes of travel. <p>The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, which covered the issues below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was the proposal under the localism bill for the capacity to pass EU fines to a local authority – this had not yet been passed as law. Defra had been contacted and confirmed there was no intention at present to pass fines to any local authority and if this was to go ahead it would be via a very prescribed process. • Local reports monitoring air quality were completed on an annual basis. They were published online and reported to Defra.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality monitoring and the Core Strategy – the teams were working together and the Core Strategy would be a living document which could be updated. • Health implications of poor air quality, such as levels of childhood asthma – no local studies had been completed. <p><u>Decision</u> Mandy Bradley would work with the Director of Public Health to provide further information about the health implications of poor air quality in the local area.</p> <p>A workshop session was then held to collect ideas about how to encourage the use of green modes of travel in Devizes. Feedback would be collated and presented at the next Area Board meeting on 28 November 2011.</p>
7.	<p><u>Tourism</u></p> <p>David Dawson (Director of the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes) gave a presentation about tourism in the local area.</p> <p>Devizes Visitor Centre had now closed and David paid tribute to all the staff had done for the town.</p> <p>Devizes Area Tourism Partnership were aiming to provide visitor information points in the town, local marketing, signage, a website and to develop and market the package that Devizes has to offer a visitor.</p> <p>New measures put in place included providing advice for visitors in person, by telephone and by email: tourism@devizes.org.uk.</p> <p>Following the meeting, it has been confirmed that Devizes Library does have tourism information and leaflets and is very happy to help visitors to the town. It is being included as a Tourist Information Point.</p> <p>Related to the issue of tourism, Councillor Gamble rose the subject of the clinic site. This was a building owned by the NHS that was now empty as its functions had been transferred to the hospital. The building had been discussed as a potential venue for dementia provision, however while Councillor Gamble supported such a facility, he had concerns about using the building.</p> <p>He explained that he felt it best for the building to be demolished on visual grounds and because of asbestos. The site could then be used by coaches to access west central car park and its facilities which would attract more visitors into the town. A show of hands was taken as to whether the room was broadly in favour of the demolition of the old clinic site building and use of the space to access the car park. All but one person in the room were in favour of this recommendation (the remaining individual recommended demolishing the building and replacing it).</p>

8.	<p><u>Cabinet Representative - Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philippe</u></p> <p>Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philippe provided a short overview of her role as Cabinet Representative for Economic Development and Strategic Planning.</p> <p>She reassured the meeting there were no strategic housing sites in the Core Strategy for Devizes. A prospective developer had requested Coate Road to be included, but this had been looked into and dismissed. If an application was still submitted, Wiltshire Council would be in a strong position to reject it. No application had been received for either Coate Road or the Merchant Venturers site.</p> <p>Having employment sites identified in Devizes in the Core Strategy was important, so that if a developer approached Wiltshire Council to express interest in the town, this could be moved quickly forward. A potential employment site had been identified at Horton Road.</p>
9.	<p><u>Member Initiative - Jubilee Celebrations</u></p> <p>The Area Board were asked to consider an initiative to provide grant funding to support events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The project was to provide a simple process for awarding grants to support street parties and other similar celebrations.</p> <p>It was commented that a straightforward guide to the insurance implications of such events would be useful.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> £6,000 of Area Board funding would be ring fenced for local events to support celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.</p>
10.	<p><u>Community Area Grant Scheme</u></p> <p>Councillors were asked to consider the Community Area Grants Report and make recommendations on the applications received.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Wiltshire Heritage Museum were awarded £5,000 towards the replacement of the boiler, on condition the application for landfill tax was also granted or alternative funding was provided.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application meets the 2011/12 grant criteria and the Wiltshire Heritage Museum was important to both tourism and heritage in the area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Association of Kennet Passengers were awarded £2,800 towards providing</p>

	<p>a professional map of bus routes in and out of Devizes.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>While the application did not meet the 2011/12 grant criteria, the Area Board felt there was sufficient community benefit for the grant to still be awarded.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Devizes Development Partnership were awarded £2,250 towards the Christmas festival in Devizes. This funding would be taken from the Area Board funding ring fenced to support festivals.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The Christmas festival had proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for those of all ages within the Devizes area. The funding would allow an increased number of people to get involved with the workshops and celebrations. The events were free and special attention would be given to reach out to those marginalised within the community.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Crown Centre were awarded £3,190 towards installing new boilers and a heating system as well as carrying out necessary redecoration, on condition the remaining funding for the project was secured.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The Crown Centre provided a valuable and much appreciated service in the community. It promoted the social and recreational welfare of the elderly residents within the Devizes Community Area. It provided a place for people to meet for refreshments and meals six days a week and affordable rooms to hire.</i></p>
11.	<p><u>Evaluation and Close.</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked those at the meeting. The next meeting would take place on Monday 28 November 2011 at 7.00 pm at Lavington School.</p>