

# **MINUTES**

Meeting: SALISBURY AREA BOARD

Place: South Wilts Grammar School for Girls, Stratford Road, Salisbury SP1 3JJ

Date: 15 September 2011

**Start Time:** 7.00 pm **Finish Time:** 10.26 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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# In Attendance:

# **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Richard Clewer (Chairman), Cllr John Brady, Cllr Christopher Cochrane, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Ricky Rogers and Cllr Paul Sample

Cllr Jane Scott OBE (Leader of the Council)

#### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Stephanie Denovan, Service Director for Schools and Learning Marianna Dodd, Salisbury Community Area Manager Winnie Manning, Team Leader, Youth Development Services Richard Walters, Director, Salisbury Vision Tom Gardner, Traffic Engineer James Hazlewood, Senior Democratic Services Officer

# **Town and Parish Councils**

Salisbury City Council – Cllr Cheryl Hill, Cllr Anne Chalk, Cllr Bobbie Chettleburgh, Cllr John Lindley, Reg Williams, Annie Child Laverstock and Ford Parish Council – Cllr Derek Hayes, Cllr David Law

## **Partners**

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Andy Noble, Inspector Paul Franklin

NHS Wiltshire – Tony Barron

"Our Salisbury" – Salisbury City Community Area Partnership (SCCAP) – Debrah Biggs, Charles Wells

South Wilts Mencap – Mike Claydon

Salisbury Wheelchair Awareness Group – Helen Farmer

Salisbury Journal – Annie Riddle

South Wilts Agenda 21 – Pam Rouquette, Margaret Willmot

Total in attendance: 146

Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision
Welcome and Introductions
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Salisbury Area Board and invited the members of the Board to introduce themselves.
Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence had been received from:
<ul> <li>Councillor Bill Moss</li> <li>Mike Franklin – Wiltshire Fire and Rescue</li> <li>Bev Flanagan – Wiltshire College</li> </ul>
<u>Minutes</u>
<u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July and those of the Extraordinary meeting held on 4 August were both agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.
Declarations of Interest
Councillors Brian Dalton, Mary Douglas and Paul Sample all declared personal interests in the item relating to the Salisbury Market Place, as members of the Southern Area Planning Committee who would eventually determine the planning application on the site.
There were no other declarations of interest.
Chairman's Announcements
The Chairman referred to "Wiltshire Warm and Well", a free home insulation scheme, details of which were set out at page 29 of the agenda.
Updates from Previous Area Board meetings
The Chairman referred to the written update on actions and outcomes from previous meetings (as set out at page 31 of the agenda) and noted the following information:
In relation to the proof of disability card, it was noted that the Safe Places
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project was due to be launched on 28 September at the Library. In addition, an ICE card (In Case of Emergency) was currently available, which could be used in some instances.

- The outcome of the Community Area Transport Group's bid to the Substantive Highways Scheme budget would be known by the end of September.
- The query over whether Wiltshire Council needed to undertake a lengthy consultation to vary the car parking charges had now been passed to the Department for Transport, and a response was outstanding. In the meantime, the Council had decided to reintroduce 1 hour charges, with effect from Monday 19 September.

# 7. <u>Young People Volunteering</u>

Winnie Manning, Youth Development Coordinator, Wiltshire Council, introduced this item, referring to the excellent work being done by young volunteers with disabled young people in Salisbury. A number of the volunteers were also present at the meeting and spoke of the impact of the project on their own development, and how they had grown in confidence and experience. Some of them had also achieved awards as a result of their work.

A short film was played, showing the volunteers in action. The rest of the film can be viewed via the following link:

http://www.sparksite.co.uk/entries/salisbury\_bridging\_project\_young\_people

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman invited a short presentation from Ruth Jones, of the Unit, and a number of young people who were in attendance in support of the Area Board project bid for the Unit at item 12 on the agenda. The young people spoke about how important the Unit was for them, reading out a number of ideas and comments from others who were not able to attend.

## 8. Update from Representatives

Cheryl Hill, Deputy Leader of Salisbury City Council, updated the meeting on the work of the City Council:

- The Charter Fair would be taking place in the Market Square on 17-19 October.
- The Salisbury Carnival was planned for Friday 21 October, with over 30 business already signed up and scope for more to get involved. Volunteers were welcome to help with this event.
- A homecoming parade for 32 Regiment (Royal Artillery) was planned for 10 November in the city.
- Salisbury had won a silver award in the City Centre category of the Britain in Bloom competition. The Area Board congratulation the City Council on this achievement, to a round of applause.

- Arrangements were in place for the Remembrance Sunday parade on 13 November. Blue Boar row would be closed on that day to allow everyone in front of the war memorial.
- The Mayor had held a Civic Day on Monday 11 September, hosting over 30 Mayors from other towns.

David Law, of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council spoke briefly about the Community Farm. This was a valuable community asset which was run with only one employee, and a large number of volunteers of all ages. In addition, at the recent Salisbury Civic day, the 30 visiting Mayors had spent the afternoon touring the community farm and enjoyed a cream tea there.

At the Chairman's invitation, Inspector Andy Noble also introduced himself to the meeting, commenting that he would be taking over the post of Inspector for the Salisbury sector at some point before Christmas. In the meantime, Inspector Paul Franklin would continue to cover the position.

# 9. Councillor Jane Scott OBE - Leader of the Council

Councillor Jane Scott thanked the Area Board for the invitation to the meeting, and gave a brief outline of her role as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Scott led an Executive of ten Councillors, each of whom focussed on a particular area of responsibility. This group of Councillors, known as the Cabinet, developed and proposed policies and the Council's budget to the full Council for approval. Once approved, it was the responsibility of the Cabinet to deliver services and make decisions within the budget and policy framework as agreed by the Council.

As Leader of the Council, Councillor Scott also represented the Council locally and nationally.

Councillor Scott also responded to two questions:

- In relation to car parking the Council was undertaking a complete review across the County. It was hoped that the reintroduction of the 1 hour charge in Salisbury would help address the concerns of traders and residents. The Chairman added that the Area Board would be looking at a number of new residents' parking zones.
- Responding to a question on the financial outlook for the Council, Councillor Scott referred to the 28% savings needed over the next 4 years. Of this 17% was required in the first year, which was in addition to the increased pressure on a number of service areas. However, Wiltshire Council was well placed to withstand these pressures, having made a number of on-going savings through the move to unitary council status.

# 10. <u>Petition - Salisbury Market Place</u>

The Chairman introduced the item, explaining that a petition of over 8,500 signatures had been collected, opposing the removal and replacement of the trees in the Market Place, as proposed by a design being put forward by the Salisbury Vision.

At the Chairman's invitation, Laura Bell spoke on behalf of Save our Salisbury Trees (SOS Trees), who had organised the petition:

- The majority of signatures had been collected in the Marketplace on market days, with some forms being taken away and sent in to the campaign. The current number of signatures was 8,962. The petition welcomed the proposed £3 million investment in the marketplace, but opposed the felling of the existing trees.
- In response to the main arguments given for the removal of the trees, the petitioners considered that only eight of the trees were currently unhealthy. In relation to the concerns over rising pavements caused by root growth, it was noted that there were options for addressing this, such as good maintenance and use of flexible surfacing. Furthermore, a Freedom of Information request had revealed that there had been no insurance claims for trips over rising pavements at the Market Place.
- It was considered that tree pits (as proposed by Salisbury Vision) were untested and could not be guaranteed to deal with the issue. Reference was also made to measures used in Norwich to retain mature trees in the market place, such as built up cobblestones and circular seating around the base of trees (pictures of this were circulated to the Area Board members). Finally, in relation to the point about damage to drains, the petitioners noted that the new drains could be relocated away from the trees, to minimise the risk of future damage by tree roots.
- The SOS Trees campaign welcomed the change to the type of trees proposed, and also the Salisbury Vision's undertaking to talk to the Council's Tree Officer. It was hoped that a mutually acceptable solution could be found.

The Chairman thanked Laura for her comments and invited Richard Walters, Director of Salisbury Vision, to respond to the points made.

 Richard set out the background to the refurbishment of the Market Place, referring to the background to the project. It seemed to be generally agreed that some form of refurbishment was required in the Market Place to match the investment being made by regional competitors in their city centres. The proposals had been designed to address a number of issues, by improving lighting, replacing the current poor quality surfacing, and providing a more flexible space. The principle of this development was supported by the business community, including the Federation of Small Businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and the City Centre Management.

- This was a timely opportunity for significant investment in the Market Place to provide a long term solution over the next 50 years or so. The original design, selected via a competition in 2009, had included the retention of the existing trees. However, following specialist advice on trees and sub-surfaces, the decision was taken to replace the trees. This was to prevent the roots damaging the new surfaces, and blocking drains, and also as some of the trees had been allowed to grow too large and were obscuring the buildings behind. The majority of the Market traders supported the plans to address the problems caused by tree roots.
- Following an earlier consultation, the proposed replacement trees had been changed from Ornamental Pears to Tulips and Hornbeams. Advice from experts was that this would recreate a similar canopy within five years, by planting semi-mature trees.
- The use of tree pits was also proposed to encourage root growth downwards, creating more stable trees. The Vision's view was that these had been tested successfully in North America. Richard also noted that most of the trees would need to be replaced over the next 10-20 years, and that for this to be done piece-meal, would be most expensive and disruptive and result in unattractive patchwork surfacing.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his comments and invited questions and comments from the floor. There was a lengthy debate with a number of views being expressed on both sides of the argument. Some of the points made included the following:

- There was concern over the accuracy of the straw poll which stated that
  most of the Market Traders supported the Vision's proposals. Another
  straw poll had shown that the majority wanted the trees retained, as they
  provided shade and were liked by customers.
- The view was expressed that the Market Place (and Salisbury city centre as a whole) was unique, and needed to retain its own particular culture. It was also noted that the high street could not recreate the buzz of a market.
- In relation to the tree canopy, it was suggested that this helped obscure some unsightly shop fronts. Responding to a question about the canopy which would be created by the proposed replacement trees, Richard explained that this would be similar in width, but shorter and managed more appropriately.
- It was suggested that the existing healthy trees could be retained and the

design worked around them, with space left for growth. However, the view was also made that this would not allow for the replacement surfacing to be installed, and may cause disruption to the layout of the market.

- Concern was expressed that there were a number of misconceptions circulating, with people having understood (incorrectly) that the proposals were for no replacement trees, or for the trees to be replaced with saplings. General concern was expressed about the lack of public awareness of the scheme, although it was noted that the information was available online, and had been published via several means, including the Salisbury Journal.
- In relation to tree pits, the view was made that growing conditions in North America were significantly different, and that use of them to encourage downward root growth would not be suitable in Salisbury, with its high water table, as this could cause the roots to rot.
- It was noted that the Market had been there for 800 years, and that trees had first been planted 150 years ago.
- In response to comments about the democratic accountability of the Salisbury Vision Board, it was noted that this partnership body consisted of representatives from a number of local bodies, including Wiltshire Council, Salisbury City Council, the business community, the cathedral, the Civic Society, and the Community Area Partnership.
- The view was expressed that although 8,500 signatures to the petition was a significant number, this left 38,500 who had not signed the petition.
- In relation to surface root growth, it was noted that these could not be pruned without the risk of destabilising the tree.

To conclude, the Chairman invited comments from the Area Board Councillors. Views were expressed in support of both retaining and replacing the trees. Following debate, the following motion was agreed:

# **Decision**

- 1. The Salisbury Area Board acknowledges the good work being carried out by the Salisbury Vision for the benefit of Salisbury.
- 2. Because of the considerable public concern being expressed over the current planning application for the Market Place, in particular the petition in respect of the replacement of the trees, the Area Board respectfully requests that the planning applications (S/2011/1320, S/2011/1321 and S/2011/1322) not be taken to Committee for determination until such time as the

situation regarding the trees is fully understood, through further liaison with the Wiltshire Tree Officer and other professional advisors as necessary.

- 3. We would like to work with the Vision Board and arrange for the issues to be fully debated in public at an Extraordinary meeting of the Salisbury Area Board, to be arranged for the purpose, once the outcome of this further advice on the trees is known.
- 4. We would also propose that Salisbury City Council and the business community give their views.

It was also suggested that the public consultation period on the planning application be extended to remove any concern over the deadline for submitting comments on the current proposals.

# 11. Old Manor Hospital Site

## 11.1. Proposed new GP Surgery

Dr Robert Hewetson, spoke on behalf of the Grove House and New Street practices, who were hoping to move the proposed new surgery at the Old Manor Hospital Site. The current premises were not suitable and the opportunity to move to the new site also presented opportunities in terms of the co-location of a wider range of services.

Tim Scruton of GVA, the architects for the project, presented the outline site plan. He also confirmed that there would be over 100 car parking spaces, and that the new facilities would allow the expansion and enhancing of the existing GP services, with a wider role for nurses and specialist services.

Charlie James, also of GVA, presented a number of photos of the existing site, and also drawings of the proposed design. It was noted that the listed buildings would be retained with the Old Ballroom kept and preserved as part of the scheme. Vehicular access would be from the existing points, although details such as the road surfacing had yet to be determined.

In response to questions regarding the timescale, Tim reported that the plans would shortly be submitted for planning permission. The planning process could take 6 months, following which there would be a 6 month tender exercise, and a 12 month construction period. As such, an estimated completion date of 2 years may be possible.

In the meantime, the practices and architects hoped to engage with patients and residents over the proposals, and comments were welcomed.

The Chairman invited questions and comments; there were none. The Area

Board thanked Robert, Tim and Charlie for attending.

# 11.2. Plans for the Rest of the Site

The Chairman welcomed Tony Barron, Chairman of NHS Wiltshire, who was present to give an update on the plans for the rest of the Old Manor Hospital Site.

Tony reported that Wiltshire Council had expressed an interest in acquiring the site, and were currently undertaking a feasibility study to see if the site would be suitable for adult care provision. The PCT was working with Wiltshire Council to produce this during October and the outcome would hopefully be known before the end of the calendar year. If this did not prove to be a possible future use then other options would be considered, possibly including going back to the marketplace to find a developer. However, the future of the site would be discussed with the Area Board prior to any final decision.

Councillor Jane Scott commented on Wiltshire Council's interest in the site. It was considered that the site may be suitable for sheltered housing provision, to help people maintain independence and to stay in their own homes, whilst having access to the necessary services for an aging population. It was also considered that as the site was currently in public ownership, it was appropriate to initially consider the possibility of using it for the benefit of the community.

The Chairman reported that he would vary the order of the agenda to take the Area Board project application for the Unit (listed at item 16 of the agenda) at this stage, in view of the attendance of a number of young people in support of the project.

# 12. Area Board projects

The Chairman gave a brief outline of Area Board projects, explaining that they were not subject to the same criteria as Community Area Grants, although this was to be used as guidelines. Funding for Area Board projects would come from the same budget as Community Area Grants.

#### The Unit

Councillor John Brady, who had proposed this project, referred the meeting to page 71 of the agenda. He considered that the Unit was an extremely successful initiative, with low overheads, and rent free premises next to Gala bingo, providing activities for young people 6 days a week. Reference was made to a number of recommendations, including from John Glen, MP for Salisbury.

It was noted that the Unit was in negotiations to take over the Harnham Youth Venture, however the project would run out of money by the end of the year. Other grants were lined up, but were dependent on the £10,000 support from

the Area Board.

In response to a question as to the need for spending money at this stage, Ruth Jones explained that it was necessary to employ someone to deal with the requests from people who wanted to get involved in the project, in order to meet requirements regarding the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The initiative was almost entirely run by volunteers and by the young people themselves. It was also hoped that an employee would be able to pursue and access more funding sources.

The Area Board expressed its support for the work of the Unit and appreciation for the benefits it brought to young people and Salisbury as a whole. It was hoped that as the project was being funded as an Area Board project, the Area Board would continue to receive updates on the progress of the Unit.

#### **Decision**

The Salisbury Area Board agreed to provide £10,000 of funding to the Unit, as one-off development support to avoid the closure of the project at the end of December 2011.

<u>Reasons</u> – Although the funding was outside the normal guidelines of the Community Area Grant criteria as it was for a revenue cost, it was considered that the wide community benefit of the project justified an exception.

**ACTION: Marianna Dodd** 

# 13. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Tom Gardner gave a presentation on the Council's recently adopted protocol for use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).

SIDs were movable signs which displayed the speed of on-coming vehicles, and which were proven to be effective at reducing the speed of traffic when used at targeted locations for a short period of time.

The Council now had one SID for each of the Community Areas in Wiltshire. These would be allocated on a rotating basis to sites as agreed by the relevant Area Board. In order to be eligible for a SID, sites had to go through a process and meet certain criteria.

Once a site had been reported as having a perceived speeding problem, this would be assessed by a metrocount, which gathered data on the actual speed of traffic over a set period. This could then be used to determine whether there was an actual problem, and if so how best to address the issue. The figure used for this was the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, or the speed at which 85% of the traffic was travelling at or above.

For sites with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of 35mph or above, Community Speed Watch could be used as an option. SIDs could also be used on these sites. Sites with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of 38mph or above would be prioritised for direct police enforcement.

SIDs were most effective when used for no longer than two weeks at a time in one location, and so there was a rolling programme to deploy the SID in each Community Area.

Tom concluded by inviting people to report any sites with speeding issues, these could be done via the Area Board issues system, or direct to the Salisbury Community Area Manager, Marianna Dodd.

The Chairman thanked Tom for the presentation and invited questions and comments:

- In response to a question, Tom reported that each SID cost around £6,000 to purchase, but there were on-going costs in terms of moving the unit to each new deployment of around £500, which could amount to £13,000 per year.
- It was noted that enforcement may be required on Castle Street and Brown Street. It was also suggested that London Road may be a suitable location for a SID. Fisherton Street and Waymare Road were also raised as locations with speeding issues.
- It was noted that the Police ran regular neighbourhood tasking meetings, where requests for speeding enforcement could also be raised.

#### 14. Review of Residents' Parking Schemes

The Chairman explained that this item was to seek the Area Board's approval of a small change to the prioritisation of Residents' Parking Schemes for review, as agreed by the Area Board at its meeting on 17 March 2011. Priorities 3 and 4 current read as follows.

- 3. Requests no. 11 & 12 Residents' Parking Zone D Full review of zone especially Sidney Street and York Road, plus new Zone to the North, in Kingsland Road area.
- 4. Request no. 1 Residents' Parking Zone A Full review of the zone to increase number of available bays.

However, it was proposed to combine the proposed reviews of zones D and A to allow work to proceed on the new zone in the Bedford/Kingsland Road area.

# **Decision**

To amend the Area Board parking priorities, as agreed at the 17 March 2011 meeting, as follows:

- 3. To consider a new Zone North of Zone D in the Bedford / Kingsland Road area
- 4. To conduct a full review of Residents Parking Zones A and D to increase the number of available bays in the fastest and most cost effective way possible.

**ACTION: Joanne Heal / Paul Shaddock** 

# 15. <u>Your Local Issues</u>

In view of the hour, no update was given, but new issues were welcomed and updates could be viewed by the Council's website:

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/salisburyareaboard.htm

# 16. Community Area Grants

The Chairman invited a representative from each of the grant applicants to give a brief overview of their project to the Board. After each of the applicants had spoken the Chairman invited questions and discussion, then asked for a show of hands from those present to reflect public opinion. The Board members then voted on each application.

## **Decision**

The Wildlife Rescue and Care Centre was awarded £643 towards running a community wildlife awareness project giving 20 free talks in the Salisbury area over a period of six months to the elderly or disabled people in care homes, and young people in schools or hospitals.

<u>Reason</u> – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2011/12 and would allow this community project to go ahead.

In relation to the application from the Friary Gardening Club, Reg Williams, Salisbury City Clerk, invited the organisation to contact Salisbury City Council who may be able to provide some spare tools.

#### Decision

The Friary Residents' Gardening Club was awarded £1000 as start up costs for the organisation.

<u>Reason</u> – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2011/12 and would allow this gardening club to be set up, and to help develop the sense of community in the area and other benefits in terms of encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

**ACTION: Marianna Dodd** 

# 17. <u>Area Board projects</u>

# Marketing Campaign for Park and Ride to people living outside Wiltshire

The Chairman, who had proposed this project, introduced the item, explaining that the suggestion was to promote Salisbury as a destination to people living in Hampshire and Dorset, and to emphasised that over-60s could use the Park and Ride service for free. This was to help increase footfall in the city, following recent publicity over high car-parking charges, which had led to anecdotal evidence of a drop in trade.

The Chairman added that, if approved, the marketing information would be circulated to Area Board members for approval prior to publication.

Councillor Paul Sample declared a prejudicial interest in this item, as his company had previously discussed undertaking some marketing work for Park and Ride.

## **Decision**

The Salisbury Area Board agreed to provide £5,000 of funding towards a marketing campaign to advertise the Salisbury Park and Ride service to people living outside of Wiltshire.

<u>Reasons</u> – As above, to help maximise the use of Park and Ride and to bring new visitors to Salisbury from outside the area.

#### Improvement of Footpath – Bemerton St John Primary School

Councillor Chris Cochrane, who had proposed this project, explained that walking busses had long been used to escort children along Church Lane to the school. However, it had been considered that the road was too dangerous for large groups of children, and so parents were obliged to escort Children on foot or take them by car, contributing to traffic congestion on the Lower Road.

This project sought to facilitate the use of a path through the St John's churchyard, by providing a lockable gate, and reinforcing the path to allow use by two pupils who use wheelchairs.

The funding was for materials alone; the work would be undertaken by volunteers.

#### Decision

The Salisbury Area Board agreed to provide £1,750 of funding to the Bemerton St John PTA towards materials to reinforce the existing path through a gate in the fence, to allow use by children travelling to the primary school. The funding is subject to approval of the project by the Diocesan Board, subsequent planning permission, and to the school PTA agreeing to manage the project.

Reasons – To allow safe access for children travelling to the Primary

	School, and to support this volunteer-run project.
	ACTION: Marianna Dodd
18.	Salisbury City Community Area Partnership (SCCAP) - Core Funding (final tranche)
	The Chairman briefly introduced the report, and requested that an early draft version of the community plan be available for the next meeting of the Area Board.
	The Area Board expressed its thanks to the members of the Community Area Partnership for their hard work as volunteers to support the project.
	<u>Decision</u> The Salisbury Area Board approves the release of the second and final tranche of core funding for 2011/12 to Salisbury City Community Area Partnership (£7,807)
	ACTION: Marianna Dodd
19.	Appointments to Outside Bodies
	The Chairman reported that the Salisbury Vision had requested that its representative from the Area Board, should be the Area Board Chairman.
	<u>Decision</u> The Salisbury Area Board appointed Councillor Richard Clewer as its
	nominated representative to the Salisbury Vision Board, in place of Councillor Chris Cochrane.
	ACTION: James Hazlewood
20.	Future Meeting Dates, Evaluation and Close
	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and noted that the next meeting of the Salisbury Area Board would be held on 17 November 2011 at the Guildhall, the Marketplace, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 1JH.
	In addition there would be an extraordinary meeting as agreed under item 10 above; this was likely to be on Monday 10 October at South Wilts Grammar School for Girls, and would be confirmed in due course.