

Warminster Area Board Issue update 11 November 2010

In total 53 issues have been submitted online. Of these, 12 are in progress, with the others closed.

Recent issues reported include:

- Community Payback requests (more welcomed).
- Empty and overgrown property – vegetation cut back and referred to empty properties officer.

Dog fouling and litter:

- Three meetings have been held and the group has named itself Warminster Environmental Pride Team (WEPT).
- Application for funding to be considered at the 11 Nov Area Board.
- Next meeting 16 November, 6.30pm at Dewey House.
- Local people volunteering to get involved.
- Lots of interest from media and other community areas.

Warminster Voices:

- Well attended open session held in Warminster Library. Those present thought it was a good idea as they would not be able to come to an evening meeting.
- Barry Mole and Katharine Dew also attended a coffee morning in Corsley to talk to local residents.
- Sharing information about the area board in this way appears to be successful and popular with local people. There is scope to develop the project by going to more groups/locations, but to do this there would need to be an investment in time/training.
- WCR have suggested that, to build capacity, volunteers within local community groups (e.g. lunch clubs/residential care homes/day centres etc) could be trained to use recording equipment. The community area manager could liaise with them over the area board agenda.
- If the area board invests a further £250 in the project, WCR will be able to provide an extra 10 hours support to the project. The project currently only allows for one hour prior to each area board meeting. This is insufficient and WCR have been donating time in order to support the project.
- As the number of people responding increases, it will only be feasible to play a sample at the area board. The rest of the comments would need to be recorded in a written report.
 - **Officer Recommendation – that the area board allocates an extra £250 to enable WCR to develop the project.**

Wiltshire Voices:

Background:

Wiltshire Council and its partners are committed to finding ways of reaching out to people who do not attend their meetings. Wiltshire Voices

forms part of the solution. By undertaking 18 projects across the whole of Wiltshire during the next 18-20 months they aim to engage with people from a very wide diversity of backgrounds - from boaters and economic migrants to MOD dependents and teenage parents and 14 other seldom heard groups.

The information required exists already - no new research will be needed. They will simply talk to people, listen to them and record their stories. These voices and narratives will help challenge common perceptions and misconceptions. This will be the background against which the facts and figures will be presented in the form of a local documentary. The documentary elements of the project will be produced collectively by service professionals, support services, VCS organisations and the target groups themselves - this is a multi-agency, cross sector, community engagement approach. These elements will be combined into a video and magazine style article (part documentary, part interview) that will challenge responses and stimulate ideas, projects and action at local level. The project will highlight and celebrate good practice and it will spotlight the challenges and difficulties that exist for many people.

The final pack will contain a simple guide so that the materials can be used by many different groups from schools, public services and businesses to community area partnerships, VCS organisations right through to the Area Boards. The Council will use its local influence to make sure this information feeds into community plans and makes a lasting difference.

The most significant challenge is to ensure that this project makes a real difference to the lives of the people and groups involved. They want to find new ways of reaching people, listening and responding at local level; new ways of helping communities help themselves - but most of all they want to make sure that everybody has a voice that is heard.

- This is a separate project, building on the success of Warminster Voices. Warminster is one of four pilot areas creating a snap-shot of life from the point of view of isolated and vulnerable people. It has been proposed that Warminster focuses on young and vulnerable parents.
 - **Officer Recommendation – to confirm that Warminster Area Board will focus on the issues effecting young and vulnerable parents as part of the Wiltshire Voices project.**

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