

BA13+ REPORT to WESTBURY AREA BOARD

On behalf of the communities of Bratton, Coulston, Dilton Marsh, Edington, Heywood and of course Westbury itself, the BA13+ Community Area Partnership seeks to:

Identify the community's priorities for action

We have established a wide-ranging network of community organisations, groups, clubs, societies, schools, churches and businesses as well as interested individuals in order to connect with as many local people as possible. Our regular Partnership Meetings are increasingly popular, attracting significant speakers and presentations on a wide range of themes, each of which is in line with our Community Plan.

Reflect local concerns and ideas by tackling them in the Community Plan

We are looking to bring about positive change through a combination of encouraging local projects and finding ways to raise awareness.

Maintain strong links with town and parish councils and the area board

We engage with councils and other partners to build effective participation, consultation and community engagement across the community.

Our **Community Plan** covers the period 2014-2017 and takes into account a wide-ranging list of the community's views. This is based around the core themes of the Environment; Health and Wellbeing; Housing; Transport; Culture & the Arts; Leisure; Children and Young People; Economy, Jobs and Skills and Community Safety (incorporating Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Watch, Safe Places, etc;)

We are planning to extend the Community Plan beyond 2017 in the next year and would VERY much like to hear from individuals, groups, and volunteers with an interest in any of the above themes. Please contact Phil McMullen, the BA13+ Administrator, for further information. His email address is ba13plus@outlook.com

The most recent BA13+ Partnership Meeting meanwhile was held on Wednesday 17th February in the Parish Hall in Westbury. Despite it being a cold, dark and wet night, it was a very well supported event which updated those present on progress since the last meeting, when guest speaker **Claire Thomas** from **Alzheimers Support** who are a Wiltshire based charity working with people with Dementia asked what people thought a Dementia Friendly Westbury might look like. Since the meeting, a date has been set for the The BA13+ Partnership's relaunch of Dementia Friendly Westbury, which is taking place on 12th April 10am till 12 at the Leigh Park Community Centre. The meeting also noted the fact that the Good Neighbour co-ordinator's post is going at the end of March, and thanks was recorded for the great work Lise Griffiths had done in her time in the role.

The meeting also heard from Dawn Wilson from the Wiltshire Forum for Community Area Partnerships, who is likewise being made redundant on March 31st. Dawn will however carry on in a voluntary capacity to support and maintain the network. There is a lot happening on the buses front and both BA13+ and the Wiltshire Forum for Community Area Partnerships are attending Option 24/7 meetings and circulating consultations and other information from bus user groups.

The subsequent Steering Group meeting took place on Tuesday 1st March at Crosspoint in Westbury. Confirmation was received that Westbury Town Council had agreed to fund BA13+

for the next year, news which was extremely gratefully received on behalf of the Partnership.

It was decided that the next Partnership meeting is to be held on **Wednesday 18th May 2016**, venue the Parish Church Hall, and the theme is a double-headed one of **business and industry** and **housing**. We are very pleased to announce that Lindsay Holdoway, Managing Director, HPH Limited has kindly accepted our invitation to address the meeting on the subject of the new Hawkeridge Business Park..

Phil McMullen, for the BA13+ Community Area Partnership ba13plus@outlook.com