

Bradford on Avon
Community Area Board

Update

24th November 2010

What's an area board meeting?

Your local Wiltshire councillors and other key local representatives meet every six to eight weeks to discuss local issues.

Area Board meetings are public meetings, everyone is welcome and participation is encouraged.

Officers from Wiltshire Council and representatives from Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire NHS and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service also attend the area board to talk about specific local issues.

You can raise a local issue by contacting the community area manager Elly Townsend on 01225 718450 or emailing elly.townsend@wiltshire.gov.uk

How big is the Bradford on Avon Community Area?



The Bradford on Avon Community Area comprises the parishes of Limpley Stoke, Winsley, Monkton Farleigh, South Wraxall, Westwood, Wingfield, Holt, Staverton and Bradford on Avon.

What can I do if I have an issue to report?

You can ...

- Fill in an issue sheet here at the library
- Email the community area manager on elly.townsend@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Call the community area manager on 01225 718450
- Report the issue online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

Since the last meeting

- A meeting took place with representatives from Bradford on Avon Town Council, Wiltshire Council Highways and Councillor Rosemary Brown regarding concern over a stone wall which had been taken down at the Leigh Park Crossroads. It was agreed that Highways should seek to plant a hedge if the wall could not be replaced and ensure they communicated plans for the traffic lights to local residents and the Town Council.
- Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture won £1000 after being nominated for the best project to receive funding from an area board, beating other nominations from across the county.
- The Senior Citizens Forum held a consultation event on Personalising Social Care Service on the 20th October.
- An onsite meeting with Wiltshire Council Youth Services and Local Police took place to look at the problems of graffiti in Victory Fields and a proposal was taken to the Town Council to undertake a graffiti art project to prevent this reoccurring problem.
- The Friends of Barton Farm Play Area attended the Town Council Leisure Youth and Arts Committee meeting on the 9th October to update the Town Council on their progress and ask for their formal support in taking the project forward.
- A consultation on reducing unnecessary street lighting is taking place across the town of Bradford on Avon. Over 100 lights have been nominated and residents who live near these lights are being asked to reply to a consultation if they have any objections.
- The Bradford on Avon Community Area Transport Group met on the 12th November to prioritise local transport schemes, grit bins and dropped kerbs. The results will be reported at the meeting on the 24th November.
- Further consultation events took place in Trowbridge and Chippenham looking at transport policy for the new year.

Youth Funding

At the March area board meeting:

Kevin Sweeney from the Wiltshire Council Youth Development Service presented proposals to introduce a new staffing formula to make the funding of youth services across the county fairer. The new formula allocates funding according to numbers of young people, levels of deprivation and population density.

The Bradford on Avon Community Area has lost 6 hours of youth work a week under the new funding arrangements. At the area board, Holt Parish Council expressed concerns that they were going to suffer an unfair cut in services in comparison to the rest of the community area. The Youth Service has asked Holt Parish Council if it would consider funding one of the two youth workers that run the Wednesday Youth Club in Holt. Wiltshire Council would continue to fund one youth worker for 3 hours a week.

What happened next:

A senior representative from the youth service met with representatives from Holt Parish Council on the 19th April to discuss their concerns. Kevin Sweeney has written to Holt Parish Council following this meeting to confirm the Wiltshire Council position. Holt Parish Council have met and responded.

Discussions are continuing to see if it possible to identify alternative funding sources or other options.

Latest news:

An additional £4,711 has been made available to the Bradford on Avon Area Board to go towards youth activities

A proposal is to be put forward to hold a participatory budgetary event with young people to decide on the allocation of the additional money allocated to youth activities in the community area.

This proposal will be presented at the area board on the 24th November.



Footbridge Review Process

At the May Area Board meeting:

The Town Council requested support from the area board to undertake a stakeholder review process.

A question was also raised about what would now happen to the performance reward bid submitted by the Town Council for £100,000 to go towards the cost of the bridge which had previously been put forward by the area board.

What happened next:

An initial meeting took place on 4th June with one representative from Bradford Bridge Concern, Back the Bridge, Bradford on Avon Town Council and Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust. This meeting was facilitated by Jim Lynch. It was decided that Dominic Murphy of Creating Excellence in Bristol should lead the stakeholder process. The community area manager supplied administrative support for this meeting.

A further meeting was held on the 30th June with representatives from Linden Homes at which possibilities for different siting positions were discussed.

The core stakeholder group also met on the 20th July & the 2nd September to talk about the landing sites and alternative designs.

The bid made by the Town Council for a performance reward grant has been withdrawn until the stakeholder review process is completed.

The Stakeholder Group fed back to the Town Council on the 28th September 2010.

Speeding

So far:

Recent metro counts (which record the number and speed of vehicles over a 7 day period in a specific location) have been requested for:

1. Christchurch Road
2. Ashley Road
3. B3108 Winsley Road
4. Tynning Road

Results so far:

On Tynning Road, the survey was carried out between 06/10/2010 and 14/10/2010. A total of 6238 vehicles were checked. The 85th percentile was 21.7mph (the 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below).

The results from Christchurch Road, Ashley Road and the B3108 are still forthcoming.

Historic Core Zone

At the July 2009 Area Board:

It was agreed that Wiltshire Council should commission consultants to develop initial plans for a historic core zone in Bradford on Avon.

What happened next:

Colin Buchanan Consultants were appointed to carry out this work. They have run two stakeholder workshops with representatives from local organisations, the first to talk about the issues experienced by local people in terms of traffic intimidation and the second to look at a variety of ways in which these problems could be resolved.

Colin Buchanan submitted their initial plans to the Council in June. These plans were presented at a Priority for People public meeting on the 23rd June. They then went to the Town Council for consideration.

At the July 2010 Area Board:

Wiltshire Councillors agreed to approve the initial plans for the Historic Core Zone. More detailed design plans will be developed once funding becomes available.

Latest news:

A Historic Core Zone Working Group has been set up by the Town Council to look at how to take this project forward'.

Colin Buchanan Consultants are also developing an implementation plan which will look at the different ways in which the Core Zone could be implemented.

British Waterways' Local Mooring Strategy Consultation

At the January area board meeting:

Representatives from the Boater Community presented a number of concerns they had regarding the Local Mooring Strategy proposed by British Waterways.

It was agreed that the members would write formally to Cllr Toby Sturgis and British Waterways asking them to attend a meeting to discuss the issues raised by the boater community.

Letters were sent to Cllr Sturgis and British Waterways.

A meeting took place with local elected members, British Waterways, Wiltshire council officers and members of the Boater Community on the 22nd February 2010.

It was agreed that British Waterways would put together a more comprehensive set of data to demonstrate levels of usage of the waterways and that they would come back to the area board once they had collated the results of the national consultation. More than 100 people attended a consultation event held in partnership between the Area Boards Team and British Waterways. British Waterways announced plans to set up an 'inquiry panel' to gather evidence from different parties on how they feel local moorings should be managed. Two round table discussions looked at what people thought of the inquiry panel idea and how the area board could be used to help facilitate discussions about the use of the canal.

What happened then?

An initial meeting took place on the 26th August to discuss how plans for a local mooring strategy could be developed. At the initial meeting, it was agreed that the group of stakeholders would try to work together to produce one local mooring strategy to put to the enquiry panel for discussion.

Latest news:

The stakeholder group are discussing a number of issues in order to develop consensus to guide the process of develop a local mooring strategy.

Barton Farm Play Area

So far ..

An issue was raised with the area board about the quality of the Play equipment at the Barton Farm Play Area. A basket swing had to be removed from the site as it encouraged anti- social behaviour.

Current funding for new play equipment has already been allocated to play areas in Monkton Farleigh, Staverton and Poulton.

A community group has formed to consult on what people think of the current play area and to look at whether the equipment could be improved with external funding.

The Friends of Barton Farm Play Area Group asked people to fill in questionnaires about what they would like to see in the play area and had over 70 responses.

Then what happened:

Members of the 'Friends of Barton Farm Play Area Group' presented their initial plans at the September meeting.

The plans were displayed at the library for two weeks from 20th September – 1st October. Over 85 comments were received on the plans.

The results from the public consultation have been compiled.

The group attended the Town Council's Leisure Youth and Arts Committee meeting on the 9th November to ask for their formal support for the project.



South Wraxall Cycle Path

So far ...

Several South Wraxall Residents initiated a project to look at the possibility of installing a safe cycling link from South Wraxall into Bradford on Avon.

Two residents met with a transport officer and the community area manager on the 15th February to discuss the best way forward.

South Wraxall Parish Council is in support of the scheme.

Following this meeting, the group have been put in contact with the Countryside Access Development Officer. They are currently liaising with Sustrans and Wiltshire Council over possible routes for the cycling link and potential sources of funding.

What happened next:

The group visited the proposed site with Sustrans and received a quote from a contractor for simply improving the surface of the existing route, which is already either covered in tarmac or well compacted.

The group have now been successful in obtaining funding for the project.

They have requested an assessment from Wiltshire Council Officers on whether it would be possible to have additional signage put in notifying drivers of the entrance to the cycle route.

Holt Footpath

At the January area board meeting:

Martin Moyes from Holt Parish Council gave a presentation on a Parish Council project to build a footpath project on the Holt recreation ground.

What happened next:

85 questionnaires have been distributed to households in Holt thought to be the most affected by the proposed new footpath. The deadline for responses was at the end of February.

A public forum was held in Holt on the 22nd April to discuss the comments raised in the response to the questionnaire.

Following this the Parish Council Transport Committee agreed to progress the scheme and to start looking at potential exit points onto Ground Corner.

A site visit took place with a highways engineer and public rights of way officer from Wiltshire Council to discuss some of the technical aspects of the scheme.

Progress to date and the next steps are to be discussed at a future Holt Parish Council Transport Committee meeting.

Holt Good Neighbours

So far ...

Holt has been selected as a proposed location for a Good Neighbours Scheme in which local people are invited to volunteer to become a trusted community member and resource whilst supported by a paid co-ordinator .

The scheme aims to help older, more socially isolated individuals feel more secure and to have a better quality of life.

Volunteers visit people at home to provide high quality information and enable access to a wide range of resources. They also network widely with parish councillors, transport providers, faith groups, social groups, police and health and social care providers to become known in their community.

The good neighbours scheme will eventually be rolled out across Wiltshire. Holt has been identified as a potential location for one of the first schemes.

What happened next ...

Helen Lines from Community First attended the Holt Parish Council meeting on the 26th August to provide more information about the scheme and to advise the Parish Council that she is currently recruiting a co-ordinator to develop the scheme in Holt.

Joanne Eccleston has been recruited as the Good Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for the Holt area. Jennie lives in Broughton Gifford and will be starting work in the community at the beginning of November.

Joanne will be coming along to the Holt Parish Council meeting in December.

Limpley Stoke Traffic Intimidation

At the January area board meeting:

A grant of £5,000 was awarded to Limpley Stoke Parish Council to put towards measures to reduce traffic intimidation. The issue of traffic intimidation in Limpley Stoke was first raised at an Area Board in July 2009.

What happened next:

A workshop took place on the 5th March. More than 70 local residents attended to give their thoughts on traffic intimidation.

Highways Officer David Bullock gave interim feedback to the Parish Council at on 6th April.

Highways Officer David Bullock confirmed that the parish of Limpley Stoke was to be formally invited to partake in the trials.

Current situation:

Limpley Stoke has accepted the invitation to partake in the 20mph trials and the parish council are currently in discussions with Wiltshire Council Highways Officers about plans for the scheme.

Westwood Traffic Intimidation

So far...

Westwood Parish Council wrote to the Council in February requesting a 'road safety survey' examining the benefit of introducing a 20mph speed limit amongst other potential measures.

A metro count has taken place in two locations in Westwood as an initial step to examine traffic conditions. The results of these showed average speeds of 24.1 mph for Lower Westwood Road and 17.7mph for Upper Westwood Road (the equipment at this location was vandalised and only 180 cars were recorded).

It was announced at the area board on the 19th May that Westwood Parish Council would formally be invited to take part in the 20mph trials.

Next steps:

Westwood Parish Council formally agreed to accept the invitation to partake in the 20mph trial on the 5th July.

They are now working with Wiltshire Council Highways Officers to develop the scheme.

Waste and Recycling Strategy

So far:

At the January Area Board, Toby Sturgis presented on current waste and recycling policy and highlighted that a consultation was going to take place put forward a number of options for the refuse collection and recycling services which currently differ from area to area across the county.

The consultation on the Waste and Recycling strategy was then postponed until after the general election.

Officers from this service attended the area board on the 21st July to answer questions on how residents could comment on the consultation.

The consultation on Waste and Recycling closed on the 20th August 2010.



All comments and completed questionnaires received before 20 August 2010 were included in the analysis of the consultation.

In October, councillors considered and agreed a report containing the results of the consultation and decided what service changes to make.

Information on the new service can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling/waste/waste-whatisthenewservice

Emergency Planning



The Emergency Planning Team at Wiltshire Council are planning on carrying out a pilot in the Bradford on Avon Community Area to look at how they can support communities to prepare for emergencies.

What will happen next:

Members of the Emergency Planning Team are coming to the area board on the 24th November to talk to community members about they can help prepare to protect themselves in emergency situations.

Community Area Transport Working Group

At the July Area Board meeting:

It was announced that a Community Area Transport Working Group was going to be set up.

Every year Wiltshire Council Highways Department receives hundred of requests for transports improvements. This includes requests for traffic calming, zebra crossings, footpath widening and the installation of roundabouts.

In the past these schemes were prioritised according to a set of criteria which looked at a variety of factors such as the number of accidents recorded at that location and the number of people who would benefit from a scheme.

These schemes will now also be assessed by the Transport Working Group to ensure that local priorities can be taken into consideration.

Current situation:

The community area manager wrote to all Town and Parish Councils asking them if they would like nominate a representative for the working group.

The first meeting of the transport working group will take place on the 12th November 2010.

The results of the discussions from the first group will be fed back to Councillors at the November Area Board.

The Area Board has a total of £10,062 to spend on transport improvements across the community area.

A guide to the cost of schemes is available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/costwiltshighwaysworks

Library Services Review

At the July Area Board:

The Head of the Library Service explained that service was currently undertaking a review with four stages: Define, Design, Develop and Deploy. The service was currently in the Define stage – looking at what the library service does, how they do it and what customers want. A number of focus groups had already taken place and individuals could contribute to this process by filling in the survey with their top priorities for the library service.

Current situation:

You can still have your say on your top five priorities for a future library service by going to

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/librariesnews.htm?aid=104434

Car Parking Strategy

At the July 2010 area board meeting:

It was announced that residents had the opportunity to comment on car parking strategy proposals from 12 July to 3 September 2010.

A new parking policy is needed to bring together the four different policies that existed under the previous district councils.

The consultation looked at areas such as parking charges, residents parking and managing off and on street parking.

At the September 2010 Area Board Meeting:

Cabinet member Councillor Dick Tonge gave a presentation on the results from the recent car parking consultation.

600 responses were received on a variety of questions that looked at areas such as parking charges and residents parking.

In Bradford on Avon residents highlighted the need for car parking policy to be flexible enough to deal with special schemes such as the Historic Core Zone proposal and the lack of public parking provision on north side of town. Residents also stressed that there was inadequate parking provision for residents in parts of the town and that this situation will get worse with the new Kingston Mills development. It was identified that it was important to cater for the needs of tourists.

Cabinet members will look at the results from the consultation and additional feedback from the area board in December to decide how to go forward. Any changes will be implemented from April 2011.

Leisure Review

At the July Area Board:

Councillor Stuart Wheeler explained how Wiltshire Council had undertaken a review of its indoor leisure facilities.

Currently, there is a mixture of facilities across the county. These include privately owned, council-operated, community run and some that are jointly used by local schools. The council contributes towards the running of 23 indoor facilities and would need to spend £93 million just to maintain them for the next 25 years. This would not include any improvements, refurbishments or building any new facilities and the Council believes this would be an inefficient use of resources.

The review looks at leisure provision for the next 25 years and focuses on a programme of replacement, refurbishment and devolvement of leisure facilities.

At the September Area Board:

Councillor Stuart Wheeler attended the Bradford on Avon board to discuss the options for Bradford on Avon swimming pool in more detail.

Next steps:

The Wiltshire Council Cabinet will consider the outcome of the public consultation on leisure in December 2010.

The Bradford on Avon Development Trust is currently looking at the running costs of the Bradford on Avon leisure centre to determine potential ways forward.

Street Lighting



So far ..

£5000 has been allocated to each community area to install smart light technology in up to 100 streetlights. This technology will mean that the lights switch off at midnight until 5.30am. The aim of this initiative is to reduce CO2 emissions, save on energy costs and reduce light pollution.

Residents in Bradford on Avon Town were asked to nominate streetlights that could be switched off between midnight and 5.30am. Over 100 nominations were received across the Town of Bradford on Avon. 700 consultation letters have been sent out to all households surrounding the nominated lights asking if local residents have any objections.

5 nominations have also been received for the parish of Staverton and 10 nominations have been received for the parish of Westwood.

What's next?

Bradford on Avon Town Council will be considering the results of the consultation that has taken place across the town of Bradford on Avon at their December meeting.

Staverton Parish Council will be consulting with local residents through their winter newsletter.

Westwood Parish Council are currently consulting with residents through their November newsletter.

The final proposals for all lights to be switched off between midnight and 5.30am across the community area will come to the area board on the 19th January 2011.

Voluntary and Community Sector Awards

At the March Area Board 2009:

Councillors awarded £4,100 to the Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture Group for their Community Farm project.



Latest news

Bradford on Avon Community Agriculture were nominated for a Voluntary and Community Sector Award by the area board.

Three area board projects were shortlisted and invited to attend the Voluntary and Community Sector Award Ceremony. Short videos were shown on all three shortlisted projects and the audience voted for the project they felt should win.

The Community Agriculture Group received the most votes and won £1000 prize money!

More information on other community issues
can be found on our online issue tracker.

Go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards