

The future role of our Area Board **Cllr Richard Britton**

I am proposing an operating 'model' in response to the council's focus on 'resilient communities'.

I take this expression to mean leading and equipping our communities to do more for themselves than may previously have been the case. They need to become less dependent upon WC. This message seems to be getting across. We need to consider how the role of the Area Board can best reflect this 'direction of travel'.

The following model proposes a three-stage approach to future Area Board projects:

- Strategy and direction.
- Pilot project or modelling.
- Handover to parishes.

To some extent the model formalises what Tom and I have already been working towards.

I hope the Board will be able to agree this approach and accept it as appropriate to our community area.

Why a new model?

We cannot continue to load more and more projects onto our Community Engagement Manager. The footpaths project is an example where Tom's on-going involvement is necessary to keep it moving. We need to plan for our projects to become self-sustaining by handing them on to PCs or other community groups with Tom being available for help and guidance as required.

The model

1. Strategy and direction.

This is an Area Board activity operating in public session. We work with our PCs to define themes and priorities and individual project ideas within those broad themes. This will be via workshop sessions, interactive voting and follow-on presentations.

2. Modelling and pilot.

This is the Area Board working 'behind the scenes' to flesh out one of the potential projects and translate it into a do-able pilot project which is then delivered with the co-operation of a volunteer parish.

3. Handover.

The experience of the pilot project is then assembled into a simple 'How To' guide using templates and checklists. This is then used to advertise the project and promote its take-up by other parishes.

Example

The dementia theme nicely illustrates this model.

1. Strategy and direction

- A workshop/voting event at the AB identified (inter alia) Older People as something our audience felt the AB should be working on.
- Some initial thinking resulted in the identification of Dementia as one project to take this priority forward.
- This was elaborated on by another session by Alzheimer's Society at another AB.

2. Modelling and pilot

- We then planned and defined (in conjunction with Alzheimers) the dementia event held in Alderbury.
- Some lessons were learned.
- Tom will now produce a template/instructions/guidelines for use by other parishes wishing to hold similar events (Downton is next on the list).

3. Handover

- The template will be used to further promote the take up and running of dementia events in other parishes with Tom remaining always as the point of contact for guidance on planning and 'marketing' such events.
- This then leaves Tom free to take up another project – either within the same 'Older People' theme or another of the AB priorities.

That seems to me to work and achieve our objectives of (a) helping villages become more sustainable; and (b) making our AB projects more self-sustaining.