

MINUTES

Meeting: MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD
Place: St John's School, Granham Hill, Marlborough, SN8 4AX
Date: 8 February 2011
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.30 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Kevin Fielding (Democratic Services Officer), Tel: 01249 706610 or (e-mail) kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Chris Humphries (Aldbourn and Ramsbury) (Chairman), Cllr Nick Fogg (Marlborough West) (Vice Chairman), Peggy Dow (Marlborough East) and Cllr Jemima Milton (West Selkley)

Cabinet Representative

Cllr Lionel Grundy (Children's Services)

Officers

Chris Graves (Service Manager)
Julia Densham (Community Area Manager)
Kevin Fielding (Democratic Services Officer)

Parish and Town Councils

Marlborough Town Council – Andrew Ross & Guy Loosmore
Aldbourn Parish Council – Alan Phizacklea
Avebury Parish Council – M Bedford
Baydon Parish Council – Tony Prior & Michael Edmonds
Berwick Bassett & Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council – Bob Gutherson
Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett Parish Council – James Keith
Chilton Foliat Parish Council – Nic Coome
Fyfield & West Overton Parish Council – Mary Spender
Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council – Sheila Glass

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Insp Andrew Noble

Wiltshire Police Authority – Gill Mortimer

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership – Rich Pitts

Marlborough Area Development Trust – Martin Cook

Members of Public in Attendance: 7**Total in attendance: 46**

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
36.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to St John's School. The Chairman then invited all the Wiltshire Council members including Cllr Lionel Grundy (Cabinet member for Children's Services), who was attending the meeting on behalf of Cllr Jane Scott OBE, the officers in attendance, and the Parish council representatives in attendance to introduce themselves to the meeting.</p>
37.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Joan Davies – Savernake Parish Council, Roger Swan – Ogbourne St Andrew Parish Council, Val Compton and Victoria Lara - Chair of the Chamber of Commerce.</p>
38.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>a. The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>b. Matters arising – there were no matters arising.</p>
39.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Agenda Item No.14a – Marlborough Town Council community area grant application.</p> <p>Cllr Peggy Dow – Prejudicial interest, Marlborough Town Council member, would leave the room when this application was discussed and voted on.</p> <p>Cllr Nick Fogg – Prejudicial interest, Marlborough Town Council member, would leave the room when this application was discussed and voted on.</p>
40.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>Public Protection Enforcement Policy</p> <p>The Public Protection Service was reviewing its enforcement policy, and was seeking views from interested stakeholders.</p> <p>The policy dealt with the entire range of legislation administered by the Public Protection Service covering all environmental health and trading standards powers, as well as any relevant community safety and emergency planning</p>

	<p>laws.</p> <p>Waste Consultation Results The consultation finished on 20 August 2010. All the area boards were thanked for their support throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>Local Flood Protection Information was given in the event of flooding, and the Council's priority is to the elderly or infirm when assisting people and the protection of commercial property to prevent environmental pollution.</p> <p>Advance notice of Area Board consultation on Street Trading Wiltshire Council's Licensing Committee considered a report of the future of street trading at its meeting on 30 November 2010.</p> <p>Outcome of the Leisure Facilities Review Wiltshire Council's cabinet had considered the results of the extensive consultation exercise undertaken between July and October and approved a refined proposal.</p> <p>The Council would continue the on-going dialogue which had already been established with local community groups regarding the local management of facilities.</p> <p>Localism Bill - Proposed Changes to Arrangements Governing the Conduct of Councillors</p> <p>Information was given on the Government's Localism Bill, which was published on 13 December 2010, and made significant changes to the current arrangements governing the conduct of councillors in Wiltshire.</p> <p>Full versions of all of these announcements were available in the agenda pack.</p>
41.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Police The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.</p> <p>It was also noted that there had been a number of thefts from non-residential rural outbuildings, Wiltshire Police were more than happy to discuss crime prevention with any residents who may have concerns about this issue.</p>

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.

NHS Wiltshire

The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.

Town or Parish updates

Marlborough Town Council

Rich Pitts advised that Marlborough Town Council had met on the 26 January. This meeting had considered the impact of the Wiltshire Council parking strategy on the entire Marlborough community area as the villages of the area were dependant to parking in order to shop and conduct business in the town.

A report was tabled highlighting to the Area Board how expensive the new parking charges would be and to request that the Area Board support Marlborough Town Council in trying to get Wiltshire Council to reconsider the planned car parking increases for Marlborough as it would have a serious impact on the entire area.

Points made Included:

- It was cheaper to park in central Bristol than Marlborough.
- Shops in Hungerford were refunding car parking fees, encouraging shoppers to park and shop there. This was perhaps something that Marlborough Chamber of Commerce could look at.
- Wiltshire Council should look at pay as you leave car parks as an alternative to pay and display.
- On street car parking is very competitive in Marlborough with shoppers, workers and tourists all vying for the same parking spaces.

Cllr Lionel Grundy advised that:

- The parking tariffs in Marlborough had been set by the old Kennet District Council.
- Season tickets could be looked at as they are too expensive for many people who use the car parks to buy.
- Wiltshire Council car parking revenues are used to subsidise the rural bus

services, some 17% of residents do not have access to a car, this is an important service in a rural area.

- The Hillier's yard car park had a covenant that it must only be used for short stay parking, (two hours).

Decision

- **That the Marlborough Area Board would support Marlborough Town Council in trying to get Wiltshire Council to reconsider the planned car parking increases for Marlborough as it would have a serious impact on the entire area.**
- **That the Community Area Manager & Democratic Services Officer would confirm that the car parking tariff increases shown in the report were correct.**

Fyfield & West Overton Parish Council

Mary Spender (Fyfield and West Overton PC) advised that the parish council had spoken to the North Wessex Downs AONB concerning West Woods and any proposed Forestry sell-off plans: there still appeared to be no details available, but the AONB team promised to keep them informed of any discussions that might arise. The Woods are protected by AONB status and their special habitat (KDC's NR3), and also have extensive RoW 's throughout. Some members of the public had already asked if there was any risk to these popular Woods, but this was as much as anyone knew at the moment.

Marlborough Area Development Trust

Martin Cook advised that:

- The first phase of the new Community Area Plan had been completed.
- An audit of the existing plan had shown that it should not be taken forward.
- Public consultation would begin during March 2011 with full presentation of the plan at the end of 2011.
- It was agreed that the Area Board would receive regular written updates on the plan which would then be included in future agendas.

Marlborough Downs Movies

The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.

	<p>Ellie Vesey-Thompson, (UK Youth Parliament) advised that she would be seeking re-election to the UK Youth Parliament and that information on how to vote for Ellie and the other candidates could be found on:</p> <p>http://www.sparksite.co.uk/entries/way_ukyp_elections_february_2011_meet_the_candidates_ellie</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everybody for their updates.</p>
42.	<p><u>Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership</u></p> <p>Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership (MaVCAP) Rich Pitts, (MaVCAP Chairman) advised that the minutes of the previous MaVCAP meeting had now been circulated.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transfer management of the Community Area Plan project from the Community Area Partnership to the Area Board, and that the Area Board would liaise with MADT but ensuring that MAVCAP is copied in all correspondence. <p>Rich Pitts advised that he would be standing down in terms of active development of MaVCAP with immediate effect, but would continue to deal with administrative matters with the Vice chair. A set of accounts would be produced at the end of February and a report of work undertaken and any other issues that need addressing.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Rich Pitts for his update and his work with MaVCAP.</p>
43.	<p><u>Air Quality Management Plan</u></p> <p>Gary Tomsett ,(Environmental Control & Protection Team Manager, Wiltshire Council) was in attendance to take any questions on the report from the Public Protection Service on the decision to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Marlborough.</p> <p>The report, (which was included in the agenda pack) concluded that an AQMA is required to cover an area of likely exceedence of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels in Herd Street / Barn Street, Marlborough.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Marlborough Area Board endorsed the proposals in the

Detailed Assessment and agreed the draft Air Quality Management Order for Marlborough.

44.

Police Authority Budget

Gill Mortimer - Wiltshire Police Authority gave a short power point presentation on the potential impact of the spending cuts on Wiltshire policing.

Points made included:

- Wiltshire Police Authority's annual budget of £107 million must be reduced by £15 million over the next four years to meet government spending cuts.
- Wiltshire Police was likely to lose up to 150 police officers and up to 200 police staff posts, but were committed to keeping officers on the streets and protecting the frontline as far as possible.
- Numbers of neighbourhood police would remain the same.
- New technology would keep officers on the beat fighting crime.
- Current helicopter arrangements with the air ambulance would continue until at least 2014.
- The Swindon and County divisional structures would be merged.
- Wiltshire Police Authority had compiled a questionnaire for the residents of Wiltshire to give their input as to funding cuts.

Questions from the floor included:

- How will Wiltshire Police maintain the same level of cover if they are losing 150 police officers?
A. The reduction will be through natural wastage, some 85 police officer posts have been lost through this. Wiltshire police are currently not recruiting any new officers, back office staff will bare the brunt of the cuts.
- Cllr Jemima Milton requested that the community police woman for West Selkley be used to help police Avebury during the summer solstice rather than being sent to Stonehenge.
- Will Swindon based police officers attend incidents in the Marlborough area?
A. Yes, this already happens when resources are required.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted how well valued the Community Beat Officers had become throughout the community area. <p>The Chairman thanked Gill Mortimer and for the presentation and question and answer session.</p>
45.	<p><u>Engaging the Parishes</u></p> <p>Julia Densham,(Community Area Manager) presented a report on the outcomes of recent consultations with the parishes, (the full report was included in the agenda pack).</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marlborough Area Board members were supportive of the creation of a Parish Forum. • The proposed Parish Forum would give the parishes the opportunity to work together, discussing common issues and topics. • The parishes having the opportunity to have a more “outward view”, challenging Wiltshire Council and holding them to account. <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Marlborough Area Board adopts the ten proposals. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mood of the meeting to be considered by the divisional member and if a divisional member chooses to vote against the mood of the meeting their reason should be given and minuted. 2. The area board supports the formation of a parish forum. 3. Agendas should be balanced in favour of local issues rather than corporate items. 4. The area board consider limiting the number of items on future agendas to ensure local interest and greater input from attendees. 5. The Chairman and Community Area Manager to work with council officers to ensure that presentations are shorter and better prepared.

	<p>6. The Democratic Services Officer to note the requests for more comprehensive minutes and better agenda descriptions.</p> <p>7. Parish councils to be invited to ask their councillors to sign up individually to the Community Area Network (CAN) to ensure the speedy delivery of Marlborough Area Board information.</p> <p>8. The community area manager to work towards better formats for the distribution of information via e-newsletters.</p> <p>9. Information about the Community Issues process and how issues are handled is sent to parish councils so that their views are recorded.</p> <p>10. These meetings to better engage the parishes to be repeated in one year to gauge their success and to make further recommendations.</p> <p>Note: Area Board members felt that they would like to explore an eleventh proposal that would tie the parishes in, asking what they, (the parishes) could do to work more closely with the Area Board.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Community Area Manager for her report.</p>
46.	<p><u>Youth Transport Mapping and Gapping</u></p> <p>a. Youth Transport Task and Finish Group - 'Transport to Go!'</p> <p>Julia Densham, (Community Area Manager) presented a report on the outcomes of the Youth Transport Task Group, a group of volunteers, officers and youth workers who had offered to work on the project when the task group was formed at the area board meeting in June 2010.</p> <p>The 'Dreams and Wishes' survey, commissioned by the Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership, reported that most young people wished to access affordable transport into Marlborough and Swindon. Alongside this, Wiltshire Council co-hosted a conference in Devizes in February 2010 entitled 'Move It' to bring together young people and transport providers to consider the issues young people face when trying to use public transport. As a result of this conference, Wiltshire Council gave approximately £5,000 to each area board to explore ways in which these issues could be addressed. Marlborough Area Board received £4,547.</p> <p>Given the extremely short time scales (the pilot was to last 4 months), the task group decided to select specific events to which transport could be offered. This</p>

included films and events at St John's School, Bluz n Zuz discos in Marlborough, events arranged through the Youth Development Centre (ice-skating and bowling in Swindon) and the Slum Survivor project in Marlborough.

(The full report is attached to these minutes).

Decision

- **That Parish councils encourage the formation of their own youth committees, in conjunction with local youth clubs, to organise their own transport to events.**
- **Village/parish councils consider the wide variety of youth transport opportunities.**
- **Village/parish councils consider the needs of low-income / single parent / no-vehicle families.**
- **That the remaining youth transport budget (£3331) to be ring-fenced for any future youth transport schemes within the community area, including those considered by the Marlborough Community Area Transport Group.**

The Chairman thanked The Community Area Manager for her report.

b. Report on Transport and Young People in the Marlborough Community Area.

Liam Tatton-Bennett presented a report that highlighted young peoples transport issues and needs across the Marlborough community area.

The report recognised that transport was a key issue for young people living in Wiltshire and to address this issue locally, the Marlborough Area Board commissioned a Transport Working Group to look into addressing this issue in partnership with local communities' charity Community First.

(The full report was included in the agenda pack).

Decision

- **That the Marlborough Area Board accepts the findings of the reports and agrees with the recommendations of Liam Tatton-Bennett.**
- **To continue efforts with St. John's School to bring together a School minibus, parent volunteer drivers / chaperones, and young**

	<p>people at the School to bring about the provision of a facility which enables young people based in and close to Marlborough to travel to events which they cannot access easily at present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further efforts in Ramsbury to bring together the Ramsbury Community Bus, parent volunteer drivers / chaperones and young people in Ramsbury and Axford to bring about the provision of a facility which enables young people based in and close to Ramsbury to travel to events which they cannot access easily at present • To pursue efforts in Ramsbury to involve local young people in gathering, designing and publicising public bus information in partnership with Wiltshire Council and also in lobbying for bus shelters in the area in partnership with Ramsbury Parish Council. <p>The Chairman thanked Liam Tatton-Bennett for his report.</p>
47.	<p><u>Local Health Forum</u></p> <p>Cllr Jemima Milton gave an update on the proposed Marlborough Health Fair at Marlborough Town Hall, Wednesday 11 May 2011.</p> <p>The fair would promote local health care services and engage with local people to identify their needs and would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of services at Savernake Hospital, Great Western Hospital, GP surgeries, dentists, pharmacies, patient participation groups and other support services. • To raise awareness between services. • NHS Wiltshire would be present to carry out blood pressure checks for attendees. • To consider the stated needs of local people alongside multi-agency research data to deliver what people want/need. • To investigate area board health priorities for the next year <p>A report, including final costs of the project will be reported to the area board meeting on 21 June 2011.</p>

	<p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Marlborough Area Board supports the Marlborough health fair and underwrite funding of up to £1,000 for the event.
48.	<p><u>Visiting Cabinet Representative</u></p> <p>Cllr Lionel Grundy was attending the Area Board in Cllr Jane Scott's place which had been previously advertised. He gave a brief overview of his cabinet responsibilities, (Children's Services), which covered schools and learning, social care services and commissioning & performance.</p> <p>Points made by Cllr Grundy included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been huge changes throughout local government since the coalition government had come to power. • The number of schools opting for academy status was now starting to take off. • The selling of goods and services to schools was set to change, with Wiltshire Council having to compete with other providers in giving the best services and goods. • Well done to the Area Board for its work on the Youth Transport Plan, It was agreed that the Youth Transport report would be sent to Cllr Richard Gamble, (Portfolio Holder for Public Transport, Wiltshire Council). <p>Questions from the floor to Cllr Grundy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the current CRB check process be simplified to a single check that would cover all voluntary organisations and work situations. <i>A. Yes, the current system is a long drawn out process that often makes potential volunteers reluctant to get involved, hopefully a more rational system would be introduced.</i> <p>A list of questions and answers submitted for Cllr Scott are attached to these minutes.</p>

49.

Funding

1. The Wiltshire Councillors considered nine applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme 2010/11, as follows:

Note: Cllrs Peggy Dow and Nick Fogg had declared prejudicial interests and had left the room.

Representation was made by Liam Costello on behalf of Marlborough Town Council.

Representation was made by Tony Prior on behalf of Baydon Parish Council.

Representation was made by Bill Buxton on behalf of Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett Parochial Church Council.

Representation was made by Linda Crawshaw on behalf of Little Dragons Pre-School.

Representation was made by Sarah Condie on behalf of We love Marlborough.

Representation was made by Martin Cook on behalf of the Marlborough Area Development Trust.

Representation was made by Caroline Terrett on behalf of Wagtails Before and After School Club.

Representation was made by David Arnold on behalf of Ramsbury Neighbourhood First Responder Team.

Representation was made by Sheila Glass on behalf of Ramsbury and Axford Parish Council.

Decision

Marlborough Town Council was awarded £5,000 to upgrade the audio-visual system in Marlborough Town Hall.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application demonstrates direct links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan in the following sections: to increase the number of appropriate cultural venues, to encourage community events that create a sense of pride and well-being and to involve young people in activities.

Note: Cllrs Peggy Dow and Nick Fogg had now returned to the room.

Decision

Baydon Parish Council were awarded £2,977 to provide various safety aspects related to the parish council play area with the condition that should S106 'open space' funds become available for this project, Baydon Parish Council will return the £2,977 back to the Marlborough Area Board.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to use leisure facilities to engage young people to have a sense of belonging and pride of place and to increase numbers of young people engaging in activities.

Decision

Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett Parochial Church Council were awarded £810 to provide 4 tables and 12 chairs to furnish the new community room.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to encourage community events that create a sense of pride and well-being and to increase numbers of young people engaging in activities.

Decision

Little Dragons Pre-School were awarded £991 to provide 4 pieces of outdoor play equipment.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following section: maintain the viability of village primary schools by providing high-quality child care provision that brings children into the pre-school and in turn to the village primary school that currently has vacancies.

Decision

We Love Marlborough were awarded £861 to provide exhibition materials and promote the Children's Arts Festival exhibition in Marlborough Town Hall with the condition that a written report is brought back to the 12 April 2011 Area board meeting.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to continue to raise the profile of arts and crafts together with artists and makers, encourage community events that create a sense of pride and well-being, to use leisure and cultural activities to engage young people who may have no sense of belonging or pride of place and to involve young people in activities.

Decision

Marlborough Area Development Trust were awarded £1,391 to run a community fair during National Science and Engineering Week.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following section: to encourage community events that create a sense of pride and well-being and expanding the use at St John's School as a community college.

Decision

Wagtails Before and After School Club were awarded £995 to expand the club's stock of games and equipment.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to increase numbers of young people engaging in activities. The Baydon Village Plan also states that residents would like to see an expansion and development of all children's groups and clubs in particular after school clubs.

Decision

Ramsbury Neighbourhood First Responder Team were awarded £3,400 to purchase and install 4 community Public Access Defibrillators and provide CPR, first aid and cPAD training with the condition that a representative comes back to the area board in six months time to give an update on this project.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and project demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council's priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire that aims to help communities to help themselves, and to build 'resilient communities' through enabling people and communities to build skills, abilities, knowledge and confidence to take effective action and play leading roles in the development of their communities and so enhance their quality of life.

Decision

Rambury and Axford Parish Council were awarded £2,217 to replace the slide at the Whittonditch play area.

Reason

The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and the application links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan under the following sections: to provide leisure facilities that to engage young people who may have no sense of belonging or pride of place and to increase numbers of young people engaging in activities.

2. The Marlborough Area Board considered whether to delegate authority to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the area board unitary members, to deal with specified contingent matters between meetings.

The proposal to grant delegated power to the Community Area Manager would enable urgent decisions provided any expenditure does not exceed £1,000 from the budget delegated to the area board. The details of the decision would then be reported to the next meeting of the board to ensure transparency.

The delegated power would only be used for matters of urgency which could not wait until the next meeting of the area board and would not be used as a matter of routine. The majority of decisions would continue to be taken at a public meeting

	<p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Marlborough Area Board approves to delegate authority to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the area board unitary members, to deal with specified contingent matters between meetings provided any expenditure does not exceed £1,000 from the budget delegated to the area board.
50.	<p><u>Any Other Questions</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited any remaining questions from the floor.</p> <p>Is it correct that the No.70 bus service was to be terminated by the Wilts & Dorset bus company?</p> <p><i>a. Yes, but the Stagecoach bus company have confirmed that they will now be running No.70 service as a commercial basis and that the CAM would investigate this service and obtain further information.</i></p> <p>Could future area board meetings at St John's School have better signage to the location?</p> <p><i>a. Noted.</i></p> <p>Pewsey Road bridge, better signage please as it is unclear that the bridge is open in a reduced capacity and which way the one-way traffic can flow over the bridge.</p> <p><i>a. The CAM will look into this.</i></p> <p>Would the Marlborough Area Board support an environmental impact survey being carried out on the proposed Great Stones Walk route which would run through the Marlborough community area?</p> <p><i>a. The recommendation would be forwarded to the Friends of the Ridgeway supporting them carrying out an environmental impact survey on the proposed Marlborough route.</i></p>
51.	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and requested that the pink evaluation sheets were filled out.</p>
52.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>To note that future meetings of the Marlborough Area Board will take place on:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 12 April 2011 - Kennet Valley Village Hall, Lockeridge</p>

	<p>Tuesday 21 June 2011 - Venue to be confirmed Tuesday 6 September 2011 - Marlborough Town Hall, Tuesday 1 November 2011 - Broad Hinton Village Hall Tuesday 7 February 2012 - Kennet Valley Village Hall, Lockeridge</p>
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Questions for Cllr Jane Scott – 8 February, Marlborough Area Board Meeting

Question

Elimination of landfill in this Area.

“As you know in the West the new plant at Westbury and in the South the Grundon plant at Colnbrook are designed to eliminate landfill. In this area there was a joint exercise with SBC which has come to nought. My question is, what technology is now being adopted by Wiltshire Council”

Answer

The Council has a goal in the corporate plan of reducing landfill to 25% or less of all municipal solid waste (MSW) by 2014. (MSW is all the waste collected by the council.)

In 2002/03 about 80% of Wiltshire’s waste was sent to landfill. Since then we have made much progress. During 209/10 the proportion of waste sent to landfill was less than 50% for the first time. In 2010/11 we expect our landfilled tonnage to be about 37%.

The main components of this improvement to date are as follows :-

- Waste reduction – our MSW tonnage peaked in 2004/05 at about 265,000 tonnes. This year we expect a total tonnage of about 240,000.*
- Increase in recycling - about 40% of Wiltshire’s household waste is recycled, compared with about 20% in 2002/03*
- Other diversion projects – this year we will send about 8000 tonnes of wood waste to energy production and 50,000 tonnes to the Colnebrook energy from waste incinerator.*

Two further projects are close to implementation. The Westbury MBT plant is likely to be fully operational by 2012/13 and the council’s cabinet has approved further changes to waste and recycling collections, which should lead to a 50% recycling rate for household waste.

With these measures in place, we should achieve a landfill rate of well below 25%.

Since the termination of the Swindon project, the Council has been reviewing the need for a further project to divert waste from landfill. However, the decision to go ahead with the above projects, coupled with progress to date and the fact that waste tonnage has not grown as feared about 10 years ago,

mean that Wiltshire should achieve a very low landfill rate without the need for a further project, at least in the foreseeable future.

Due to falling tonnages elsewhere, waste from East Wiltshire is being sent to the Colnebrook plant and some will probably be sent to the Westbury plant.

The Council is intending to review its longer term waste strategy shortly.

Question

"There has been a significant fall in demand/price paid for recycled materials and this has undoubtedly led to the appalling mess generated at the recycling centre in George Lane due to insufficient collections and management.

At present we have some recycled materials collected whilst other materials have to be transported to recycling centres.

With the increased pollution generated by people having to travel (by car) regularly to the recycling centre, is it not time to abandon this process and introduce a scheme whereby all recycled materials can be collected from households in line with existing weekly/bi-weekly collections undertaken"

Answer

Our contractors report that recycle prices are fairly steady at the moment, apart from glass, which is low.

Recycling sites such as George lane, Marlborough, which have bins for plastic bottles and card, are subject to big fluctuations in use, with an enormous peak during the period after Christmas. The bins are emptied daily, but fill up very quickly. Whilst every effort is made to keep up during peak periods, this is not always possible. Residents are asked to delay visiting these sites at peak times if at all possible.

Two service improvements are likely to help with the situation at George Lane car park.

The first is the council's decision last October to introduce a fortnightly kerbside collection of plastic bottles and card, a component of the changes to waste and recycling collections in Wiltshire which were consulted upon during Summer 2010.

The second is the proposal by the council to open a household recycling centre at Salisbury Road Business Park, Marlborough. This will have larger

bins for plastic bottles and card, plus compression equipment. The site has a crew who will monitor demand and arrange collection of filled bins. This will replace the facility at George Lane car park. Site works at the household recycling centre are nearing completion.

The household recycling centres collect a very wide range of material, from car oil and batteries to wood. It would not be possible to collect all of these at kerbside, but the council is proposing to collect the material most commonly available for recycling.

Question

"Will the Localism Bill have any impact at the small Parish Council level?"

"In the run up to the June 2009 unitary council election - Cllr Scott called for Councillors to act as "local champions". It is clear that the Localism Bill means that the role of mentor to Parish and Town Councils is now key to the success of the process. What steps are the Cabinet taking to provide both training and encouragement to Wiltshire Councillors to support and motivate PCs and TCs to look beyond getting the grass cut".

Answer

Since Cabinets approval in February 2010 to progress with Service Delegation Pilots, officers have worked with and continue to work with Town and Parish Councils on a range of potential delegations both large and small.

Many have combined an asset transfer or lease of an asset with the delegation of the service associated with its maintenance. The first of these to come to fruition was the transfer of the Castlefields Country Park (Calne) and its maintenance to Calne Town Council, approved by the Calne Area Board in October 2010.

On a smaller scale the South Western Area Board approved the transfer of allotments in Tisbury to the Town Council also in October 2010.

The Melksham Area Board approved the transfer of a sports field and pavilion to Melksham Without Parish Council who will assume full maintenance of the pitches, administer the bookings and receive the income.

Currently there are two major projects in progress: the potential transfer of Monkton Park, Chippenham to Chippenham Town Council, and the potential delegation of City cleaning services to Salisbury City Council.

Work also continues with other Town and Parish Councils involving the transfer of allotments, maintenance of highway verges and cleaning of public conveniences.

Providing financial support to Town and Parish Councils that have taken on delegated service has always been a key concern and in October 2010 Cabinet approved arrangements for the funding of delegated services.

The process is ongoing and Councils interested in taking on delegated services should contact Bob Chequer the project manager.

Following discussions at the Market Towns Meetings, a joint working group has been formed to examine the potential for the forward planning of service delegations and the development of capacity and infrastructure within local councils to deliver delegated services.

Question

These questions are asked on behalf of Home-Start Kennet:

"Services such as ours were previously funded at County level because they were considered to support statutory services. Our grant is now being cut. Will area boards be encouraged to fund local groups, such as ours, to ensure local families in need are not further disadvantaged? Are we eligible to apply for funding support? How might area boards help us convert the goodwill we know exists in the local community we have served (Kennet District) into sustainable financial support?"

Answer

The grants criteria adopted by the Council does not allow Boards to fund the running costs of local organisations – so we cannot replace core funding that has been withdrawn. However, Area Boards can and will consider specific

projects that benefit the community area but this must be a new, separate, time-limited project that relates solely to the community area concerned and not existing countywide services presented as a local project.

Question

What is the current remuneration for Wiltshire Council's CEO, deputy and chief officers?

Answers

Name	Post Title	Current Salary	Salary Range
<i>Mr A Kerr</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>	<i>£183,000.00</i>	<i>£171,000 - £189,000</i>
<i>Ms MM Rae</i>	<i>Director – Public Health & Well Being</i>	<i>£118,433.00</i>	<i>£118,433 - £130,556</i>
<i>Dr C Brand</i>	<i>Director - Resources</i>	<i>£130,556.00</i>	<i>£118,433 - £130,556</i>
<i>Mrs C Godfrey</i>	<i>Director – Children & Education</i>	<i>£130,556.00</i>	<i>£118,433 - £130,556</i>
<i>Mr M Boden</i>	<i>Director – Neighbourhood & Planning</i>	<i>£122,477.00</i>	<i>£118,433 - £130,556</i>
<i>Mrs S Redmond</i>	<i>Director - Community Services</i>	<i>£130,556.00</i>	<i>£118,433 - £130,556</i>

How many of the 240 managers have been made redundant to date by Wiltshire Council?

221 posts are being deleted overall – to date 100 managers have left Wiltshire Council on voluntary redundancy and 41 posts are vacancies.

Have there been any voluntary redundancies from this group?

All redundancies so far are on a voluntary basis.

When is it anticipated that the 240 will have left the Council?

End of March.

Question

Some months ago Niki Lewis announced need for £500K cut in library funding. Question: Why was there no consultation with the PCs affected by the reduction of library services to a volunteer basis. I understand that Aldbourne will have RFID technology imposed but this should have been discussed beforehand as there are better and cheaper solutions more beneficial to the residents. As it is Wiltshire Council appears to have spent £500K to save £500K.

Answer

The Library Review started just over a year ago and focussed on creating a strong vision for the future of the service but at the same time taking account of the need to make £500,000 saving. As part of that process members of the Senior Library Management Team visited every Area Board to talk about what people wanted from their Libraries in the future. There was also other extensive consultation including over 20 focus groups, simple cards available to fill in in libraries and information on the website. Extensive consultation was undertaken to users and non-users of the service.

Unfortunately, just before the Libraries Review concluded we were faced with a very fast changing budget situation. The Comprehensive Spending Review has required the Council to make much more significant cost-saving and the Library Service had to be included in that. The Service has seen some management reduction like the rest of the council and had to increase its cost savings to 12% of its budget.

Our proposal is to run the 10 smaller libraries, which do around 3% of the total business of the Library Service, in partnership with volunteers. It does not mean handing the Libraries over to be run by the community but means maintaining professional librarian input, maintaining the book stock and ensuring all of the back office running of the Service is undertaken by a paid member of staff. In order to maintain the opening hours of our libraries we will be looking for volunteers to help with running the front of house and keeping the Library opening hours as they currently are.

RFID technology (self service machines as you may well know them) are widely used across the country and enable staff to use their time helping people in libraries rather than scanning and stamping books. They are now much more sophisticated machines and may well be used for a range of Council payments to be made in the future, again enabling libraries to offer other services to the community. Finally, we are trying to ensure that no libraries in Wiltshire have to close – we feel this is the best way forward.

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