

Report to	Malmesbury Area Board
Date of Meeting	7 September 2011
Title of Report	Parish and Town Council Engagement 2011

Purpose of Report

To request that the area board consider:

1. Information about two 'Tea and Talk' sessions provided for town/parish councils in May and June 2011
2. Whether 'Tea & Talk' sessions should be offered to parish/town councils in 2012.
3. Whether a special event should be arranged for all town/parish councils to enable them to discuss planning issues, to discuss local concerns and obtain advice. This might be coupled with a council officer from Economic Development if parish/town councils though this would be beneficial.

1. Background

- 1.1. Two, 'Tea and Talk' sessions were offered to parish and town councils on 23 May and 6 June 2011, to enable them to raise any issues of concern about the area board with the community area manager.
- 1.2. Following consultation with the parish/town councils there was a request for a presentation about Section 106 processes and Public Open Space to be provided.

Background documents used in the preparation of this Report	Notes from the two 'Tea and Talk' meetings (which have been distributed to all those people attending the meetings)
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2. Main Considerations & Officer Recommendations

2.1. Tea & Talk

- 2.1.1. Thirteen parishes attended the two events including Malmesbury town council and Ashton Keynes, Lea & Cleverton, Hankerton, Crudwell, Dauntsey, Oaksey, Little Somerford, Great Somerford, Brinkworth, Luckington & Alderton, Sherston and Brokenborough parish councils. A representative from Malmesbury and Village Community Area Partnership also attended each session.
- 2.1.2. Section 106 and Public Open Space was discussed as well as Service Delegation and Community Asset Transfer. Information provided by officers was considered useful and it allowed an opportunity to share experiences and ask questions.
- 2.1.3. Because of the interest in the chosen topic there was little opportunity to discuss general area board concerns. Concerns were however expressed about the appointment of a young person to the area board and lack of support at the Malmesbury and Villages Community Area partnership AGM. Positive feedback included the huge improvement in the PA system used at area boards and the opportunity to use the voting handsets. There was a feeling that presentations could still be improved and attention to time keeping was important.
- 2.1.4. With over half the parishes being represented, it would appear that this annual event remains useful. It would be valuable to discover from parish/town councils whether a theme for next year would be useful and if so ideas should be suggested throughout the year to the Community Area Manager in order that the most popular theme could be chosen for 2012.

2.2. Special Planning Event

- 2.2.1. Some parishes in the northern part of the Malmesbury community area have recently expressed a desire to have a question and answer session with a senior planning officer. The purpose would be to better understand the rules relating to planning applications, appeals and enforcement.
- 2.2.2. Boundary issues would be useful to be discussed; linked to decisions made by

Gloucester County Council and the Cotswold District Council.

- 2.2.3. Information about what parishes can do differently to have an influence over the planning permission would be helpful. These might include the village envelope, tourism development, conservation areas, building materials, how local surveys should be undertaken when a matter is of concern occurs, if it is to have an impact under the 'Localism' model.
- 2.2.4. About 12- 18 months ago an enforcement training session was hosted by the area board prior to one of their meetings. A similar event might be offered with a planning theme, either hosted by the area board or one of the parish councils at a time and venue to suit them.
- 2.2.5. If a single event were to be offered to all parishes within the Malmesbury community area it would more cost effective. Further clarification about the content of the session would also be helpful to ensure officers were meeting the needs of the parish/town council representatives attending.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Addressing community concerns contribute to the improvement of community wellbeing in the area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the specific concern.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. There are no financial implications relating directly to this report.
- 4.2. Should additional funding be required to host a special meeting for parish/town councils, this would be requested form the area board budget.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

6. HR Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 7.1 The opportunity for parish/town councils to engage with Wiltshire council officers in an informal manner provides an equal opportunity to identify and seek assistance to address their concerns.

Unpublished documents which have been relied upon in the preparation of this report include notes taken at the two 'Tea & Talk ' sessions, which have been sent to all who attended and are available on request.

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