

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** WESTBURY AREA BOARD  
**Place:** Westbury Parish Hall, Church Yard, Westbury BA13 3BT  
**Date:** 28 July 2011  
**Start Time:** 6.30pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.40pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Julie Swabey (Chairman), Cllr Russell Hawker and Cllr Michael Cuthbert-Murray (Vice Chairman), Cllr David Jenkins

Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Sally Hendry - Westbury Community Area Manager

Julia Cramp - Service Director for Commissioning and Performance, Department for Children and Education

Anna Thurman - Democratic Services Officer

Kevin Sweeney - Area Manager, Integrated Youth Service

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Westbury Town Council - Christine Mitchell, Francis Morland, Sue Ezra

Bratton Parish Council - Keith Miller

Edington Parish Council - Michael Jones

Heywood Parish Council - K Youngs

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police - Inspector Lindsey Winter

BA13+ Community Area Partnership – Carole King, Rev Jonathan Burke

**Total in attendance: 41**

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements, Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Westbury Area Board.</p>
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Anita Whittle, Ken Davis and David Windess.</p>
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
4.	<p><u>The Wiltshire Children's Trust Draft 13 to 19 Commission Strategy</u></p> <p>Kevin Sweeney, Area Manager Integrated Youth Service who is leading on the consultation process for the Children's Trust Draft Commissioning Strategy updated the board on the aims and scope of the consultation. The Strategy has a broad scope and includes health, education, housing, leisure, teenage pregnancy, youth crime and safeguarding. It is taking place against a back drop of both national and local initiatives and changes including:</p> <p>Nationally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big Society including Citizenship scheme and local decision making</li> <li>• New Education Bill – Academies and free schools</li> <li>• Information Advice and Guidance – moves towards an all age service?</li> </ul> <p>Locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local services delivered through campus sites</li> <li>• Savings needing to be made in all services - £600,000 from Youth Work and £417,000 from Information Advice and Guidance Children and Young People's Plan Vision</li> </ul> <p>The key aim is to improve the outcomes for young people aged between 13 -19 in Wiltshire, and this will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making sure there is a good range of quality services</li> <li>• Providing early response to the needs of young people when they are at risk or problems arise</li> <li>• Improving the way we work together and with partners</li> </ul> <p>A separate key priority within the Strategy is to work with the new campus developments planned for Wiltshire. The plan is to create a campus in each community area which will be a building or collection of buildings where a number of services or agencies are all based e.g. library, playgroup, sports hall</p>

and office space for workers. It is possible that some of the space in each campus will be for 13 – 19 year olds.

Wiltshire Council is currently looking to change the way it runs youth work in the county, part of this is to reflect the need to make savings but also to ensure that the needs of young people are met. The principles that will guide decisions on future youth work services and savings are that all Wiltshire young people aged 13- 19 will have access to high quality youth work opportunities. Young people will be actively involved in the planning and delivery of youth work. There will be enough youth work resources to meet the needs of vulnerable young people and there will be a greater range of service providers and growth in voluntary sector youth work. There are 4 suggestions being put forward by Wiltshire Council about possible changes to the youth service these are;

- Testing the Market - involving competitively tendering the existing service
- Developing Local Partnerships with the Voluntary Sector or Secondary Schools or Colleges – involving partnership working, reducing the overlap and duplication
- Local Management and Closer Alignment with Campus Developments – align existing provision more closely with the 18 Area Boards and with Campus development
- Changing Local Youth Work Offer through Reduced Reliance on Existing Buildings – Youth Development Centres in a few major population centres staffed by Team Leaders, youth Development co-ordination and part time assistant youth workers.

Members of the board and public raised a number of points and questions which were discussed including;

- **The Strategy appears to be a list of aspirations how will these be achieved for example Careers advice that is now to be delivered by schools.** Kevin Sweeney explained that Connexions Wiltshire is part of Wiltshire Council's Integrated Youth Service along with the Development Service for Young People (formerly the Youth Development Service) and the Targeted Support Service for Young People (formerly the Youth Offending Team). This is a national issue encompassing a change in the arrangements of support to schools. Representatives from CAYPIG explained that their recent experience of discussing future careers with their tutors who have known them for a considerable length of time was a more valuable experience than discussing issues with someone who did not know them and that they had never met before.
- **The Strategy discusses the level of local deprivation but does not appear to indicate the level of child poverty why is this?** Julia Cramp Director for Commissioning and Performance, Department for Children and Education explained that this was due to accounting technicality. The government uses different measurements. The Chairman informed the board that the latest figures show Westbury Ham – West is among the

30% most deprived wards in England. Deprivation is assessed on a number of indicators – income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training, barriers to housing and services, crime and living environment. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment (Dec 2010) showed that Westbury Ham was 13th in Wiltshire ref child poverty (28% of children living in poverty).

- **Are the 4 options detailed within the Strategy extant or can they be varied?** Kevin Sweeney explained that there were commonalities in the provision of the services and that whilst Area Board believed their situation was unique they were not.
- **The Chairman asked the members of CAYPIG what they would do if they did not have their local youth centre.** Their response was that they would probably ‘hang around’ street corners, the public toilets and be moved on from place to place by the police. Cllr Jenkins stated how important the youth centre was to Westbury, that the young people would have no-where to go and that there would be a cost implication in dealing with anti social behaviour issues should the centre be lost. Julia Cramp explained that many authorities had lost between 50-70% of their budgets in this financial year. Wiltshire have not done this so that they can plan properly, evaluate and make appropriate changes to the way the services are delivered for an effective youth service.

Cllr Hawker explained that the campus aspect for Westbury was currently theoretical, Westbury has a purpose built youth centre which is not being used to full capacity and this should be utilised and that option 0 should be adopted as the Area Boards view.

#### **Decision**

**Westbury Area Board strongly believes that Westbury Youth Centre should be retained as “Option 0 (Zero)” – ie. The no change position – because:**

- a) The building is already located in the ideal location to serve the important and various needs of the super output area for deprivation that it is located in;**
- b) The building is purpose designed and therefore highly suitable for its purpose;**
- c) The building has plenty of scope for more intensive and economic use by the community, because it was built as a youth and community centre, which would help the maintenance and running costs;**
- d) There are no suitable and available alternative premises in the right**

	<p>location (ie. in the super output area) to consider moving the youth service to anyway. This issue was fully addressed in 2006 when the county council attempted to close the building and find alternative premises and then realised that no alternative suitable premises are available:</p> <p>e) It needs to be appreciate that whilst Westbury is included in the Campus Strategy for Wiltshire Council, in terms of beginning to discuss possible options if any at all can be found in the future, in fact the current position is that no-one has any idea where or what is possible nor when anything would happen, other than dates for considering in the future. This is simply not a serious option, in terms of alternative premises for the current youth strategy consultation, because no-one knows when or what might happen in Westbury – or even if anything would happen at all. The latter point is highly pertinent against the background of announcements that Wiltshire Council intends to cease running both Westbury Swimming Pool and Leighton Sports Centre without identifying anyone who is prepared to run them AND against the background that announcements have been made that nearby towns will get new sports facilities on an campus and Westbury has simply not been included in any such announcement. In the absence of further information, the only realistic conclusion is that Westbury may not get any new buildings at all and even if we did, none may be in a suitable location or contain suitable accommodation to house the youth service;</p> <p>f) The scope for running a local youth advisory committee (as used to exist until 2006), involving local people representing the town and parish councils and other relevant partners, such as Police, need to be considered and implemented, as this would help access grant funding (particularly from the town council) for staffing and running specific youth projects administered by the youth service.</p>
5.	<p><u>Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation (Westbury Community Area)</u></p> <p>Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philipe gave an overview of the Core Strategy in relation to the Westbury Community area. Salient points of note were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westbury has been identified as a location for new strategic employment to encourage higher value jobs within the area and reduce the level of commuting to Bath, Bristol and elsewhere</li> <li>• No new strategic housing sites have been identified</li> <li>• Firms want to come to Wiltshire and also existing firms want to expand but need the correct sites on which to develop</li> </ul>

- 18.5 ha of employment land had been identified
  - 14.7 ha Mill Lane, Hawkeridge
  - 3.8 ha North Acre Industrial Estate

The Chairman thanked Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe for her over view and led the Board in discussions over a variety of topics.

### **Employment Land Allocation**

Cllr Russell Hawker explained that he had taken part with Westbury Town Council in extensive discussions regarding this consultation document. Whilst initially he had been against the use of the land at Mill Lane he now realised the need for higher quality employment land and he fully supported Westbury Town Council's Highways and Planning Development Committee's response to the Core Strategy Consultation and explained that any development should attract high quality employment use only, must have a proper road junction or roundabout on to the Hawkeridge Road, preferable a roundabout and the development must have high quality landscaping to the perimeter.

The Chairman informed the board that she had an opposing view point and that the land at Hawkeridge should be act as a natural rural buffer. The area surrounding Hawkeridge Mill is very ancient, the mill having been mentioned in the Doomesday Book. A network of public footpaths criss-cross these fields and have great amenity value. This area stands close to Bitham Brook, a tributary of the River Biss and is a designated floodplain. This is an area of low lying meadows traversed by three water courses. This open low lying meadowland is tranquil, strongly rural in character and has an abundance of wildlife, including an important population of water voles. The fields enclose the village of Hawkeridge and the small settlement of Norleaze and needs to be protected to repel any encroachment of the West Wilts Trading Estate from development to the east.

Heywood and Hawkeridge Parish Council informed the board that they had responded to the consultation document and had recommended that the land at Mill Lane be removed from the document.

After further discussion the Area Board's view on this issue was,

### **Decision**

**To designate that the land south of Hawkeridge village , to the east of the B3097, to it's boundary with the dismantled railway as a rural buffer to be protected from development and encroachment from the West Wilts Trading Estate.**

It should be noted that Cllr Hawker wished his support for the Westbury Town Council proposal to be recorded.

### **Housing Land Allocation**

No strategic site has been identified. Housing development will be at a reduced rate compared to the past with a focus on improving and consolidating the town's infrastructure and services. Housing growth at Station Road (H14) will help to deliver enhancements around the railway station and a new rail crossing.

### **Transport and the A350 associated traffic issues**

Members of the public expressed concern that there was not a solution to the A350 issue within Westbury. Elements of the road were dangerous to walk along as footpaths were narrow and in some places non-existent. It was pointed out that there was no money for road building, improvements would be made in conjunction with development. An update on the Aldi move to Westbury would be brought to the Area Board at a later date.

#### **Action:**

#### **Sally Hendry**

Cllr Hawker endorsed the recommendation made by Westbury Town Council that research early on in the implementation of the strategy to identify appropriate ways of improving issues should be taken.

### **Landscape Policy**

Wiltshire Councils Core Policy on Landscape is detailed at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/wcsconsult2011.htm> (page 144 - 145)

Members of the public expressed their concerns over the Government reviewing its policy on Landscape. Cllr Hawker explained the Area Board's position was to support the extension of the nearby AONB to include the Salisbury Plain escarpment and Wellhead Valley.

#### **Action:**

#### **Anna Thurman/Sally Hendry to provide an update.**

After further discussion the Board agreed the following,

#### **Decision**

**To support the 10 landscape character assessments (LCA's) in support of the current Special Landscape Areas (SLA's).**

#### **Other issues**

#### **Matravers School**

Cllr Hawker explained that moving Matravers School was currently not an option, he informed the board that a consultant was investigating all possible opportunities.

	<p><b>Lafarge Site</b></p> <p>It was recognised that the chimney was purpose built for the wet process involved with the production methodology that Lafarge had used – this was no longer the case. However the buildings that house the grinding, mixing and bagging machinery had not been made redundant. The site was still being used as a distribution depot due to it's rail links.</p> <p>It was known that a planning application was pending.</p>
6.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their input in what had been a productive meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Westbury Area Board will be held on 11 August 2011 at 6.30pm, Westbury Parish Hall (All Saints), Westbury. Westbury Area Board open day will take place on 13 August 2011 from 10am -2pm in Soisy Gardens.</p>