

Partner Update for Warminster Area Board

Name of Partner: Warminster & Villages Community Partnership

Date of Area Board Meeting: 10 November 2011

Headlines/Key Successes

- Supported E&T, E&LLL and H&SC Groups by incorporating their Core Funding requirements in overall WVCP Bid and forwarding relevant information on a continuing basis.
- Providing specific support to E&T Group in connection with the 'Warminster in Bloom Project' (see report from E&T group under 'projects'). We have also used our membership of Action for Market Towns to allow community reps to attend the AMT workshop on 'Marketing Your Community' at which delegates were briefed on how to increase footfall of both tourists and local visitors by improving the way what's on offer is promoted.
- We have supported E&T Group's involvement in the Warminster Benchmarking exercise. This measures the economic 'health' of the town using 12 key Performance Indicators so as the number of cars in the car park, footfall, empty shops, business confidence etc. Details are at <http://towns.org.uk/files/Town-Benchmarking-Marketing-WEB.pdf>. The work was done in conjunction with Warminster School and the Warminster & Villages Development Trust and has contributed to the exposure of the Partnership locally.
- Supporting H&SC Group by providing Minutes Secretary (Sheila Thomson from October 2011).
- Supporting CAYPIG through Committee member Chris March working with Sam Shore (Youth Development Coordinator) to progress an initiative to enable young people from surrounding villages to be ferried to and from Warminster, so that they are able to access the activities in the town
- Tim Trounson has resigned from the Partnership Committee and as Chairman of the E&LLL Group (having taken over from Community librarian Richard Violet) ahead of his re-location to Bratton. The WVCP Chairman is approaching the new Community Librarian Sabina Edwards with a view to involving her in Partnership matters, particularly in connection with the E&LLL Group.
- WVCP Committee seeking to recruit a Focal Point from within E&T Group around whom a Group covering Countryside and Environmental matters might be formed in due course.
- On loss of Development Officer at end of June, aligned WVCP approach with that of Wiltshire Council (emphasis now on planning and delivery of projects) and reflected this change in seeking a Coordinator instead of a new Development Officer and an associated re-think on the originally planned Housing & Health consultation event.
- Recruited Debra Leslie (DL) as WVCP Coordinator (from 12 Sep 2011).

- Community Area Plan update: Draft Update Plan and CAPlan Production Schedule produced and circulated for comment/approval by Committee. Associated Risk Analysis being undertaken. Aim is to have these Documents approved for wider circulation at WVCP AGM in early December (scheduled to be held 3rd or 10th Dec in the Library)
- Currently meeting Administrator requirements through combination of elements of Coordinator post (reflected in agreed salary being above budget figure); volunteer Minutes Secretary (Sheila Thomson from May 2011) and WVCP Chairman's efforts.
- Large General Advert re WVCP placed in Warminster Journal. Associated Press release re appointment of DL as Coordinator resulted in a good accompanying article. Both pieces being given wider circulation. As a result of this publicity WVCP contacted by Warminster Area Community Orchard Group and advice given on funding possibilities.
- First Tranche of 2011-12 Core Funding received (remittance dated 8 Sep 2011).

Projects

Economy and Tourism Group Update October 2011

- Warminster in Bloom. This project has the support of the Town Council and we are approaching businesses, schools, churches and pubs and working with the Go Bustards!! groups for support. The aim is to engage the community in horticultural activity that will enhance our environment, especially in 2012 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London 2012 Olympics.
- Action for Market Towns Benchmarking Project. This twelve point project to gauge the economic health of the town is nearing completion.
- We continue to maintain a monthly list of empty businesses, businesses for sale and available empty shops in the town.
- Warminster Business List. This list of Warminster Businesses is kept up to date and is available in the Warminster Information Centre.
- We continue to monitor the street scene, noting any dilapidated buildings and contacting the owners/landlords/authorities as appropriate.
- We clarified the procedure required for the reporting of fly posting

Diary Dates

- 3 December 2011 - WVCP AGM 1100-1200noon in the Library
- 12 Jan 2012 - Community Area Forum, Christchurch Hall timings TBD

Signed: Digby Barker
Date: 24 October 2011