



Update for Devizes Area Board March 2012

Community Area Plan

The beginning of 2012 has been extremely busy for DCAP. Great encouragement was taken from the Community Planning Event on February 6th, hosted jointly with the Area Board. It was helpful for DCAP's draft Community Plan to be discussed in such detail by a wide range of community representatives. The feedback from that event has enabled DCAP's thematic groups to amend and develop their sections of the new Plan accordingly. Following eighteen months' worth of consultation DCAP will publish the new Community Area Plan by the end of March and hope to present it at the May Area Board meeting. One particular outcome is the decision to form a new Children's and Young People's Group.

The thematic groups' emphasis is now changing to putting the Plan into action over the coming months and years, working with a wide range of Partners and building on the momentum already established. The new Plan will be regularly updated and renewed to keep the document alive and relevant.

DCAP is extremely grateful to Stephanie Davis, Extended Schools Co-ordinator for facilitating a questionnaire amongst pupils at most of the schools in the Community Area. Each child's response has now been recorded, and although further analysis is needed, strong themes have already emerged and have given weight to aspects of the Community Area Plan. The post-coded responses have been particularly useful in identifying localised issues and needs.

Communication with the public

DCAP has just issued a newsletter, as agreed in the year's work plan. The four page leaflet is being distributed with the 'Star' newspaper, and with some parish magazines. It will also be available on DCAP's website, in prominent community buildings, and through a variety of groups and organisations.

DCAP will be revamping its website over the coming couple of months to make it more accessible and attractive to a wider network of people, particularly the younger generation. The website will be re-designed commercially to maximise its potential. Agendas and minutes of meetings will continue to be available on the website www.dcap.org.uk

In order to ensure meaningful discussions and consultation with the public, DCAP has recently compiled a list of over 400 clubs and groups within the Community Area. The thematic groups are keen to have representation from a broad cross-section of the community and have been looking carefully at where there may be particular gaps. The new directory will enable specific invitations to be sent for certain meetings, and the ability to communicate with a large number of groups at times of consultation. It will also be helpful to members of the community seeking information on a specific type of activity or service and it will be available on the new website.

Economy

The newly re-formed Economy Group has been working hard to develop an overview and vision for economic growth in the Community Area. It is particularly pleasing that efforts are being made to build relationships between the business community and local schools. DCAP was pleased to welcome Len Turner to its meeting on March 7th, and to hear about the initiatives of the new Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The next DCAP meeting will be the AGM which takes place on **Wednesday 6th June 2012 at 5.30pm**. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend and contribute to the debate.