

## Chippenham Area Board Chairman's Review of 2009/10

Chippenham Area Board was launched at a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Hardenhuish School was delighted to host the first ever Area Board meeting in Wiltshire here in Chippenham. Since then we have:

1. Held Area Board meetings in a variety of locations and venues to give more local people the opportunity to come along. We aim to continue to do this as it has proved very popular.
2. Used different room layouts to make the meetings feel less formal and more welcoming.
3. Worked in partnership – particular thanks to Police and Fire & Rescue who have embraced this new model of working.
4. Introduced a new “Community Issues” process and received 77 issues to date. 54 issues have been and dealt with and 23 are currently in progress\*. We recognise that this new process is taking time to become established, and we shall endeavour to update the on line system more regularly in future.
5. Launched a Community Area Network (CAN) for everyone who has expressed an interest in the Chippenham Area Board. To date we have 1066 members registered on the CAN. Regular e-mail alerts are issued to those who have provided e-mail addresses and in the year ahead we shall invite CAN members to participate in consultation and feedback on agenda items.
6. Produced a user friendly version of the minutes of Area Board meetings called “Just a Minute”. Just a Minute was piloted in Chippenham in 2009 and as it was so well received it has been adopted across Wiltshire. We apologise that Just a Minute has not always been produced as promptly as we would wish and we aim to improve upon this.
7. Awarded £37,951 in Community Area Grants during 2009/10 to local projects with a total value £697,818. Chippenham Area Board is delighted that the funds it has contributed have enabled local projects to take place and has also levered in a substantial amount of funding from other sources.

8. Issued a Forward Plan to assist with agenda planning and enable Town and Parish Councils to consider topics in advance.
9. Worked closely with many of the Parishes in the community area. In response to comments in the Area Board Review, we would like to continue to build on this. Our Community Area Manager would like to offer all parishes a regular opportunity to meet with her. Once a month Vicky will block a date in her diary when she will be available all day at Monkton Park Offices should you wish call in to see her. **The first date will be Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.** Alternatively, Vicky will be very happy to visit you in your parish or to join you at one of your Parish Council meetings. In addition to this, your Area Board Chairman is also happy to take part in any of these meetings. Please get in touch with Vicky on 01249 706 446 or e-mail [victoria.welsh@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.welsh@wiltshire.gov.uk) .
10. Finally, as you are aware, a review of Area Boards has just been completed and 24 recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. These are attached for your information. Chippenham Area Board is confident that significant progress is already taking place, but will of course strive to make further improvements in line with these recommendations in the coming year.

\*As at time of writing report