

A WARD PLAN FOR BEMERTON

UPDATE

During 2007 a significant project was undertaken to produce a Ward Plan for Bemerton which was to run for three years until 2010. Well we are now in 2010 and our ward plan needs to be reviewed and updated, and this document aims to help achieve this. Over the next few pages we aim to provide you with a background to the how the Ward Plan was written, what was included, some of the outcomes from the plan and the next steps.

What is a Ward Plan?

In 2000 the Government set out a range of measures to give local people a bigger say in managing their affairs, and a chance for everyone in the community to have a say in how it develops. One of the measures included was to produce a plan for each parish or in Bemerton's case, ward.

As there is no Parish Council in Bemerton the task fell to the local Interagency Group, which consists of local agencies such as; police, schools, the local council, health representatives and local churches.

The process of completing the Ward Plan involved three main stages. Initially there was information gathering, which involved obtaining data about the ward from relevant sources such as the most recent national census. More importantly there was consultation with the people that really mattered, the people living and working in Bemerton Ward, to discover their thoughts and feelings about their area.

The second stage was analysing the vast amount of data collected and placing it into a document that made sense and meant something to those that would read it. This was called the Ward Plan and included was an action plan detailing the way forward for the next three years. Stage three was working on the action plan and actually getting things done.

What was in the Ward Plan?

The Ward Plan amounted to 30 pages and contained considerable amounts of information and statistics on all aspects of the ward. Included were maps, population graphs, statistics on crime, list of community groups and an action plan

One of the overriding views from the community was that there was just not enough provision for young people in the ward. Approximately one quarter of our community are under the age of 16 years yet the facilities for this age group were sadly lacking. The absence of a central youth club was a major issue with the community.

The community also made it clear how much they like living on Bemerton Ward because of the strong sense of community and neighbourhood spirit. They also highlighted how much they appreciate the open spaces. Generally the residents felt that Bemerton Ward is a relatively safe place to live. However there was some concern regarding anti social behaviour, speeding cars and the fear of crime itself.





Perhaps of most importance was the action plan, which highlighted actions needed to improve different areas of life in Bemerton Ward ranging from culture and leisure to health and social care. The next few pages of this document show what needed to be done, what we were able to be do, and what wasn't and where we go from here.





The Action Plan





The Ward Plan asked questions and identified issues associated with the following nine areas; Community, Crime and Community Safety, Culture and Leisure, Economic Wellbeing, Environment, Health and Social Care, Housing and Built Environment, Transport and Access and Young People. The Action Plan showed what was needed to be done to tackle these issues and by whom.




Shown below are some of the main issues that were highlighted and what has been achieved, what wasn't possible and what will be looked at in the future.




KEY	Successfully Completed		On Hold / On-going		Unable to Complete	
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Crime and Community Safety Action Plan			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
	Open Youth Centre	Youth Centre opened in the new Community Centre December 2008	
	Parenting Classes	ASK and Action for Children hold Parenting Classes on Ad-hoc basis	
	Police Drop In Sessions	Monthly Police Drop In Sessions in Community Centre	




Culture and Leisure Action Plan			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
	Open a Community Centre	New Community Centre opened in December 2008	
	Open Field of Fun	Put on hold due to proposed development of 1250 new homes	
	Provide more child care facilities	'Little Folly' Children's Centre opened in January 2008	





Environment Action Plan			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
	Reintroduce the 'Friend of the Folly' group	Group reformed in 2009, holding second 'Folly Week' in July 2010	
	Reduce Fly Tipping	Improved kerbside waste and recycling introduced 2008/09	
	Install more litter bins	Salisbury City Council have introduced more bins within their area of responsibility	

Economic Wellbeing			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
Poor choice of shops and stock 	Encourage more variety of shops to open	Recession has not helped. New shops may open with housing development	
	Encourage shop owners to take note of needs of community	Shop owners claim that they always take on views of their customers	

Health and Social Care Action Plan			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
Dentists / Disabled Access 	Open an NHS Dentist	One may be built on proposed development of 1250 new homes	
	Investigate possibility of 'mobile dentist'		
	Investigate making all areas disabled friendly	This is being looked into but it is a significant project that will take some time to complete	

Housing and Built Environment			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
Green spaces and condition of roads 	Carefully monitor any further development	The IAG have met with developers to help inform planning	
	Promote Wiltshire Council CLARENCE helpline	The scheme continues to be promoted by Wiltshire Council and other agencies	

Transport and Access Action Plan			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
Speeding and Buses 	Reduce speeding throughout the Ward through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic calming Lower speed limit 	Unable to achieve either actions. However, police have installed speed checks and monitoring	
	Introduce a bus service to Fugglestone Red	Service unable to be introduced because of the narrow road layout on Fugglestone Red	

Young Peoples Action Plan			
Issues Identified	Proposed Actions	Outcome	Progress
Reputation of Ward / Things to do 	Encourage communication of positive stories about Ward and young people	Website for Neighbourhood Centre / Positive stories sent to Salisbury Journal	
	Install BMX/bicycle track	BMX track in Folly improved and expanded in 2009	
	Open a Community Centre incorporating a library	A Community Library is to open at Salisbury High School in spring 2010	

What happens next?

First of all, the Interagency Group will continue to work on the above action plans, concentrating on areas that are still ongoing or have not yet been looked into. With regards to the updated Ward Plan, there will now be a period of consultation with the community of Bemerton Ward to establish what issues now affect the Ward, three years on from the previous consultation.

It will be important to establish whether there are any totally new issues or problems affecting the ward, or whether it is same issues that come up again. Are the three biggest concerns that people highlighted in 2007, which were anti-social behaviour, speeding and litter, still the top three concerns? Have people noticed and benefited from the changes that have come about as a result of the Ward Plan.

Consultation will take place throughout the spring and summer with various groups in Bemerton and will culminate at the Family Fun Day on Salisbury High School sports field on Saturday 7th August 1-5pm, where everybody who takes part in the consultation will be entered into a prize draw.

Once the consultation has been completed and analysed a new updated version of the Ward Plan will be published and the process of working on the action plan will start all over again, a process that will continue until Bemerton is a ward that everyone is even prouder to call home.

Have Your Say on Bemerton Heath
at the 8th Annual
FAMILY FUN DAY
Saturday 7th August – 1-5pm – Salisbury High School
We will be consulting with residents on the update to the
Ward Plan and asking for your opinion on Bemerton Heath.
Help us shape all of our futures.

This document was produced by the Bemerton Heath Interagency Group and funded by Salisbury City Council

