

**SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD**  
**(7 June 2012)**

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**Southern Wiltshire Area Board – Planning for 2012/13**

**Purpose of the Report**

To set out the Area Board's proposals for developing the theme of Volunteering during 2012/13.

**Background**

In our survey to determine 2012/13 Area Board themes, Volunteering came second in importance and a close third in terms of 'deliverability'.

Accordingly, thought has been given as to how this theme could best be progressed.

**Analysis**

There are two separate aspects to volunteering in our villages which currently run in parallel and unconnected with each other:

- **Local:** At Annual Parish Meetings a common theme is the need for volunteers: Help to run the Village Hall; people to come forward for co-option onto the PC; help to maintain country Rights of Way; engagement in community organisations of all kinds.
- **Salisbury-based voluntary-sector organisations.** These charities (eg. Age UK, British Red Cross, Alzheimer's etc) are also in need of volunteers – usually, but not necessarily, Salisbury-based.

**Proposals**

The Area Board would like to consider the possibility of providing some sort of joint stimulus to these separate activities. We would like to both help individual parishes meet some of their volunteer needs; and we would also like to work with established Salisbury-based third sector organisations (a) to increase volunteer support for them, and (b) to stimulate and support their work in our Community Area.

To this end we suggest the following actions:

1. We would survey the Salisbury-based third sector organisations to ascertain:
  - Which are seeking volunteers (regardless of location);
  - Which are active in our Community Area;
  - Which would be interested in participating in a 'Volunteer Fair' run by participating Parish Councils.

2. We would offer support to those Parish Councils who, in conjunction with their community organisations would like to run a **local Volunteering Fair**.

The Area Board would support those villages with funding for:

- A promotional flyer and/or advertising
- Venue hire
- Refreshments
- Other innovative ideas that might increase the profile of the event.

We could also enable those Salisbury-based organisations identified in 1 above to attend. If required, appropriate Wiltshire Council/GROW officers could also be engaged to attend and support.

Funding for each event would be up to £350 and made available by the PC producing a 1-page proposal outlining the plans and associated costs for the event. The Community Area Manager will provide a brief appraisal and release the funding to the relevant PC.

### **Objectives**

As always the Board's objectives would be modest and achievable. Even if, as a result of such an event in one of our villages, just one resident became involved in a village organisation and another with a Salisbury-based charity, that could be regarded as valuable progress for that settlement.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the Area Board adopts the proposals outlined above.
2. In order to enable development of this work the Board delegates authority to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with Southern Wiltshire Area Board Councillors, to spend up to £350 on each local Volunteering Fair. All expenditure should be reported to the next Area Board meeting.

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