

MARLBOROUGH AREA PARISH FORUM

FEEDBACK REPORT FOR THE MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

The Marlborough Area Board granted £900 to the Parish Forum in 2011. One year after formation the Parish Forum has pleasure in providing feedback for the purpose of measuring the return on the grant to the community.

The objectives of the Forum were to:

- Resolve issues or initiate projects common to at least two Parishes and assist in the procurement of resources ;
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience or resources between Parishes to help them better serve their communities and provide a framework for continuously doing so in the future;
- Improve relationships with and influence the performance of the Marlborough Area Board whilst improving the ability of Parish Councils to hold Wiltshire Council to account.

Resolving Issues or Initiating Projects

The Forum has commenced the Village Traffic Initiative which aims to enable 17 villages across nine parishes to produce Village Traffic Plans. Traffic and speeding constitutes most of the community-driven issues faced by both the Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council.

The Forum devised, in conjunction with MADT, a Parish-specific questionnaire in relation to the Community Area Plan. Eight Parishes contributed either directly, in Forum discussions or through their village design statements.

A sub-group of six Parishes was formed to ensure that the Great Stones Way project initiated by Friends of the Ridgeway involved full local consultation.

The need for affordable housing has been debated and the Forum has been addressed by the Chairman of Community Land Trust (one of its members).

The Forum is embarking on an initiative to influence the resolution of Marlborough Town Congestion and its impact on surrounding villages.

Sharing Resources

The Forum has devised a register of each Parish's assets and resources thus indicating past experience in tackling issues relevant to other Parishes. So far Parishes have swapped experience on Clerk PAYE, introducing allotments, oil syndicates, Jubilee celebrations, obtaining speed reductions, introduction of new standards of conduct, playground inspections, and grass-cutting contracts.

Parishes have also cross-consulted in reviewing the Wiltshire Core Strategy, Wiltshire Civil Response, and The Localism Act.

Marlborough Area Board

Thirteen Parishes have been involved in assessing the performance of the Marlborough Area Board and in feeding back to the Board suggestions for improvement. The Forum has led on civil Response, commented on the grant allocation process and provided input into the structure of Board meetings.

There is no doubt that the relationship between the Parishes and the Board has improved since formation and that the Parishes are considerably more engaged with Wiltshire Council than they were before.

Parish Engagement

Most Parishes have attended at least two Forum meetings, have been engaged in a major initiative, have contributed expertise and/or have been the recipient of knowledge and resources from another Parish.

	Meeting Attendance	Village Traffic	MAB Perfor.	Asset Register	CAP	Great Stones Way	Other
Broad Hinton & W B	5	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fyfield & West Overton	5	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ramsbury	5	x	x	x	x		x
Aldbourne	5	x	x	x	x		x
Berwick B & W M	4	x	x	x	x		x
Ogbourne St George	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
Baydon	3	x	x		x		x
Ogbourne St Andrew	3	x	x	x	x	x	x
Avebury	3	x	x	x		x	x
Chilton Foliat	2	x	x				x
East Kennett	2		x			x	x
Preshute	1		x	x		x	x
Froxfield	1		x				x
Savernake	0			x			x
Mildenhall	0						

The Forum has commented, in several meeting, on its wish to see other grant recipients provide similar feedback.

PARISH FORUM

6th May 2012