Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL   **ITEM 12**

AMESBURY AREA BOARD
19 July 2012

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To seek the board's approval of the revised Amesbury Community Area Plan, and the approach outlined below on how to action each priority theme.

2. Background

2.1. Work took place during 2011/12 to produce a revised community plan for the Amesbury Area. This work included reference to the previous plan, desktop research against parish plans, and a public meeting in early 2012 when the community was asked to comment on what are the priority issues for the area.

2.2. The revised community plan is attached at Appendix A.

2.3. The community plan is an important document which will be used by the board as a focus for ensuring local priorities are met, and that those priorities are properly reflected in other strategies and plans within Wiltshire, e.g. the Local Transport Plan, the Children & Young People's Plan.

2.4. The community plan is a 'living' document and one which becomes meaningful when as many people as possible in the area are able to contribute to it. It is not a plan simply to be administered and talked about at area board meetings, but it is a means by which all in the community can actively become engaged, and work together on meeting the area's local priorities.

3. The Plan's Priority Themes

3.1. The priority themes identified within the revised plan are detailed below.

3.2. The intention is that each priority theme will be developed and worked on by a group of interested people, with the aim of improving issues and tackling those areas of concern, e.g. anti-social behaviour, teenage pregnancy etc.

3.3. Groups will be formed during the coming months, and will include a unitary councillor, who will act as the main link between the group and the board, town and parish councillors and any other interested members of the community. Each group will have access to support from the local authority and its partners, e.g. the Children & Young People's group will have

technical support from Youth Officers, the Probation Service, Health Visitors etc.

3.4. <u>Crime & Community Safety</u>
   (a) Support and improve issues around abuse, especially alcohol and drug abuse
   (b) Support and improve issues concerning domestic abuse
   (c) Reduce anti-social behaviour
   (d) Enhance Neighbourhood Watch
   (e) Continue to improve and strengthen links with the Police

3.5. <u>Sport, Culture & Leisure</u>
   (a) Make the most of existing playing fields, parks and open spaces
   (b) Provide open/leisure spaces as required
   (c) Strengthen working links with young people and outreach workers
   (d) Provide transport for young people to access sport and leisure
   (e) Improve publicity and communication
   (f) Maximise on cultural links within the Community Area
   (g) Ensure new campus model is relevant to the needs of all living in the area

3.6. <u>Community Facilities, Environment, Health & Wellbeing</u>
   (a) Improve communication with all parishes and towns
   (b) Improve access to health care and facilities for the elderly and vulnerable
   (c) Working with partners (and linked to Crime & Community Safety priority) to reduce all forms of abuse, including substance and physical
   (d) Support and enhance existing Link Schemes, concentrating on young people and their families
   (e) Increase recycling initiatives
   (f) Reduce dog fouling/control
   (g) Control Fly Tipping

3.7. <u>Transport</u> (the existing Transport Group will work on...)
   (a) Reduce traffic speeds
   (b) Improve and persist with the speedwatch initiative and improve its flexibility of site locations
   (c) Monitor and take action where appropriate against worrying levels of HGV traffic
   (d) Introduce 20mph speed limits in all village and towns
   (e) Support and further the issues of the A303
   (f) Improve traffic calming measures for schools

3.8. <u>Housing, Economic Development, Tourism & Planning</u>
    (a) Improve provision of smaller housing developments with affordable properties
    (b) Promote and develop neighbourhood plans
    (c) Develop an effective tourism and business strategy
    (d) Maximise on events at Stonehenge and provide a transport link between Amesbury and Stonehenge
    (e) Strengthen the voice of people especially in planning matters

Associated with this priority, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Area Board are recommending that a Residents Panel be set up to act as a specific forum for residents to have a voice on key issues. For example, on issues such as the monitoring of local amenities and services i.e. grass cutting, sheltered housing issues, housing issues for those who rent, better use of our local assets, the health and wellbeing of retired residents, and of young people etc. This Panel would act as a very informal forum where voices could be heard at different local venues during the year, and issues would be referred to the appropriate body for action, including the priority theme groups listed in this paper.

3.9. <u>Children & Young People</u>
    (a) Improve access to local facilities and activities
    (b) Improve communication on abuse
    (c) Improve recreational areas and affordable transport for young people
    (d) Improve educational buildings, attainment and vocational training
    (e) Support youth teams

4. <u>Recommendations</u>

(i) To approve the revised Community Area Plan for Amesbury.

(ii) To agree the approach outlined at paragraph 3 above.

(iii) To set up a Residents Panel, as outlined at paragraph 3.8 above.

(iv) To seek an update on the plan's progress in 6 months time.

COUNCILLOR JOHN SMALE – CHAIRMAN OF BOARD
E-Mail: johnf.smale@wiltshire.gov.uk