

Board Review

Bratton, Coulston, Dilton Marsh, Edington, Heywood and Westbury

Westbury Area Board

Review to June 2010

For more information about your area board, how to report issues, apply for grants or look at past minutes and agendas, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

Counselling to cricket – variety marks first year for area board

Westbury area board held its very first meeting last July. Launched as one of 18 area boards across Wiltshire, the board aimed to forge links between the community and Wiltshire Council. One year on, the board has dealt with a diverse range of community issues from antisocial behaviour to traffic, dog fouling to speeding, and crossings to safety signage.

“It’s been a busy year but we like to think the area board is now right where it should be – at the heart of the community where it not only reflects the issues that matter to local people but really tries to solve them,” said Russell Hawker who chaired the board until May this year.

The first meeting gave local people the chance to come up with their wish list for Westbury area – and the board decided priorities for action. These ranged from the re-siting of the post office through to traffic improvements.

“We are pleased to see some achievements – for instance work on the much needed crossing on Warminster road starts next month, the police station has reopened part time, and work is underway to solve the parking problems on Oldfield Park – all issues that were voiced,” said Russell.

Councillor David Jenkins takes over as chairman from June, with Councillor Julie Swabey as vice chairman. The two other members on the board are Mike Cuthbert-Murray and Russell Hawker.

Working with our partners

The area board works alongside and in partnership with a range of organisations. These include local police, the NHS, the fire service, the town and parish councils, schools and the Community Area Partnership.

Partnership working can mean working together on issues like anti social behaviour or helping fund projects that improve the community. For instance funding for the BA13+ Partnership helped them set up a Fitness and Friendship group which now practices Tai Chi in Grassacres. We also worked with the town council and the heritage

society to help create a historic blue plaques trail – and funding to the town council will pay for more bollards in the market place to prevent

people parking on the pavements. Working with Bratton parish council has helped secure funding for village allotments and the area board worked together with the NHS to host a health fair at the Paragon.



Grant funding helps old and young in community projects

Each area board has an annual budget for grant funding to help community projects. The Westbury area board is one of the smallest of the 18 in Wiltshire and is allocated just over £40,000 each year. As our first year was not a full financial year the board had £30,335 to allocate.

In our first financial year, grants were awarded for a wide variety of projects. They included paying for a computer for a day centre, storage facilities for Scouts and Guides, social groups for older people, improved training facilities for disabled young people, village allotments, village sports facilities, town centre improvements, purchase of life saving defibrillators and sports equipment for cricket and swimming fans. The board also helped fund the work of the Community Area Partnership.

Grants awarded 2009/10

Westbury Town Council: £2,100 Bollards in market place
Westbury Town Council: £5,000 Town centre vision and scoping study
Westbury Town Council: £1,500 Blue plaque historic trail
Bratton Parish Council: £1,000 Fencing and water connections for new village allotments
Westbury Heritage Society: £300 Photo competition prizes
Age Concern and BA13+ Community Area Partnership: £1,700 Fitness and Friendship
Westbury Swimming Club: £961 New goalposts and equipment for water polo
Fairfield Opportunity Farm: £5,000 Development of catering training facilities
BA13+ Community Area Partnership: £2,670 + £2,124 Two tranches of CAP funding
Relate: £990 Counselling service for local families
Bratton Parish Council - Recreation Ground Association: £1,000 Groundwork and fencing
Westbury 1st Scout Group: £930 Travel containers for camping equipment
Westbury First Responders: £1,000 Purchase of Defibrillator
White Horse Day centre: £720 Purchase of computer and printer
Westbury Army Cadet Force: £550 Training equipment
Westbury Cricket Club: £1,300 New training nets
2nd Westbury All Saints Guides: £490 Storage shed

If you are interested in applying for a grant to help your community project please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards for conditions, forms and details, or telephone Sally Hendry on 01373 864714

Board reflects community concerns for the pool future



Concern for the future of the Victorian Westbury swimming pool was high on the agenda of our area board meetings. A detailed report on the history and viability of the pool has been referred from the area board to Wiltshire Council to be considered as part of the ongoing leisure review which is looking at facilities across the county. The board pledged to fight to keep the pool open - a petition from the Save Westbury Pool campaign will be presented to council leader Jane Scott at our June meeting. The pool also featured in a grant application when the board agreed £990 towards water polo equipment.



Community issue countdown

More than 50 issues have been raised through the area board. These come from local residents, our partners like the police and via local council members. Concerns raised ranged from overhanging trees to speeding on village roads.

If you have an issue you would like the area board to address, you can fill in a simple form online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards contact your local councillor or call Sally Hendry, community area manager on 01373 864714 or sally.hendry@wiltshire.gov.uk Once your issue is registered we will update you on progress. If you would like to know the sorts of issues the board is dealing with visit the website.

Your area board members

From left to right: Russell Hawker, Julie Swabey, David Jenkins, Mike Cuthbert-Murray.

