

Report to	Southern Wiltshire Area Board – 17 June 2010
Title of Report	Southern Wiltshire Community Area Plan
<p>Purpose of Report</p> <p>a) To launch the consultation of the Southern Wiltshire Community Area Plan. b) To inform the Board of the process to be followed to deliver the renewed community area plan by December 2010.</p>	

1. Background:

The Community Plan Steering Group was set up by inviting all relevant stakeholders in the community to send a representative to get involved. Once this group had emerged the Board tasked it with renewing the Southern Area Community Plan 2004 – 2009. This was a really positive step as it ensured that the community had the chance to put together its own community plan.

Even though weaknesses exist in the way that the current Community Plan 2004 - 2009 was produced, it:

- represents a coherent set of ambitions and aspirations of individual communities in our area;
- has been used as an ‘evidence base’ when making representations to the local authority regarding service delivery;
- has formed the basis of discussions with partner organisations and other agencies;
- has provided sound basis for our bids for grant funding

The Area Board feels that having a current Community Area Plan – which has been produced in a genuinely bottom-up way – will be of enormous help in soliciting the support and cooperation of Wiltshire Council and partner agencies in furthering particular community objectives, setting priorities and reviewing service provision. It will also outline clearly where communities can come up with their own solutions to solve local issues; it is not just a wish list for the community to give to public service providers. It should look to enhance knowledge of the issues the area faces and provide a forum for innovative solutions to be discussed and acted upon.

Not having a current plan will inhibit the Board’s ability to negotiate with service providers on behalf of individual communities and it could be said that the current plan is weakened by the inclusion of:

- ‘nice to have’ projects which are unlikely ever to be realised;
- projects which relate solely to an individual parish and which more properly fall within the work of the Parish Council;
- vague, general statements which do not prompt local action.

It was felt that a renewed Community Plan should to be simplified and concentrate on:

1. Issues which are either community area-wide or which affect more than one parish where some degree of inter-parish cooperation is necessary.

2. Issues which individual Parish Councils or other agencies wish to refer to the Area Board where previous efforts have not brought about a resolution;
3. Issues which involve the need for multi-agency coordination.

2. Consultation

So far the Community Plan Steering Group has officially met as the steering group on 4 occasions and they have coordinated an initial consultation in the form of an audit of the existing community plan. As a result of this work and with reference to community wide issues in parish plans, new emerging issues through the group's consultation and discussions with service providers the steering group have produced the attached Draft Southern Wiltshire Community Area Plan.

The steering group is now ready to consult the wider community to understand what else should be included. What they have missed? What should not be in the community plan? What new issues need to be addressed? Would you like to be part of the solutions and get involved in the implementation tasking groups?

The steering group would welcome invitations from parish councils to attend one of their meetings to have a conversation about the plan; alternatively, parish councils could place the plan on their agendas to form a parish council response or they might like to do both.

The steering group will also be administering this plan to a wide range of public service providers, user groups and key stakeholders, including the Wiltshire Council Portfolio Holders. We will also make it available in public access buildings and village halls.

Tasking groups will be set up to start to address the issues as set out in the 5 key topic areas and where necessary the tasking groups will gather more specific information about particular schemes or projects depending on the nature of the issue.

3. Timeline:

17 June 2010 – Launch Consultation

Actions:

- Administer the community plan to relevant stakeholders and conduct consultation
- Begin to recruit tasking group members
- Set up meetings post 10 September 2010 to look at responses

10 September 2010 – Consultation closed

Actions:

- Steering group amalgamates input; service providers and relevant stakeholders are consulted on any major changes
- Produce a final draft
- Formalise tasking groups

14 October 2010 – Area Board consultation on final draft and sign off

Actions:

- Communicate newly adopted plan to community and stakeholders
- Start implementation stage with 5 tasking groups

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