

**Notes of a gathering of the Wilton Town/Community Team meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup>  
March held in the Council Chamber, Wilton.**

**Present**

**Arthur Bowden** (Wilton Rotary Club)

**Stephen Harris** (Wilts Council's South West Wilts Community Area Manager)

**Phil Matthews** (Wilton Town Council)

**Pete Newell** (Wilton Parochial Church Council)

**Gary Nunn** (Chairman Wilton Carnival Committee, trustee Wilton Community Centre)

**David Parker** (Co-Chairman, Wilton & District Business Chamber, Editor, Valley News)

Neil Prigent (Wilton Community Land Trust)

**Catherine Purves** (Clerk, Wilton Town Council)

**Ken Taylor** (Chairman Wilton Community Land Trust)

**Mark Wood** (Rector),

**David von Zeffman** (President, Wilton & District Business Chamber).

**1. Chairman's welcome**

David von Zeffman led the meeting, and warmly welcomed all who were present.

**2. Apologies**

**David Corp** (Wilton shopping Village)

**Chris Rolfe** (Estate Director, Wilton Estate)

**3. Minutes**

Ken Taylor advised that in connection with the Green Project, funding was in the sum of £50k, not £5m as recorded. With this amendment, the minutes were approved as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

David von Zeffman reported the following:

- He had had a meeting with David Corp and Roger Tubb of Wilton Shopping Village, and advised that the company was receptive to the idea of pop-up rents (although there are currently no vacant units), the footpath between the shopping Village and the Town centre, and to the associated signage.

There was some discussion at this point between the merits of signing the route to the town centre past Wylie Lodge and North street, and the longer, but more attractive route via Minster Street and Kingsbury Square, as it was felt that the derelict former coachworks building in North street was not an attractive first sight for visitors. The Town Council would be asked to cost the signage for the two routes, and Stephen Harris thought that the Area Board would be receptive to an application for funding.

- David also reiterated the Team's keenness to co-ordinate its response to change with the intention of managing and influencing it as much as possible, for the benefit of the community.
- He acknowledged that it had yet to be decided whether the Team would be a discussion group, a gathering of like-minded individuals, or whether it would evolve into a Portas-style Town Team on the back of the evidence to be generated by the AMTi town survey.
- He also felt that there should be some discussion about the area it should cover ie just the Town, or incorporate the other 22 parishes in the Community Area.

There was further discussion at this point, and it was felt strongly that any formal Town Team should concentrate on Wilton, but keep the other parishes informed, and involved with activities where appropriate. David Parker asked if the Town Council had selected a Council Representative to the Town Team. Catherine Purves confirmed it was John Holt.

## **5. Town Teams, Community Land Trusts and Neighbourhood Plans**

- *Andy Rhind Tutt spoke about the development of Amesbury's Town Team*, and its success in overcoming negative publicity about the town, and raising awareness of the town both locally and nationally. It had been clear that the community organisations were all operating separately, with little, if any, communication between them. Andy decided for his Mayoral Year that he would take the lead and produce a Vision for the town, on the back of the interest in the town generated by it being on the Olympic torch route – ie before the Portas Project began. Although initially there was no formal consultation exercise, apathy levels were so high that all were delighted that somebody – anybody – was doing something, and it was very easy to achieve momentum. The positive publicity resulted in attracting additional investment, and the whole thing has snowballed. John Glen MP's support was sought and given, the tourist industry has been involved, with a winter solstice Heritage Lantern walk from Stonehenge to Amesbury started, a museum funded and opened and additional signage installed in the town. There are plans for a coach-friendly scheme to be introduced, a Visit Amesbury website to be developed, a Town Map located in the centre and a Town Guide produced. In conjunction with local businesses, an annual awards event has also been introduced. All sections of the community have been included and consulted – businesses, residents, schools and developers, with excellent responses. The development of Amesbury – from a population of 8000 in 2000 to 12,000 now, and a proposed 16,000 by 2017 – has demonstrated the need for such a Vision, and for local people to take charge of change.
- *Kent Taylor spoke about the Wilton Community Land Trust*, which was originally brought into being by Suzie Butters, following the departure of the Army from the UKLF site in Wilton. It covers Quidhampton, Wilton and

Burcombe, and is dedicated to bringing communities together to enable them to influence changes in a sustainable way for the benefit of all. The main project at the moment is the joint project with Our Enterprise and Redrow, two property development companies with the same ethical approach, regarding the development of the UKLF site. With John Glen's support, the companies are the MOD's preferred bidder for the site, and completion is due at the end of March. Following this, there will be a public meeting held in Wilton to discuss the next stages: date and venue to be confirmed. Other projects have included organising workshops to help give the unemployed the help, support and skills to get back into the workplace, and the Green Doors project, which demonstrates what can be done to property in an ecologically-sustainable way.

- *Stephen Harris updated the group about Neighbourhood Plans.* These are in the early stages of development, and they optional, not compulsory. They are an alternative to, and separate from a Village/Parish/Town design statement and, unlike previous Plans, the qualifying body is the Town or Parish Council, which must lead a steering group to develop such a plan, rather than taking a back seat after starting the process off, as before. The Neighbourhood Plan **must** generally conform with Wiltshire Council's adopted Local Plan ie the Core Strategy (due to be adopted in the autumn) and the **NP cannot say no to proposed development already decided upon**. There are no set guidelines regarding the content or design, nor the geographical area covered – it can focus on one parish only, or cover several parishes all together. The cost of development is to be borne by the Town and Parish Councils, but funding is available. Wiltshire Council will play a close supporting role, confirming the geographical area chosen, holding the compulsory referendum and ultimately adopting the NP into its own planning framework, so account will be taken of it. Wiltshire Council is developing a Neighbourhood Planning portal on its website for additional help, information and guidance. Recent developments indicate that those areas with an NP will attract 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy imposed, whilst those areas without will be paid only 15%. Communities can start submitting plans from May 1<sup>st</sup>. Wiltshire Council has currently approved 3 geographical designations, with a further 7 in progress.

David von Zeffman raised concerns that as the UKLF site was included in the Salisbury - rather than the Wilton - Core Strategy (as part of Salisbury's allocated development) what the implications might be regarding the payment of R2 and s106 payments, and possibly the precept as well. Also, what ramifications there might be for a NP, since any such **must** conform to the Core Strategy.

Stephen Harris undertook to investigate these points and to report back to the next meeting.

## **6. The role of the Wilton Town/Community Team, its constitution, aims objectives and election of officers.**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## **7. Update on the Big Lunch event**

Gary Nunn advised that a lot of progress had been made with this bring and share event, scheduled for Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, but he does need a separate team of interested people to help with the detailed organisation.

- The Community Centre was booked, no charge. Capacity 450 people.
- The Church would also be available free of charge, with tables and chairs available
- The Trussell Trust was delighted to be involved and to be the beneficiary organisation, particularly as this is the only Big Lunch event in Wiltshire so far.
- Golley Slater, the PR company responsible for publicising The Big Lunch will help with publicity, and this will be a test event for radio and TV coverage. Gary will deal with the local press and publicity.
- The local food shops, restaurants and pubs will be invited to contribute and/or become involved.
- Wilton Rotary will provide the marshalls as their tabards are highly visible.

Nigel Prigent exhorted all those organisations present to attend as far as possible, as he thought the event would be an excellent opportunity for each member

organisation of the Town Team to give a short presentation to the public to explain how it contributes to Wilton life, with displays/leaflets/information available. This was thought to be an excellent idea, and David von Zeffman undertook to contact Wilton Shopping Village to persuade them to become involved. Mark Wood offered the Church as a venue for this, as it would be quieter, with more room.

Nigel Prigent also asked if other sources of revenue were available to help defray cost, and it was thought that a bouncy castle might be appropriate.

David von Zeffman asked Gary Nunn, with his Carnival experience, whether an ice-cream van, burger van and mobile bar might each be prepared to pay for a "pitch".

Stephen Harris advised that Wiltshire Council would be happy to come and give a talk, and he also thought that Legacy funding might be available.

## **8. Update on the Market Towns Initiative**

David von Zeffman advised that unfortunately, in 2012, under the aegis of the Town Council, Wilton did not undertake all the surveys required to provide the comprehensive and meaningful benchmarking information. Catherine Purves advised she had already requested a licence to conduct another survey in 2013, with the deadline for sending data collected to the Association of Market Towns initiative as 31<sup>st</sup> December. The analysis would be available in March 2014. Gary Nunn and David von Zeffman will do the necessary over 3 days. Meanwhile, the Wilton & District Business Chamber will send out the associated Business Confidence survey.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- David von Zeffman brought to everyone's attention details of a networking lunch that was being organised for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at the South Wilts Golf Club when Graham Archer, a scriptwriter for The Archers would be giving a short talk on sustainable agriculture. All were asked to circulate the information within their respective organisations.
- David Parker advised that there would be a local Wilton in Bloom competition again this year, as it had proved so popular in the past. The Town Council's tubs and hanging baskets will be used, and ready-planted baskets and window boxes will also be sold. Judging will be in July.

## **10. Date and Venue of next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber.

Catherine Purves  
March 2013