

Update for Malmesbury Area Board

Update From: Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership.

Date of Area Board Meeting: 7th July 2010

Headlines

- A comprehensive Annual Work and Action plan for 2010/2011 has been launched and put forward to the Area Board. This covers: Partnership Development, Accountability, Communication, Consultation, Community Planning and Local Action.
- A very constructive meeting with the Area Board took place on the 27th April to discuss the above and the advice given to the group has been taken on board.
- Project Officer - Recruiting for this position will be put into place shortly. A job description is to be drafted and an application form will be available.
- In order to demonstrate and review the effectiveness and impact of M&VCAPs work in the community, a decision has been taken to introduce evaluation forms for all meetings and events. M&VCAP will undertake an impact assessment of future projects.
- Preparation for the next themed event is ongoing.
- All Steering Group minutes will now be circulated to all Parish councils and to Malmesbury Town council once approved. M&VCAP aim to develop stronger links with Parish Councils and Malmesbury Town Council.

Issues

- Web Site - A review of the group's website is taking place. It has been the concern of the group that the site is not as efficient as it could be.
- New Projects - The aim of the group is to facilitate and support local groups and projects, as well as being involved in the carrying out of work that involves projects.
- The group is to consult with the staff from Westlea Housing (for residents of Glovers Court) and the warden from Orchard Court regarding the needs of residents.
- Preliminary discussions with Orchard Court residents (facilitated by the warden) have identified a number of points related to wheelchair access difficulties and road safety; these points will be raised at the next Steering Group meeting and with the Area Board, as appropriate.

PROJECT REPORT

Rural Broadband

Objectives (set in February 2009)

Agreed that the purpose of the group was to identify whether the Partnership could assist the community to improve the quality of broadband provided, in the interests of - opportunities to work effectively from home, locally based business, reduction in number of work journeys and prevention of social exclusion.

Little progress has been made towards a fully functioning improved service in the 20 communities. However we are in discussions still with two potential providers, Cotswold Wireless and Vtesse, and made a contribution to the evidence presented by Vtesse in the High Court to allow independent providers access to BT trunking and to recognise the preferential advantage of BT's preferential commercial rates, both of which are an obstacle to alternative providers of fibre optic to rural communities. The new Government's outlook on rural broadband is encouraging but we are not one of the limited pilot schemes that the national government has announced it will fund.

Publicity & Communications

Aim - To improve publicity and communication of M&VCAP and make sure that M&VCAP is the people's voice.

- A comprehensive database has now been set up by the Administrator and all information is being circulated.
- All events are being widely publicised.
- Various sources of funding are being explored.

Cycle Routes into Malmesbury

This project is long term and has difficulties that are outside of our control/brief. We will remain in contact with the involved group and will offer help where needed but will put the project temporarily on hold.

Transport Hub

M&VCAPs Transport Hub, in partnership with the Community Transport Association, produced a leaflet explaining all transport options and information for our area. M&VCAP have agreed that the leaflet is still effective. Therefore more leaflets are to be printed and placed in village shops, halls etc.

To further advertise and promote the Community Mini bus advertisements are to be placed in village magazines.

M&VCAP is to join Community First as benefits include access to funding for transport, minibus sharing schemes and ideas for promotion. The Cartmell Minibus is to join Wiltshire All Vehicle Sharing Scheme. This will enable the centre to increase the number of mini buses at the community's disposal.

Costings are being sought to bring the old mini bus up to road worthy condition. However any further action will depend on both the cost and the requested need for this potential "service".

Community Safety Group

In the original plan and the recently launched Plan (consultative document) most villages and Malmesbury expressed concerns about perceived safety problems, whether it be “speeding” the “bumps in Malmesbury” road conditions, pavements, or foot paths. M&VCAP is co-operating with MTC in the funding, compilation, distribution and collation of the questionnaire which surveys these concerns.

The next Community Safety meeting is scheduled for the 24th June in the Kings Arms Hotel, Malmesbury 7pm for 7.30pm. Further meetings are planned for the 24th September and 23rd December.

CCTV

All the legal paper work has been completed. The aerial(s) have been ordered and a site inspection carried out. Once assurance received that the equipment is with Brio Technologies then a feature will be compiled for the papers. Volunteers will be sought CRB checks undertaken and training given. There will be a formal handing over to the police

Future Events/Dates for the Diary:

Calendar of Meetings:

Steering Group:- Tuesday 6th July, Tuesday 17th August, Tuesday 28th September, Monday 15th November, Tuesday 14th December. The meetings will be held at 7.00pm in the Orangery, Kings Arms, Malmesbury, unless otherwise notified.

Community Safety Meetings: - 24th June, 24th September and 23rd December. All meeting will be in the Orangery, Kings Arms, Malmesbury commencing at 7pm unless otherwise notified.

Event - The next event gathering is Wednesday September 8th 7pm for 7.30 in the Town Hall, Malmesbury. The event is M&VCAPs opportunity to consult further about transport issues to those living in our community and to demonstrate all community travel options available.



Signed:

Co-ordinator/Administrator for M&VCAP

Dated: 16th June 2010