

Town Council Report June 2014 to Area Board 17th July 2014

1. POLICY

Wiltshire Council - Core Strategy – The Town Council has responded to the latest consultation following resolution at the last meeting.

Wiltshire Council – Review of Local Transport Plan Car Parking Strategy – The Town Council has responded to the pre-consultation and following discussion at the Area Board Agenda Setting meeting have also received confirmation that the review will consider management and control of Wiltshire Council's own corporate parking facilities for staff, visitors and library users etc.

Wiltshire Council - Community Governance Review – We await further progress reports from Wiltshire Council.

2. FINANCE

Annual Accounts April 2013-March 2014 – The Annual Return was signed-off by Full Council on 24th June. We also continue to prepare full accounting statements, including reserve balances.

3. MUSEUM & TOURISM – The next committee meeting is 14th October at 6:30pm
The Council resolved to pursue remaining at the Shires, with a new lease, potentially to include an additional upper floor, subject to contract. We have appointed Carter Jonas to act as the Council's agent to negotiate the lease. We are now progressing the other elements of the project required, prior to submitting our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We have also submitted our interim report to the Arts Council, prior to approval of our second year support grant.

Exhibition - The current Mockingbird exhibition runs until 27th September.

Magna Carta 800 1215-2015 – Wiltshire is the only county where it is possible to visit an original copy of the Charter and a Baron Town. Our main 'Charter Fair' event will be held in the Park on the 24th/25th/26th July 2015. We will also host a conference on Saturday 25th April. All departments of the Town Council will be involved in organizing elements of the Charter Fair as well as our partner organisations. The Chamber of Commerce is organizing a Trowbridge Business Expo in the Civic Centre on the Friday and Saturday, the Town Team will be organizing markets in Fore Street, The Active Trowbridge Play Day will be held as part of the weekend on the Saturday in the Park, there will be a Town Crier's Competition on the Sunday and the Civic Service on Sunday evening.

4 LEISURE SERVICES - The next committee meeting is 22nd July 2014 at 6:30pm

Sports Roadshow – This will operate once again during the summer holidays, focused on the Park this year.

Fun Days – Fun Days operated at May half term and will run throughout the Summer holidays.

Swimming - Over 300 children per week will be taught swimming from April 2014- July 2014 provided in partnership with Newtown School.

Sports and Play Festival - On Saturday June 7th thousands of people once again were able to enjoy our Festival in Trowbridge Park which provides a FREE, safe and engaging day for children and parents to try out a range of sports and activities. Despite the forecast the weather was again good enough for the ice-cream stall to sell-out.

Trowbridge Sports Forum – The Forum now has 13 local sports clubs discussing and implementing projects and plans for the future for the local community.

Sports Pitches Project – We are working with local clubs, Wiltshire FA, Sport England and WASP to develop plans for the land at Devizes Road. We will progress the project once S106 funding is secured via Wiltshire Council, which is expected from two of the four sites shortly.

5 DIRECT SERVICES – The next committee meeting is 26th August.

Civic Centre – The Management Board will meet on 31st July.

Town Park Bandstand – Installation of the fencing is ongoing, accompanied by a full repaint and we are considering with the young people long term shelter options.

Trowbridge In Bloom – Arrangements are now underway to host the South West In Bloom (SWiB) Awards at the Civic Centre on 18th September. Work is also underway to ensure the proposed route for judging the town on Wednesday 16th July is ready for its entry into the SWiB competition. The group is working to support the Friends of Trowbridge Park in their initiative to plant up two community garden areas within the Park. The raised beds at Court Mills are currently being refurbished by members of the FOTP and Nick Allford.

Events – The Home Produce Fayre takes place on Saturday 30th August, sponsored by the Kings Arms, Trowbridge. Many local charity organisations will be selling their home made produce and there will be prizes for the best dressed stalls.

Studley Green Community Centre – A new 16 year lease is being finalised with the trustees of the Community Association, to commence on 1st July.

Lambrok Playing Fields and Changing Rooms – A new 16 year lease is with Trowbridge Wanderers Football Club, ready for finalising, to commence on 1st July and we are working in partnership with regard to maintenance of the pitches and representation on the Community Centre committee. The club is planning to install a rail around one of the pitches and use mobile dugouts next season.

Allotments – The transfer of the three sites at Gloucester Road, Mornington Gardens and Home Close Farm to the Town Council was completed on 1st April and a new lease has been signed with the Gloucester Road Allotment Association. The garages at Mornington Gardens were also transferred and are now fully let. Some maintenance work has been done, particularly at Mornington Gardens relating to overgrown trees and uncultivated plots.

Grounds Maintenance – A new six year contract has been awarded to the Landscape Group.

Land at Devizes Road – archaeological tests have been undertaken, we anticipate S106 funding to progress the project will be secured later this year.

6. MARKETING & EVENTS

Newsletter – We continue to publish the newsletter as part of the Trowbridge Magazine in July, September and November 2014.

Website – The Town Council web-site www.trowbridge.gov.uk provides information about all council activities and services as well as links to other Trowbridge web-sites. Our other web-sites are: www.trowbridgecivic.co.uk for information about the Civic Centre, events and activities & www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk for the Museum.

Armed Forces Weekend – The weekend commenced on Saturday 28th June with the award of Freedom of the town to the Royal Artillery, followed by a parade through the town with bayonets fixed.

DISCOVER Trowbridge – Our design consultant team have further developed the branding and produced a final design. Following consultation with members of the council this has been adopted and is now being implemented.

7. TOWN DEVELOPMENT – Committee meets 1st July, 22nd July and 16th August.

Transforming Trowbridge – www.transformingtrowbridge.org.uk Established by Wiltshire Council, a partnership to support regeneration of the town centre is leading on development of the Masterplan. The Masterplan seeks to ensure that the town centre develops in a sustainable way, providing a range of facilities and services which are linked together and is being adopted as part of the Core Strategy. The Our Place bid seeks to consider how the Masterplan could be adopted as a Neighbourhood Plan for the town if necessary.

Business Improvement District (BID) - Consultants Mosaic completed the feasibility study, with a recommendation to proceed to establish a BID to ballot. Wiltshire Council will be funding this stage of the process.

Town Centre Developments

St Stephen's Place – Frankie & Benny's is now open with Dean's Diner and Chiquito taking two of the remaining four units.

Cradle Bridge – Indications are that MRMU, a developer based in Cornwall www.mrmultd.co.uk/ are behind the purchase of the former Peter Black site.

Bowyers – Recent report from the developer: *Morrisons has had a poor 6 months trading, but this has not had a disruptive effect on the project. Although progress has been slow the construction team has let the demolition contract, and safety issues with Network Rail have been sorted. Demolition is due to start end of June/July, it could have started earlier but technical issues have prevented this. Prorsus' involvement in the project will reduce as construction takes off (but Angus will continue to retain a contractual and personal interest in Innox Riverside). Morrisons who own the site will be running the main construction*

contract. Mike Webb of CWM www.cwm.co.uk/ remains involved as leasing agent for the remaining restaurant and leisure units adjacent to Cineworld. Morrisons are aware that the project website is out of date and this is in hand.

Court Street – the development of a mixed use office and residential scheme on the former Tremans Factory site has commenced by Ashford Homes.

Retail – T K Maxx are due to move next door to Knees in Bradley Road.

Housing – The following major sites are under development, totalling over 1,200 houses.

H9 Southview Farm, Wain Homes, 300 houses for sale.

<http://www.wainhomes.net/southwest/development-details.php?itemID=47>

H11 Castle Mead, Persimmon & Charles Church 650 houses for sale, the link road to West Ashton Rd is now complete, and the new Primary School is taking shape. Work on the Hilperton Gap Relief Rd between Leap Gate and Canal Road should commence this year.

<http://www.persimmonhomes.com/castle-mead-2206>

H8d Brook Meadow, Barratt & Taylor Wimpey 150 houses SOLD.

H8c The Pastures off Parsonage Way, Abbey New Homes 180 houses for sale.

<http://www.abbeynewhomes.co.uk/PASTURES%20Trowbridge/home.html>

St James' Gardens off Union Street, Newland Homes 75 houses SOLD.

Centenary Court, Yeoman Way, social housing site now commenced.

Former Rugby Club, Green Lane – Green Square, 90 houses now commenced.

Ashton Park – Mainly in West Ashton and North Bradley Parishes, proposes around 2,500 houses. Consultation events were held recently, including details of the proposed improvements to the A350 around West Ashton cross roads and Yarnbrook. An application is expected once the Core Strategy Inspectors Report has been published. Further briefings have been held for town and parish council representatives.

Other Commercial Developments – Hitachi Capital have moved into their new HQ next to the White Horse Business Park in North Bradley. Plans are being considered by a local investor for the employment allocation on West Ashton Road, including a sports stadium and other leisure facilities.

Core Strategy, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) & Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) – The Inspector's report has not yet been published. The draft CIL has now been published for inspection with minor modifications. The IDP (funded by the CIL) reviewed annually includes elements identified in the Masterplan and the council will seek to include; allotments, cemetery, play areas, highways, cycle routes and sports pitches. The IDP should be. The Council asked for an approach to be made to Dyson regarding investment in Wiltshire. Tim Martienssen, at Wiltshire Council responded: *The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership has included in its Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal submission to Government support for the further development of Dyson at its site in Malmesbury. Dyson have also recently secured regional growth funding from Government to further develop its research facilities in this location. There is no expectation that Dyson would relocate from Malmesbury or develop significant facilities in any other location in Wiltshire at this time.*

Review of Great Western Franchise – The Department of Transport recently undertook a consultation into the specification for the new Great Western Rail Franchise

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/great-western-specification-for-the-future-franchise

The Council RESOLVED:

a. Welcomes the retention of a two hourly service on the Trowbridge Chippenham line via Melksham and hopes that current loading on the service will allow it to be increased to a regular hourly service pattern, extending to Swindon and Salisbury. Significant residential and commercial development will be taking place before and during the franchise period at a number of towns along this route, and service frequency will need to be able to meet growing demand for travel between the towns.

b. Welcomes the proposed service patterns following electrification, which include an hourly Westbury – London service utilising the new bi-mode rolling stock and the retention of the through hourly Cardiff - Portsmouth services.

6.6.1 Station - Significant improvements to the Railway Station Forecourts are expected this year, which have been planned in conjunction with the developers of the Bowyer's site.

Wiltshire Council Development Management Update – The Town Clerk recently responded to a call for issues to be considered as part of Wiltshire Council's regular review of the Development Control Service, to be discussed at a review meeting for town and parish councils.

The Council RESOLVED: That the Council supports the Town Clerk's action in responding to the request for issues to be considered as part of Wiltshire Council's review of the Development Control Service, which identified the following which had recently been considered by the Town Development Committee and the Area Board:

a. Wiltshire Council are urged to develop a policy regarding land which is not transferred to individual property owners but which has no community amenity value, such as small pockets of strip land to the rear and side of new homes, which may have value as wildlife habitat, but which Wiltshire Council are unlikely to maintain to a standard which does not cause nuisance to the adjacent property owners – due to overgrowing trees and brambles. Wiltshire Council should ensure that these areas are properly maintained by Wiltshire Council, transferred to the appropriate individual property owners or to another organisation such as the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust which can maintain them. – In fact it would be fair to say that much greater involvement with the parish and town councils on seeking an appropriate solution for these types of issues should be entered into by both the applicants and development control.

b. Wiltshire Council, when advising neighbours of a new application should provide information about their local parish or town council, so that householders can make representation to the parish. Such information to include; that the parish and town councils are consultees in a similar way to the individuals and have a similar timescale in which to consider the application and make any observations and that contact details are on the Wiltshire Council website.

8. PARTNERSHIP

OUR PLACE - The Town Council's bid to the second stage Going Further of 'Our Place' has been successful following submission of our Development Plan for the first Getting Going stage. We will receive between £10,000 and £17,000 grant which will facilitate all of the partners including TCAF, the Campus, Wiltshire Council and the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group working together to plan for the future of our town centre. We will also receive consultant support.

Wiltshire Council - The parish newsletter is now published weekly and is circulated to members. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/parishnewsletterhome.htm

Stallard Recreation Ground Changing Rooms - This facility on Innox Rd will be implemented by Wiltshire Council, with a contribution from the Town Council and S106 funding.

Campus - Following the second consultation we now await confirmation regarding the funding, location and timescales for implementation of the Trowbridge Campus plans. The Campus will be a significant element of the Our Place project and the links to health facilities. A meeting was held on Tuesday 17th June to consider governance arrangements.

Review of Positive Leisure-Time Activities for Young People - Wiltshire Council is now implementing changes to the delivery of Youth Services, with Area Board style grant funding for activities. The Town Council responded in March, emphasising the need for the allocation of funds to Community Areas to be fair and transparent. We await further information regarding the budget allocations. It appears that the Area Board will not have any funding until 2015 but that current services will close in 2014, leaving a gap.

Wiltshire Council's Contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places for Grass Cutting Further to recent discussion at the Direct Services Committee and receipt of information regarding a wealth of complaints about the quality of the grass-cutting service, particularly in and around the town.

The Council RESOLVED: That the council writes to Cllr John Thomson, Cabinet Member Highways to confirm that despite repeated assurances the grass cutting service provided to Wiltshire Council by BBLP has not recovered to a satisfactory situation in the Trowbridge Area and that further resources must be applied to ensure that the situation does not continue this year and that a more robust solution is implemented at the earliest opportunity to avoid an unacceptable repetition of the disastrous service levels in future years.

Yerbury Street Residents' Parking - Wiltshire Council has proposed a draft plan of the layout in Yerbury Street and is consulting with the Town Council and the Residents Group prior to a formal public consultation. ***The Council RESOLVED: That the Town Council supports the draft proposal for a residents' parking permit arrangement in Yerbury Street to go forward to formal public consultation.***

Collaborative Schools Ltd (CSL) - A decision on the alternative provision free-school application is awaited.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) - Newsletters are regularly circulated or available on their website www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk

NHS – We are working with the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the local GP practices through the Our Place Project, to coordinate the development of additional health facilities, including elements within the Campus new-build.

Swindon/Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership - The Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has now been submitted to Government. It proposes that further investment is made available to secure future growth in the local economy. The Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Economic Plan March 2014 and supporting evidence is now available in full via either of these links [SEP http://www.swlep.biz/docs/1](http://www.swlep.biz/docs/1)

9. CIVIC & DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES

Council Meeting Dates. Council and committee meetings for the next few months are:

Tuesday 15 th July	Full Council
Tuesday 22 nd July	Leisure Services (6.30pm)
Tuesday 22 nd July	Town Development
Tuesday 29 th July	NO MEETING
Tuesday 5 th August	NO MEETING
Tuesday 12 th August	NO MEETING
Tuesday 19 th August	Town Development (4 weeks)
Tuesday 26 th August	Direct Services
Tuesday 2 nd September	Policy & Resources

Twinning - 51 visitors came to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the twinning agreement between the two towns. A Charter Dinner was held at the Civic Centre, sponsored by Apetito; the itinerary included a visit to Weymouth, and the Motown event at the Civic Centre on Saturday 28th June 2014. Elections have taken place in Leer. With effect from 1st November the town of Leer will have a new Mayor, Beatrix Kuhl, who is elected for 7 years. Herr Kellner will do the opening of the Gallimarkt this October for his last time.

The Annual Civic Service is being held on Sunday 3rd August to coincide with the national commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War.

Commonwealth Flag - Last year was the largest, single raising of the Commonwealth Flag on Commonwealth Day and this year NALC is encouraging all Town & Parish Councils to participate by flying a flag for the Commonwealth on 9th March 2015. Registration must be completed by 31st January 2015.

The council RESOLVED: That the Town Council participates in a short ceremony officiated by the Mayor, in the flying of the Commonwealth Flag on Commonwealth Day, Monday 9th March 2015 at 10.00am, at a cost for the purchase of the flag of £58.

Lance Allan

Town Clerk

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www.trowbridgecivic.co.uk

www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk



For further event details, please click on links where applicable

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	Active Trowbridge : Extreme Sports 5:30-7:00	John of Gaunt
Monday	Ginger Jive	Civic Centre
Wednesday	Town Team & Wiltshire Council: Weekly Street Market	Fore Street
2 nd & 4 th	Farmers Market	Fore Street
Fri		
2 nd Sunday	Sunday Club	Civic Centre
Various	Blood Donor Sessions	Civic Centre
until 27	'Mockingbird' Exhibition	Museum
Sep		

JUNE

28	Motown Live at the Civic - Soulside	Civic Centre
28 & 29	Wiltshire Armed Forces and Veterans Weekend and Freedom Parade for Royal Artillery	Town Park
28	FREE PARKING IN ALL COUNCIL CAR PARKS	

JULY

13	Trowbridge In Bloom – Summer Open Gardens event	Various
18	Olly Murs Tribute Show	Civic Centre
25 July (to 30 Aug)	Active Trowbridge Sports Roadshow	Town Park
31	Summer nights	

AUGUST

3	Civic Service	St James'
16	Live at the Civic -	Civic Centre
17	Trowbridge Carnival Soap-Box Derby	Castle Street
30	TIB – Home Produce Fayre,	Fore Street

SEPTEMBER

6	Carnival Country Fayre including Town Council Stand.	Town Park
7	Cow Parsley presents – Wiltshire Weddings	Civic Centre

OCTOBER

4	Comedy Live at the Civic -	Civic Centre
11	Trowbridge Apple Festival	Courtfield House
17 Oct (to 2 Nov)	<u>Trowbridge Arts Festival</u>	Various
18	Trowbridge Arts Festival launch event	Fore Street
18	Teenage Market – Town Team	
18	Trowbridge Carnival Procession	Town Centre
17/18 & 24/25	Ladies Nights	Civic Centre
31	Halloween Disco	Civic Centre

NOVEMBER

1	Halloween Ball	Civic Centre
9	Remembrance Service & Parade	St James' & Park
22	Comedy Live at the Civic -	Civic Centre
29	Christmas Lights Switch on and Craft Fayre	Various
29	FREE PARKING IN ALL COUNCIL CAR PARKS	

DECEMBER

11/12/13 18/19/20	Christmas Party Nights	Civic Centre
27	Music – Motown, Soulside	Civic Centre
31	New Year's Eve Disco	Civic Centre

2015

JUNE

MAGNA CARTA Bike Ride 800 miles in 800 years , visiting the 22 Baron Towns in a week, arriving in Trowbridge on Saturday 20 th June.	Somerset to Northumberland via Suffolk
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JULY

MAGNA CARTA 800 Charter Fair	Various
Street Markets and entertainment– Friday/Saturday/Sunday	Fore Street
Business Expo – 800 years of industry and commerce –	Civic Centre
24, 25, 26 Friday/Saturday	Town Park
Medieval Play Festival in the Park – Saturday	Town Park
Town Crier's Competition – Sunday	St James'
Civic Service - Sunday	Church