



## **Report of the BA13+ Partnership Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014**

The BA13+ Community Area Partnership's Annual General Meeting took place at the Laverton in Westbury on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Carole King, the outgoing Chairman of the Partnership, warmly welcomed everyone present and outlined the history of the Partnership and background to the development of Westbury's Community Plan, which was first launched in 2005. The Plan is currently undergoing a further revision and update. Carole went on to explain that the Area Board review held in April this year heralded a change in the Partnership's funding. Although BA13+ have received nearly a full grant this year, some CAPs have set themselves up as Charities in order to survive. Carole said we need to understand the long term thinking of the Council in regards to our future relationship alongside Campuses and the new role of Community Engagement Officer taking over from Community Area Managers. The BA13 Partnership will evolve into a new community role and we believe we have the funds to enable our future for the next year or so until we can see a future ahead.

Carole continued that each of our Partnership meetings have had a theme over the last two years enabling us to cover all the themes in our community plan. At our March Partnership meeting, which was about Community Safety, we heard about Safe Places and agreed to it up in Westbury. We now have almost 30 premises signed up to the scheme. The theme of this evening's meeting was Arts, Heritage and Culture, and Carole went on to introduce the various speakers.

The first guest speaker of the evening was Sabina Edwards, the Community Librarian for Westbury, Warminster, Mere and Tisbury. Sabina offered a snapshot of what's happening in the library, including the RhymeTime initiative, the Summer Reading Challenge, and her work with local schools and children's centre. They are running IT sessions for adults and a monthly reading group. They run a series of author visits and talks of interest. They also have volunteering opportunities available, including the home library service for housebound people which combats social isolation. There is also a community health trainer visiting the library starting on Tuesday from 09:30.

Sally Willox then introduced herself as being responsible for youth work delivery for Westbury. The youth service have engaged with approximately 22% of young people in the Westbury area. Sally outlined the way young people engage with art via the Arts Awards scheme, taking in photography, media, art etc. Sally outlined the Virtual Landscapes work that's been done in the past year, in which young people learned about their culture and heritage. Young People had also taken part in various local events, and had cultural visits to Salisbury, London, Bath and Bristol. Media, musical and IT skills had been developed as a result of all the activities.

In the immediate future, young people are taking part in the Summer Fair, serving the public with smoothies and biscuits, and there will be a programme of opportunities taking place during the school summer holidays.

Unfortunately however, the Westbury youth centre will close in September and the sessions will be ceasing.

The next presenter was Beccy Churchill, who explained that she was engaged as a local public artist. The scheme is based on a David Wilson homes site, which based on an old ironworks. Students from Matravers School had made some

amazing artworks based on the stories about the ironworks and the wider community. 62 students from Matravers and Bitham Brook Primary had been taken on a field trip to the Tate Gallery in London and were later taken back again to display their work in the Tate itself.

Finally, John Alderslade gave a very entertaining talk on the background and history of the Village Pump Folk Festival that has put its roots down in Westbury during the past two years. The White Horse Country Park had approached the festival when their previous location became unavailable two years ago. The event very much wants to forge links with Westbury and to involve local organisations. They'd particularly like to find an organisation who can help them manage left luggage, for instance.

The routine business of the AGM saw Carole King unanimously re-elected as Chair for the coming year, Jonathan Burke appointed as vice-chair and Michael Walter appointed as assistant Treasurer, there being no nominations or volunteers for the post of Treasurer of the group.

The date of the next Partnership meeting is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The focus of the meeting will be decided at the next Steering group meeting.

There is a Steering Group meeting taking place Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August at Crosspoint in Westbury.

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