

MINUTES

Meeting: DEVIZES AREA BOARD
Place: Devizes Sports Club, London Road, Devizes SN10 2DL
Date: 23 March 2015
Start Time: 6.30 am
Finish Time: 8.40 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Simon Jacobs (Chairman), Cllr Laura Mayes and Cllr Philip Whitehead (Vice Chairman)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Richard Rogers (Community Area Manager)
Libby Beale (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Sally Willox (Community Youth Officer)
Matthew Maynard (Energy and Design Technician)
Clare Langdon (Manger- Sustainable Growth)
Jack Oatley (Apprentice Youth Worker)
Fiona Rae (Business Support Officer)

Town and Parish Councillors

Devizes Town –Simon Fisher, Nigel Carter, Mr Jeff O.
Easterton – Robert Bulston
Erlestoke –Stan Jonik
Etchilhampton –M.Woods
Great Cheverell – Ann
Cheverell Magna- Lynda Weath
Potterne – Tony Molland
Roundway – Ivon Berg
Rowde – Jackie Bawden, Stephen Mundy, Rebekah Jeffries
West Lavington - Michael Challinor, Julia Ford

Partners

Wiltshire Police – PC Chris Mead

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Chamber of Commerce- Tony Duck

Devizes Community Area Partnership- Philip Mackey, Ian Rose

Age UK Wiltshire- Mike Weston

Devizes District PHAB- Michael Braund

Sustainable Devizes- Jacky Thomas, Mike Dando

Total in attendance: 64

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and members of the Area Board introduced themselves.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Matt Armstrong (Wiltshire Police), Malcolm Irons (Devizes School), Judy Rose and Jean Collins.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that Cllr Liz Bryant had resigned from the Council and was no longer a member of the Area Board. Thanks were given to the Area Board for supporting the community in the absence of Cllr Bryant.</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2015 subject to an amendment on the attendance list to indicate that Malcolm Irons, Devizes School, was also present.</p>
4	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Sue Evans declared an interest in Devizes and District Association for the Disabled which had applied for funding, she would not participate in the debate nor vote on this item.</p> <p>Cllr Simon Jacobs declared an interest in Devizes Eisteddfod which had applied for funding, he would not participate in the debate nor vote on this item.</p>
5	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman explained the introduction of Universal Credit in Wiltshire and drew attention to a full update in the agenda pack. An urgent request was made for volunteers to be on the Safe Places steering group, further information was available in the agenda. It was explained that Healthwatch Wiltshire had been monitoring the new Wiltshire Dementia Strategy as well as consulting on the permanent location of a specialist dementia care hospital.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that works to improve the towpath on the Kennet & Avon Canal between London Rd. Bridge 138 and Cemetery Rd. Bridge 140 were to start on 25th March and to last for approximately 10 weeks. The towpath would remain closed for the duration. The resurfacing of Quakers Walk had been</p>

	<p>completed to a good standard and would assist drainage of surface water.</p> <p>No cold-calling zones had been established in Broadleaze Park with help from Trading Standards. Interested residents were encouraged to approach the Area Board if they felt the initiative would be useful in other residential areas.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Margaret Bryant and Kerry Rose for their work with career coaching at Devizes school. The Area Board confirmed the project was currently only operational at Devizes School as a link with Lavington School had not yet been established.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Tony Aldridge and Carol for supporting Devizes promotional week by organising visits to the town from coach operators. Senior members of the Confederation of Passenger Transport and Sir Terry Wogan attended the events. Walking tours were also led around the area.</p>
6	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>A representative from Wiltshire Police gave an overview of crime in the Devizes beat areas: overall, there had been a decrease in offenses in Devizes however the level of detections had also reduced. A full written update was available in the agenda pack.</p> <p>Mike Franklin, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service updated that the Secretary of State had passed a combination order to merge Wiltshire and Dorset fire services, this would sit in the House of Commons for 40 days before it could become legislation. The Fire and Rescue service had increased its precept by 1.98% for 2015-16.</p> <p>An update from the Clinical Commissioning Group was included in the agenda pack.</p> <p>Philip Mackie, Devizes Community Area Partnership updated the meeting that the new bus service was working well and would be piloted for 9 months, it was planned to produce more savings than initially expected. It was noted that 'Cycle Devizes' was keen to be re-established and Sustainable Devizes hoped to move to a transition town group.</p> <p>The Chairman informed that Malcolm Irons, Headteacher at Devizes School, would leave at the end of the summer term and an intensive recruitment process was already underway to replace him.</p> <p>Tony Molland, Potterne Parish Council, confirmed the parish council had completed a draft neighbourhood plan however would meet again that week due to perimeter changes.</p> <p>Stan Jonik Erlestoke Parish Council, advised that the Parish Council would</p>

	<p>progress with a Neighbourhood Plan. A question was raised over the conversion of a local pub into a residential property and Members advised the Area Board could not consider planning matters and the application had not yet been determined. A crossing in Erkestone was requested however it was noted this needed to be made via the Community Issues System.</p>
7	<p><u>Building a Legacy for Wiltshire- Bringing communities together in the Devizes Area</u></p> <p>Richard Rogers, Community Area Manager, gave a presentation and quiz on the Legacy steering board which had been established to continue the legacy of national and local celebrations in 2012. In 2014, World War One commemorations and Cycle Wiltshire had brought the local community together. Devizes community was invited to participate in the Magna Carta 800th anniversary celebrations in June 2015. This year would also see the launch of 'Beat the Street' and the 750 challenge to encourage a further 750 hours volunteering in Devizes.</p>
8	<p><u>Is Devizes ready to tackle the Wiltshire energy challenge?</u></p> <p>Matt Maynard, Energy and Design Technician, explained the Climate local Initiative was designed to help local authorities to share ideas on green initiatives. The Wiltshire Energy resilience plan would ensure the energy in Wiltshire was more secure, affordable and sustainable.</p> <p>During a quiz it was highlighted that 29% of Wiltshire Council's emissions was due to street lighting and the Council was working to reduce reducing its energy consumption, for instance in corporate estates. The Council was now encouraging businesses in Wiltshire to re-think their energy use and join the switch scheme. During a question and answer session it was confirmed that currently Wiltshire Council electric charging points for cars were free, with a valid parking ticket.</p>
9	<p><u>Open Floor</u></p> <p>The Area Board invited local people, groups and organisations to discuss issues of importance for the Devizes area.</p> <p>Michael Braund, Devizes & District PHAB (Physically Disabled & Able Bodied), expressed concern over traffic calming measures causing damage to the low-floor minibus. Cllr Philip Whitehead advised that, since the speedbumps in questions were privately owned, the group would have to contact highways and planning officers at Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Jeffrey Meddings and Ray Rogers expressed disappointment in road conditions in Bath Road from Prison bridge to Caen Hill. Cllr Whitehead agreed there was</p>

potentially need for a crossing on the road, however speeding was not a major issue in this location. It was noted that Devizes Town Council had rejected a crossing on this section of the road and islands to calm traffic would reduce the number of parking places. The Councillor confirmed that Bath Road junction was due to be resurfaced that financial year. The residents advised that speeding was a real problem on Bath Road, however Cllr Whitehead confirmed that this was not supported by evidence from a metrocount. Questions were raised over the timing of metrocounts and it was verified they did not look at the average speed and so the results were not skewed by slow-moving traffic at peak times. The Councillor confirmed that isolated potholes were filled as an immediate, short-term solution to this health and safety risk.

Jackie Bawden, Rowde Parish Council, questioned whether Rowde and Bromham would receive high-speed broadband. It was confirmed that Bromham was included in the 2015 rollout by Wiltshire Council. Rowde had been deemed as 'commercially viable' by BT and so would be installed by the company. Cllr Richard Gamble agreed to look into the situation for Erlestoke.

Steve Valentine spoke against the cessation of the Connect2RUH service planned for November 2015. Cllr Whitehead advised that the government and the NHS had withdrawn funding for the service in 2006, Wiltshire Council had subsidised the service since however it proved very expensive to run. It was the responsibility of the Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure patients were able to get to hospital and the RUH had been invited to discussions over the future of the service. A full public consultation would be run before changes to the service.

Philippa Morgan expressed concern over the planning permission on the Assize Courts in Devizes due to expire in May 2015. Cllr Laura Mayes commented that she shared the concerns and assured that much work was being undertaken by planning officers at Wiltshire Council however she could not provide more detail at this stage.

The Chairman advised that there had been discontent with the state of littering in the county, particularly along trunk roads. Wiltshire Council would support communities who wanted to litter pick and was taking more action against fast-food outlets. Great Cheverell Parish Council held a spring cleaning day each year and raised a health and safety concern about a local path. Area Board members' advised the relevant officer had been made aware.

Tony Duck, questioned whether the Shambles would be left with wooden doors following its redevelopment, and the Area Board agreed to look into. The project was likely to proceed as match funding had been agreed and overall, good feedback had been received. The Chairman advised that rent for the market would be low to attract businesses.

10	<u>Area Board Working Groups</u>
10a	<p><u>Gulls Working Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Laura Mayes updated that hawks and falcons had been flown at the industrial estate to disrupt gulls and from April their nests would be removed. The scheme had been a great success and had generated interest from other areas with similar problems, local businesses had also been very cooperative.</p>
10b	<p><u>Local Youth Network (LYN)</u></p> <p>Sally Willox, Community Youth Officer, updated the meeting that the Local Youth Network was working well in Devizes. For instance, a LYN event had been held on 12 February for young people only with the intention of informing them more about its function, getting them involved and engaging them in creative workshops. A youth café was being developed in Market Lavington and an SEND film was being produced, it was currently in the filming stage. Young people were invited to a ‘Pizza and Pudding’ night on 25 March.</p> <p>A funding application from Devizes Youthy was introduced and considered by the Area Board.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To grant Devizes Youthy £2884.84 of youth funding.</p> <p>Sally explained that the Lions had recently held a sport coaching weekend where over 480 young people had sampled 19 different sports, this had been identified as a need by young people and funding had been provided by the LYN. The Area Board was asked to approve £204.00 granted between Area Board meetings.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To approve £204.00 funding for a sports coaching weekend for young people.</p> <p>To receive the minutes of the last LYN management group meeting.</p>
10c	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group (CATG)</u></p> <p>The Area Board received the minutes of the last CATG meeting held on 9 March 2015 and considered recommendations arising.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To agree the following recommendations:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject to agreement from Roundway Parish Council to pay for costs, to agree for a hard standing being erected at the bus stop along Windsor Drive; 2. To implement 20mph speed restriction at Urchfont Village and Devizes East as recommended in the assessments; 3. To contribute £500 towards security at Bishops Canning car park.
11	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>Members heard from groups applying to the Community Area Grants scheme and considered their applications.</p> <p>Potterne Cricket Club explained the club had outgrown its current facility and required enlarging and levelling of the pitches.</p> <p>Devizes and District Association for the Disabled required new hand dryers to save costs.</p> <p>West Lavington Village Hall applied for funding to upgrade the hall to help it become increasingly attractive as a venue. Cllr Gamble commented this would be an asset to the community.</p> <p>Cheverell Magna Parish Council required a new marquee for events and Cllr Gamble commented that was much demand locally for marquees.</p> <p>Alex Watts, Devizes Eisteddfod hoped for funding for a staging system to use at Devizes festival and satellite events and advised the facility could be used by other organisations. Members advised the group supported over 1,000 young people to perform.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To grant Potterne Cricket Club £5,000 towards enlarging and levelling of pitches;</p> <p>To grant Devizes and District Association for the Disabled £598 for new hand dryers at the Nursted Community Centre;</p> <p>To grant West Lavington Village Hall £3,278 towards upgrading the hall;</p> <p>To grant Cheverell Magna Parish Council £900 towards a new marquee and tables;</p> <p>To grant Devizes Eisteddfod £1,703.54 towards a staging system.</p>
12	<p><u>Member-led initiative</u></p> <p>The Area Board advised that the skate park in the town had been a great</p>

	<p>success and Cllr Sue Evans was championing funding to expand this to include a BMX track, Roundway Parish Council had also expressed support for the project. Members commented there had already been interest and support for the BMX track in the community.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To allocate the Ares Board's remaining capital funding of £10,840 to fund a BMX track at Green Lane.</p>
13	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The next ordinary meeting would be held on Monday, 18 May 2015 6.30 pm at Devizes Sports Club.</p>

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