

MINUTES

Extraordinary Meeting of : AMESBURY AREA BOARD

Place: Antrobus House, 39 Salisbury Road, Amesbury, SP4 7HH
Date: Tuesday 8 September 2009
Start Time: 7.00pm
Finish Time: 10:15pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Mike Hewitt (Chairman), John Noeken, John Smale (Vice Chairman), Ian West, Fred Westmoreland, Graham Wright.

John Brady, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Housing
Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Wiltshire Council Officers

Mark Smith, Service Director – Amenities and Leisure
Natasha Styles, Senior Planning Officer
Alistair Cunningham, Service Director - Economy and Enterprise
David Weston, Bridge Manager
Phil Tilley, Transport and Development Manager

Parish Councillors

W Bown, H Morrison and R Fisher – Amesbury, G Burt – Bulford,
D Mealing – Durrington, S Bagwell – Enford, S Banton and P Hrekow – Figcheldean,
M Townsend and P Fisher – Idminton, S Stubbs – Newton Tony.

Partners

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue – J Mahoney and P Jaycock
Wiltshire Police – Inspector M Sweett
MOD – Bill Dowling

Members of Public in Attendance: 33

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introduction</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the extraordinary board meeting, and explained that the main reason for convening the meeting was to provide an opportunity for officers to present the South West Core Strategy and to explain how members of the public can make representations to the inspector on the "soundness" of the strategy. He then invited the Board Members, Cabinet Members and Officers to introduce themselves.</p> <p>The Area Manager for the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service gave an update on the recent house fire in Antrobus Road which ended in tragedy.</p> <p>John Noeken explained that following the last meeting of the Board he had attended a meeting of the newly formed Amesbury Sports and Community Centre Management Committee on the 20 August 2009. At this group it had been decided to extend the participation by forming a Users Group, whose membership would include members of the public who use either the Amesbury Sports Centre or the Community Centre. Anybody interested in forming a new Users Group should contact Daniel Burchmore the Manager of Amesbury Sports Centre on 01980 622173 or email daniel.burchmore@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Norman Bayne – Representative for Tilshead PC John Richardson – Stonehenge Chamber of Trade Archers Gate Residents Association</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Mr Ian West declared a personal and non prejudicial interest, regarding Item 4 (South Wiltshire Core strategy) due to previously standing as a Representative on the South West Regional Assembly, which had considered the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Mr Graham Wright declared a personal and non prejudicial interest regarding Item 5 (Bulford Bridge Temporary Closure) due to being the Chairman of Durrington Parish Council</p>	
4.	<p><u>South Wiltshire Core Strategy</u></p> <p>The Chairman explained that the Board's role regarding the South Wiltshire Core Strategy is to help the public and partners in the Amesbury Community Area, gain greater awareness and a better understanding of what the strategy is about and how it will influence housing and infrastructure for the area over the next 20 years.</p>	

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	<p>He introduced Natasha Styles the Spatial Planning officer and Alistair Cunningham, Head of Economic Regeneration. It was explained that the meeting was a chance for the board and the public to clarify queries and concerns in regard to the strategy. The Board then received a presentation on the Core Strategy. Some of the points covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the strategy has been developed • What the Strategy actually is • How members of the public can make formal representations to the inspector for the next stage • The deadline for making representation is 30 September 09 • The strategy will be submitted to Secretary of State, and examined by an inspector for its legal standing and “soundness” • If the strategy is found to be sound, it will be taken to the Full Council meeting in spring 2010. <p>The Chairman invited questions and comments from those present, some of these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of affordable housing required for each individual area varies greatly, with some areas such as the new estate in Amesbury requiring nearer 70% of affordable housing. Will the 40% figure be altered in the future to reflect economic decline? • The Amenity Space Study carried out in 2006 appears to have been overlooked, as a great deal of the amenity spaces shown in the spatial planning document seem to be on MOD land. This needs to be looked at again to be precise about what space is actually available. • The way in which developers name new sites needs to be addressed as the proposed name of ‘Kings Gate’ for the Amesbury site has not pleased local people. Could the naming of new sites be part of the public debate? • Concerns regarding any further development along some of the busier roads around the area, including the A338 and the A303. These roads are heavily used by lorries and something needs to be done to alleviate the traffic problems. More houses would mean an increase in traffic flow. • The Plan does not mention the provision of new secondary schools in Amesbury. • Affordable housing such as cheap bungalows are needed for the 	
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	<p>aging population who have not yet been considered.</p> <p>The Chairman also noted that several points had been received from the Archers Gate Residents Association.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Planning team for their presentation.</p> <p>Members of the public were advised that officers from the Spatial Planning Team would be available to assist those wanting to make formal representations to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>In order to ensure that the views of the board and the members of the public present are feedback to the council, a report recording a summary of the views expressed will be submitted to the Full Council meeting on 10 November 2009.</p> <p><u>Boards Resolutions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a decision on this item falls outside of the delegated authority of this area board, members noted the strategy and that it will be submitted for consideration at a full council meeting on the 10 November 2009. 2. To submit a report to the 10th November 2009 Wiltshire Council meeting recording the views expressed at this area board meeting concerning the strategy. 	CAM
5.	<p><u>Bulford Bridge Temporary Closure</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced David Weston, Bridge Manager - Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>David explained that in February 2009 he had delivered a presentation to Durrington Parish Council, outlining why the bridge works were needed and what options were available for consideration. In view of the concern expressed at the time it had been agreed to reconsider the options to consider the implications of undertaking the work whilst keeping the road open through the site.</p> <p>The presentation given to the Area Board covered the following, the history of the bridge, its current condition, the objectives and constraints of the works needed, options for how the works could proceed.</p> <p>It was established that four options were available, they were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full Road Closure (work undertaken over a 7½ month period) 2. Construction in two halves (work undertaken over an 18 month period) Identical design to option 1 phased differently. Single way working, with weight limit set to 3 tonnes, 6'6" max width during works. 	

	<p>3. Construction in two halves (work undertaken over an 18 month period) Modified design to option 1. Single way working, extra work for wider pavement to be used by light traffic during works.</p> <p>4. Construction in two halves (Modification of Options 2/3 using a one way system over the bridge [Bulford to Durrington] rather than temporary traffic lights) This option was a suggestion, following a recent meeting in Durrington, chaired by Graham Wright.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Dick Tonge, praised the thoroughness of the presentation, and informed the Board that he supported Option 1 which would see the works being completed in the shortest time possible.</p> <p>Following discussion and debate the Board voted on their support for the Options available, with a majority voting in favour of Option 1.</p> <p><u>Boards Resolutions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the proposal for the Bulford Bridge temporary closure and the considerable public concern this has caused 2. To confirm support for option 1 3. To request the Wiltshire Police to actively monitor the impact of this bridge closure at regular intervals and take action where necessary to minimise disruption and potential road safety hazards 4. To request that the unitary councillors for Bulford and Durrington work closely with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, officers from Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police to oversee this bridge closure and to ensure that action is taken as appropriate to minimise the disruption caused. 5. To request that the Council should consider asking the contractor to work extended hours during the summer months with a view to reduce the length of time that the road closure would be needed. 6. Repair to the rest of the road – ensure that any repair / remedial work required on the closed section of road is conducted at the same time as the Bridge work to avoid additional closures / diversions after the Bridge is opened. 7. Confirm that concurrent activity will be undertaken and that it will include utility companies, thus reducing non productive time. 8. To investigate the option of a reduction in Business Rates for those businesses affected by the road closure. 9. Recommend full communications takes place between Wiltshire Council & Local Schools, Businesses and Service Providers over detour concerns. 	<p>CAM/ Police/ Officers</p>
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6.	<p><u>Pheasant Road Temporary Road Closure</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced Phil Tilley (Transportation and Development Services Manager – Wiltshire Council) and Darren Hall (Travel Plan Co-ordinator, Porton Down - Defence Science and Technical Laboratory [DSTL]).</p> <p>Phil Gave an update to the Board, some of the points covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversion would be in place during the road closure (approx 12.7km) • The planned diversion has previously been used on 7/8 occasions when DSTL have had road closures. • The works are not Wiltshire Council but DSTL • An Emergency Contact number would be in use 24 hours a day • Emergency Services Control Centre is aware of the closure and has a contingency plan in place to deal with the diversion. • Police will work closely with DSTL during road closure <p><u>Boards Resolutions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the proposals for the Pheasant Road temporary closure and the considerable public concern this has caused 2. To request the Wiltshire Police to actively monitor the impact of this road closure at regular intervals and take action where necessary to minimise disruption and potential road safety hazards 3. To request that the Chairman of the Amesbury Area Board work closely with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, officers from Wiltshire Council and the Porton Down Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory, and Wiltshire Police to oversee this road closure and to ensure that action is taken as appropriate to minimise the disruption caused. 	CAM
7.	<p><u>Royal Mail Delivery Office Relocation and Opening Hours</u></p> <p>The Chairman handed over to Board Member John Noeken, who gave an update on the matter.</p> <p>John Noeken explained that the Board were concerned at the level of complaints received by Wiltshire Councillors regarding the closure of the London Road sorting office and its move to Bulford. The closure is causing anxiety and increased cost to residents, particularly the elderly, and was done without any meaningful consideration.</p>	

	<p><u>Board Resolutions:</u></p> <p>That Royal Mail be asked to explain the rationale behind this move and whether consideration and whether consideration would be given to reverting back to the London Road, Amesbury office again.</p> <p>That the Chairman of the Amesbury Area Board write a letter to Royal Mail expressing the public concern that has been caused by the relocation of the delivery office from Amesbury, Tidworth and surrounding villages to Bulford Camp. This letter to request that a representative from Royal Mail attend the October meeting to fully explain the reason for this relocation and outline the Post Offices future Plans.</p>	CAM / Chairman
8.	<p><u>Next Meeting Dates, Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The date of the next Board meeting is Tuesday 13 October 2009 and will be held at Antrobus House, Amesbury, commencing at 7.00pm.</p>	