

Our Community Plan

2004
- 2009



The Stonehenge Community Area

Including the parishes of: Allington, Amesbury, Bulford, Cholderton, Durnford, Durrington, Figcheldean, Idmiston, Milston, Newton Tony, Orcheston, Shrewton, Tilshead, Wilsford, the Winterbournes, and Woodford.

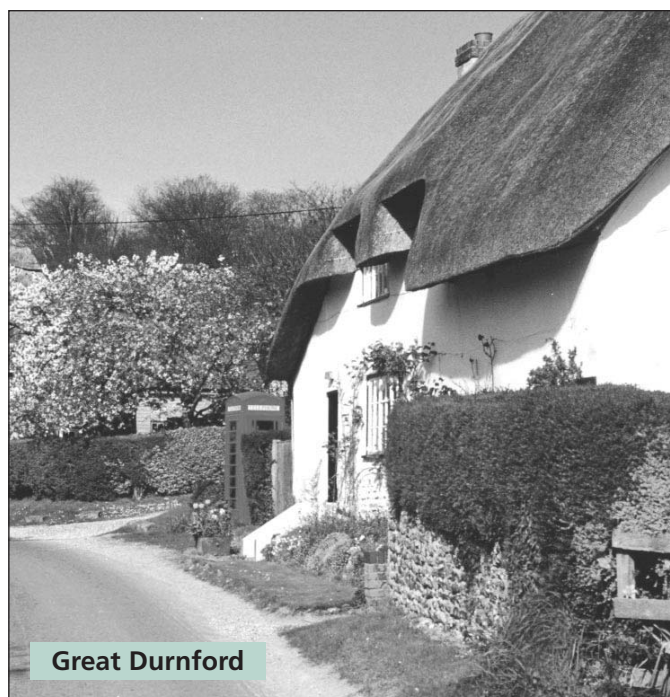
We  South Wiltshire

Our community, Our vision

The South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance is a partnership of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in Salisbury and South Wiltshire.

Its mission is to work together to create “a safe and caring place, where it is easy to get about and where value for money services contribute to a high quality of life and environment, with equality of opportunity for all”. The following strategic priorities have been adopted for 2004 – 2009:

- Access to services (including rural transport)
- Affordable housing
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Alliance partners as exemplary employers (healthy workforce, green organisations, basic skills for all employees).



South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance partners

South
Wiltshire
Strategic
Alliance

- Churches Together
- Council for Voluntary Service
- Environment Agency
- Government Office for the South West
- Learning and Skills Council (Wiltshire & Swindon)
- Salisbury College
- Salisbury District Council
- Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust
- South Wiltshire Action against Poverty
- South Wiltshire Economic Partnership
- South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust
- The Army
- Wiltshire Association of Local Councils
- Wiltshire Constabulary
- Wiltshire County Council
- Wiltshire Fire Brigade
- Wiltshire Racial Equality Council
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

www.southwilts.com/site/swsa

How this **plan** was put together

The most vital part of any consultation is to listen. The diagram on page 4 explains some of the ways in which we listened to you in producing this plan. In 2003, the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance distributed a Community Questionnaire to 49,000 households across the district. 37% were returned, of which 4,164 were from your community area. The results from the questionnaire showed your priorities across the area and these were:

1. Looking after the Roads
2. Vandalism & Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing Crime
4. Cleanliness of Roads, Streets & Open Spaces
5. Activities and Facilities for Teenagers
6. Housing Local People can Afford

Many people also took the time to write comments about the specific issues that were causing concern under those headings.

We also used:

- Information from previous community planning workshops.
- Information from a panel of local residents known as 'People's Voice' and from a panel

of young people known as 'Tomorrow's Voice'.

- The Northern Area Young Persons' Report which highlighted a wide range of issues affecting them. It was produced in 2003 as a response to a questionnaire distributed in the streets, youth clubs, libraries, and schools.
- The Amesbury Vision Statement.
- Networking, which included meetings with parish, district and county councillors, the Northern Area Committee, and discussions with groups, representatives from organisations, as well as individuals.
- Data from Council Tenants aspiration survey in September 2004

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How we **listened** to you

How we are consulting




What is the Community Plan ?

The Community Plan publishes the results of what local people want to see and it sets out priorities for action to improve the quality of life in our community area.

This Plan will:

- Help us to identify our priorities, needs, concerns and aspirations
- Influence partner organisations of the Alliance to address local priorities and promote projects that are a direct response to local needs
- Lead to the appropriate action to meet these needs and priorities
- Provide valuable data for attracting external funding for specific projects
- Help community groups by showing what is being achieved and how the partner organisations can support their work.
- Stimulate interest and involvement in creating stronger and better communities in our area.

If our Plan is to succeed, then it will depend on you becoming involved. Your contribution is extremely important to the success of this plan.

Actions that need to be taken forward by the community have been highlighted in the action plan by a  symbol.

This plan is not the end of the consultation process. Work will continue around specific target groups, topics and geographical areas as necessary.

In particular, we recognise that we have probably not fully addressed the needs of less accessible groups. Work to remedy this is continuing, and priorities and actions will be reviewed in light of this.

In addition to the work that has been carried out at community area level, Local Parish Plans and Village Design Statements are currently being developed in Durrington and Porton (including Idmiston and Gomeldon).

Amesbury has also received funding from the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative to produce a Town Plan. These local plans will help us better understand 'real' local community needs as well as highlighting key needs and aspirations. By the time this Plan is reviewed in five years' time, we hope that many more parishes will have a Local Parish Plan.

The Stonehenge Community Area

This stretches from the slopes of Salisbury Plain to the outskirts of the city of Salisbury. It is the community covered by the Northern Area Committee of Salisbury District Council (with the exception of Firsdown). A map of the area is included on the back cover of this plan.

It includes the World Heritage site of Stonehenge, evidence of our Community's ancient and mysterious past, as well as some of most modern research facilities in the country at Boscombe Down and Porton.

The original settlements were along the three river valleys – the Till, the Avon, and the Bourne – and it is only comparatively recently that there have been developments away from the valleys, with the creation of garrisons at Bulford and Larkhill, the airfield at Boscombe Down, and very recently, light industrial development at Solstice Park and housing projects at Boscombe Down and Butterfield Down.

Amesbury is the main urban centre with a range of shops and services. It is the second largest settlement in South Wiltshire. Durrington and Bulford have grown considerably in size in recent years

Much of the area exists in close symbiosis with Salisbury to the south. Commuting into the city seems to be evenly matched by residents travelling north to employment in the military establishments.

The Ministry of Defence has considerable influence on our Community, with large establishments at Boscombe Down, Bulford, Larkhill, Porton Down, and Winterbourne Gunner.

In the 2001 census, the population of our area was 30,143, which is larger than most Wiltshire communities. The Community Area has a young population, with just 14.7% of the population over the age of 65 (Wiltshire average is 18.9%) and 21.7% under the age of 16 (Wiltshire average is 20.5%).

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 shows that the Community Area as a whole is not very deprived. It has two wards just in the most deprived 25% in the County and two wards in the least deprived 25%. Although the Community Area has no wards that are especially deprived, it has few that are very highly ranked either. However, Amesbury has the third worst score (out of 137 wards in Wiltshire) on education, skills and training. The



Solstice Park will be one of the largest business parks in the South

Woodford Valley comes sixth in Wiltshire for lack of access to services and the Till Valley comes eighth in Wiltshire for access to housing.

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) provides an outreach facility in Amesbury on two days a week. This is based in the old health centre, next to the library, and provides clients with free debt and benefits advice.

A detailed socio-economic profile of the area has been prepared by Wiltshire County Council and is available on www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk

The Community Area has many advantages that make it a good place in which to live and work:

- It is an area of great natural beauty, ranging from the tranquillity and charm of the river valleys to the open rolling downlands of Salisbury Plain
- There is much of archaeological and historical interest, including the Amesbury Archer, Figsbury Rings, the King Barrows, Stonehenge, Woodhenge, and Vespasian's Camp
- Compared with the rest of the country, it is one of the safest areas in which to live and work and we have one of the best levels of health
- The unemployment rate is low at 2.14% and new developments in the area will open up further opportunities for economic growth.

Planned future developments

Amesbury is considered to have potential for significant economic growth in the next ten years and more. Two major sites are proposed for economic development in the area at Solstice Park and the Salisbury Research Triangle.

At 160 acres (65ha), Solstice Park will be one of the largest high-quality mixed-use business parks in the south of England, and already has the benefit of planning permission. Solstice Park will be a fundamental driver in the planned expansion of the local economy, whose population is expected to grow by nearly 10% in the next 10 years. Solstice Park lies between the A303 and Amesbury.

The construction of an all movements junction and bridge on the A303 at Folly Bottom was completed as part of this new development in May 2004. The site requires extensive structural landscaping – more than 50,000 tonnes of chalk is being re-distributed on the site. Solstice Park will include industrial and office uses, plus a 140 bedroom hotel, petrol filling station and restaurants.

The **Salisbury Research Triangle** (SRT) is

centred on the three research and development establishments at QinetiQ Boscombe Down:

- the aircraft test and evaluation centre for military aircraft and associated equipment
- the Health Protection Service (HPS) at Porton Down which studies micro-organisms and healthcare
- the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) at Porton Down which has an international reputation in the field of chemical and biological technology.

As part of the development of the Salisbury Research Triangle, 5ha of land is allocated at Porton Down for the first phase of a new build BioScience Centre, to be used by companies requiring the co-locational benefits of the specialist facilities and expertise available at Porton Down: biotechnology, healthcare and pharmaceuticals. DSTL plans to transfer 850 jobs to Porton Down by the end of 2007.

Major improvements are planned for the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, with discussions underway for a multi-million pound heritage centre. A decision on whether a £200 million road tunnel should be built past the stones is pending.

What has been done **so far**

Since the first Community Plan was produced in 1999, our Community has:

1. Established a Safety Group for the Community Area that meets regularly and has successfully addressed a number of issues within our area.

With funding from the Community Safety Partnership and Amesbury Town Council, the Group has purchased 50 doorstep cameras and installed them in the homes of elderly and vulnerable people. More cameras are to be purchased and installed in other areas. Funding to put in 30 security lights is also available.

It has helped establish an Alcohol Free Zone in Amesbury which has resulted in a decrease in alcohol-related incidents. Amesbury, Bulford and Durrington Councils have encouraged local shops to join forces in not selling alcohol to those aged 21 and under.

2. Set up a group to consult with young people about specific issues affecting them. It produced a detailed report in 2003

At the suggestion of a group of young people, and after consultation with them, Durrington Parish Council has provided a skate board park which is now operational on the Recreation Ground.

The following projects have been initiated in the Community

- Installed new zebra crossings in Boscombe Down and Durrington
- Designated Community Support Officers who have been a valuable support to our local police force in Amesbury, Bulford, and Durrington.
- Established a computer suite in the libraries
- Extended the length of stop of the 'mobile library plus' to half a day.
- Improved drainage in the Till Valley and established a flood warden's line
- Developed a new procedure in which the Community works with the Planning Department to consider the viability of shops in Amesbury before planning permission for change of use is given
- Encouraged the Salisbury College Outreach Lorry to be used across the area.
- Kidz Kamps held at Durrington Swimming Pool for young people aged 8-14 years. During the summer holidays 2004, 40 participants took part in sports and games at both Durrington pool and Five Rivers Leisure Centre in Salisbury.

Transport

What are the issues?

Footpaths

We would like new footpaths and cycle ways to be created. These include, among others: Gomeldon to Porton, Porton to Idmiston, Durrington and Bulford to Amesbury.

Existing footpaths and cycle ways need to be improved and maintained.

Roads

75.6% of residents in the area are dissatisfied with road maintenance (People's Voice, 2003).

Uncontrolled on-street parking near schools is dangerous.

Speeding is still an issue in many parts of our Community Area. Traffic-calming measures or other methods of controlling speeding need to be kept on the agenda (eg for Porton Road in Amesbury which is used as a cut-through).

It has been identified that there is a clear need for improvements of the road network, eg at Bulford and other crossroads.

Proposals have been put forward by the Government via the Highways Agency to dual the A303, place it in a tunnel as it passes Stonehenge and to bypass Winterbourne Stoke. Salisbury District Council supports

these proposals for the improved transport infrastructure they will provide, the relief it will bring to the village of Winterbourne Stoke, as well as it being an important piece of the shared vision of returning the Stonehenge monument to a setting more respectful of its iconic world status.

Public Transport

Over half of residents use the bus, a high proportion for Wiltshire. The Amesbury area is already one of the best-served in the County and there is no additional funding available for new or more frequent services.

Concessionary fares are currently available only for the elderly and disabled. 38% of young people claim that poor local transport stops them joining in local activities. The cost of extending concessionary fares to children and young people county-wide is estimated at £2 million per year.



There is a need for a regular service to connect the Park & Ride from the Beehive to Salisbury Railway Station, but the current five-year contract for does not include links with the Railway Station. This issue can therefore only be considered on renewal of the contract.

What is being done?

Wiltshire County Council has acknowledged that road conditions in the area are poor and as a result has allocated extra resources to resurfacing. Priority sites are Holders Road, Antrobus Road, Parsonage and Highfield Roads in Amesbury. Many local roads in the villages have also had repairs and a surface dressing.

What will be done?

Footpaths

-  Parish Councils and their local communities to work with WCC to:
 - Identify where there is a clear need for new footpaths and cycle ways, supported by evidence.
 - Feed priorities into consultation on the Local Transport Plan.
-  Local communities to monitor the condition of existing footpaths and cycle ways and keep Parish Councils informed of any problems.

Roads

Wiltshire County Council Travelwise team to work with schools through school travel plans.

-  Local communities and police to identify particular spots where there is a persistent problem with speeding and work with Parish Councils to ensure that Wiltshire County Council place these locations on the list of schemes awaiting funding for traffic calming measures.

County-wide target to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads by 40% by 2010.

Public Transport

Wilts and Dorset bus company have announced plans to introduce an off-peak half fare pass for young people which will reduce costs for frequent travellers.

SWSA to work to address public transport issues as part of its priority to improve access to services.

Crime and community protection

What are the issues?

Our Community Area is one of the safest places in the country, with just 57 burglaries in 2002/03, equating to 1.9 per 1,000 population (national average is 8.4).

During the same period, there were 110 vehicle crimes (or 3.6 crimes per 1,000 population vs a national average of 20.8); and 315 violent crimes (10.4 crimes per 1,000 population vs a national average of 15.9). Violent crimes include minor assaults outside pubs late at night as well as domestic violence.

Notwithstanding this, there is a fear of crime, especially among older residents. 91.8% of residents feel safe during the day, but only 53.3% of residents feel safe after dark.

People in this area feel that burglary (81.8%) and supplying hard drugs (76.9%) are the most important crimes for the police to tackle.

53.3% of residents feel that anti-social behaviour and vandalism increased in their local town centre or village during 2003. This issue was the second highest priority overall in the 2003 survey to all households.

What is being done?

The Northern Area Community Safety Group works to reduce crime and fear of crime in the area.

The South Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership:

- Has appointed an Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officer who co-ordinates multi-agency responses to anti-social behaviour problems
- Is funding Parenting Groups in Amesbury and engaging volunteers to work with families who need support.

The military police are working closely with local police to reduce anti-social behaviour by soldiers, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

See pp 16-17 for details of work being done on drugs issues with young people.

The Salisbury Domestic Violence Forum is raising awareness of domestic violence in rural areas as an important issue and a hidden crime, while recognising the difficulties that victims/survivors have in seeking help and receiving services.

What will be done?

K More doorstep cameras and security lights to be installed in the homes of elderly and vulnerable people, allowing callers to be screened. Local residents to help the police identify who would benefit from this equipment.

Support the appointment of more Community Support Officers, subject to Government funding.

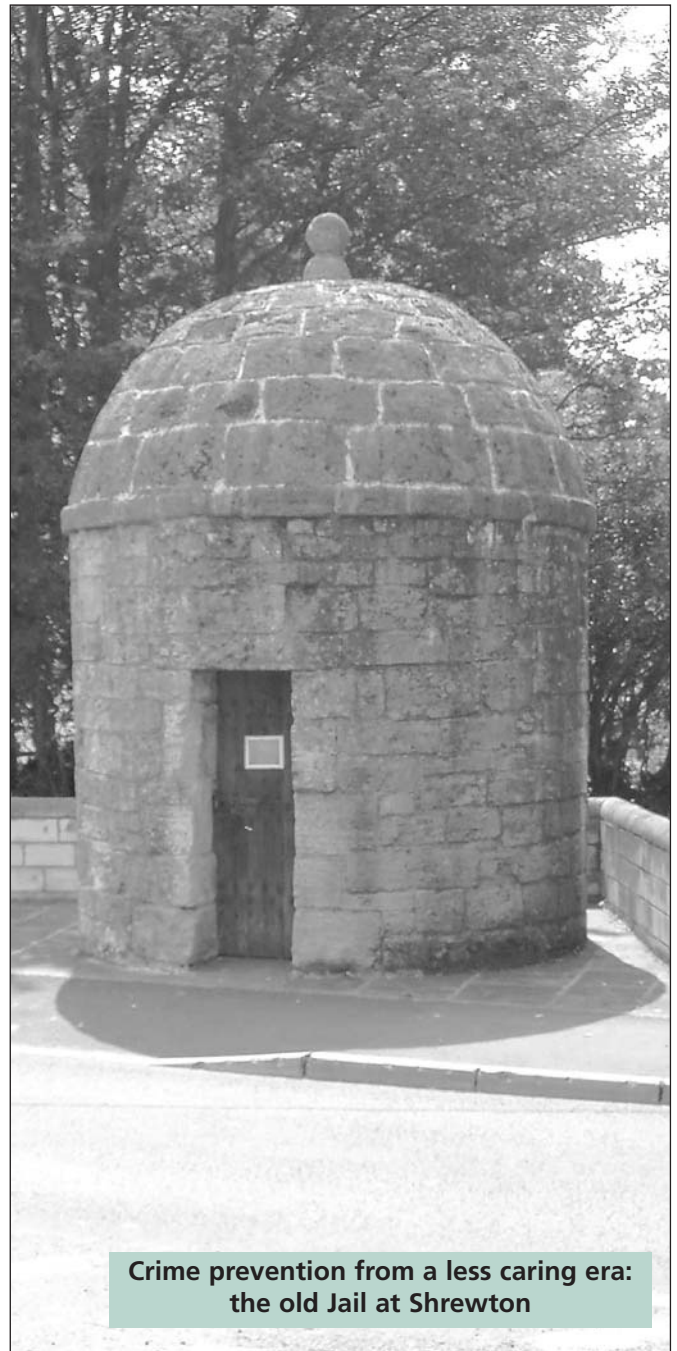
Wiltshire Fire Brigade to encourage greater fire safety awareness by providing free advice on deliberate fire setting and arson.

The extension of Alcohol Free Zones to more areas.

Police and Parish Councils to review the effectiveness of the new Licensing Act.

Northern Area Safety Group to expand its representation to include all parishes in the community area.

The South Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership is about to undertake training for Parish Councils, Housing Officers, Community Beat Officers and other people who will be able to tackle anti-social behaviour together.



**Crime prevention from a less caring era:
the old Jail at Shrewton**

Countryside

What are the issues?

Encourage waste reduction.

Footpaths and open spaces to be kept clear of dog mess.

Keep the area clear of litter and recycling centres looking tidy.

Our Community Area is of national importance for wildlife.

Salisbury Plain is the largest surviving semi-natural dry grassland in the European Union and therefore the most important site for this habitat in the UK. It is both a Special Protection Area, safeguarding the habitat for rare and migratory birds, and a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive.

Porton Down, the River Avon and Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve are also important wildlife sites.



Country haven: the Avon at the Woodfords

and Land-based issues

What is being done?

Waste Reduction

There is a household recycling centre at Mills Way, Amesbury.

Kerbside recycling of paper, cardboard, tins, glass bottles, organic garden waste, foil and textiles is now available in Amesbury and Durrington. Kerbside paper and cardboard collections will continue in those rural areas which currently receive this service

Dog Mess

It is now permissible to put suitably packaged dog waste in litter bins. Salisbury District Council policy is not to increase the number of dog bins in the District due to high maintenance costs. A dog warden has recently been assigned to keep a check on the Nine Mile River site in Bulford.

What will be done?

Salisbury District aims to recycle 31% of household waste by 2010. New mini-recycling centres will be set up in villages.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is supporting household waste reduction across the County and plans to work with communities to have one waste minimisation project in the area.

Refurbiz is a pilot project repairing electric and electronic goods for low income families and is seeking funding to expand.

'Rethink Rubbish Directories' are local information guides on recycling, re-using and reducing rubbish in an A to Z guide. WWT is currently looking to produce a guide for Amesbury.

A review of street cleaning services across the District will improve effectiveness by July 2005. Salisbury district will continue to meet government standards on street cleanliness every year (as measured by Best Value Performance Indicator 199).



One long-term community wildlife project to be identified by the Community, with support from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to implement the project.

Children and Young People

What are the issues?

Play facilities for younger children are much appreciated, but vandalism and damage cause disappointment for children and irritation.

Young people are anxious about issues affecting them such as drugs, alcohol and bullying.

Young people are concerned about the lack of places for them to meet.

There is a shortage of people working with young people's groups and satisfaction with youth services is low compared with other Wiltshire community areas.

What is being done?

Play Facilities

Play areas are currently inspected on a weekly basis.

Drugs & Alcohol

Wiltshire Health Promotions co-ordinates the following initiatives which educate young people about the effects of drug and alcohol use:

- Big Night Out drama presentation explores alcohol and drugs issues in an appealing format for secondary school pupils. Performances so far at Upper Avon School and Stonehenge School.
- Drugwise peer education project (Year 9) – Stonehenge School took part in the pilot.
- Life Education Centre stimulates primary school children to learn all about themselves, including the impact of drugs and alcohol, in a high-tech mobile classroom. Amesbury Infants & Junior Schools and Christ the King School have received visits to date.

Wiltshire Youth Arts Partnership is also funding a dance about drugs that will be performed in youth development centres in and around Amesbury.

The Youth Development service has an agreement with the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Board to deliver sexual health projects and provide advice and information to young people.

Places to meet

As a result of concerns raised by the Amesbury Youth Forum, youth shelters will be erected on Holders Field and the Recreation Ground, and the latter will include a skate park, subject to planning permission.

Youth Activities

Kidz Kamps at Durrington Swimming pool provide activities for 8-14-year-olds during

the school holidays.

The Youth Service runs a youth work provision within Amesbury Sports Centre and the Youth Development Centre at Durrington.

The Youth Development Service provides outreach work in Durrington for two evenings a week and the centre is open one evening a week.

The Locality Youth Work Team has plans to work with young people using Amesbury Youth Centre to encourage them to bring peers to the centre (target is to increase contacts with young people to a minimum of 25% of the local population of 13-19-year-olds).

Community Planner to work in coordination with Parish Councils and WCC to set up a group to:

- Review existing facilities in the Community Area;
- Assess existing resources and establish future needs;
- Create suitable meeting places in, for example, Amesbury, Durrington, Bulford.

Continued overleaf 

Children and Young People

What will be done?

New play facilities to be put on sites clearly visible to the public. Police Community Support Officers to patrol play areas to reduce damage through vandalism.

Developer contributions are being sought to enable the building of a new community centre on the new estate south of Boscombe Road in Amesbury. Work is likely to start on the new centre in 2007/08. A room may be set aside for exclusive use by young people.

Using external funding, the Youth Development Service will recruit and manage street Youth workers in the area.

Amesbury town plan and Durrington parish plan will review issues and seek ways to provide new facilities.

WCC will increase its provision of Youth Development work at Durrington to 4 sessions per week by May 2005.

In 2005/06, SDC Community Initiatives will:

- Develop an after-school programme at Durrington
- Support the Sports College & School Sports Co-ordinator Programme at Upper Avon
- Develop the multi-use Games Area (MUGA) at Durrington



Housing and the Built Environment

What are the issues?

There is concern about the continued growth of housing developments that do not include appropriate amenities. This puts pressure on existing facilities.

Better community facilities needed in Amesbury.

People in Shrewton have indicated the need for a new community centre.

Provide affordable housing for local people and ensure that this remains affordable when re-sold.

In September 2004, a survey returned by 1,785 Council tenants in Durrington and Amesbury highlighted the following priority issues:

- off-road parking on estates (75.8%)
- maintaining open spaces (70%)
- anti-social behaviour (69%).

What is being done?

The Rural Housing Officer, based in Community First, is able to support local Parish Councils in conducting local housing needs surveys and identifying potential sites for rural affordable housing provision.

Salisbury District Council encourages communities to promote Rural Exception Housing reserved for local people.

SDC is also committed to not placing any homeless household in bed and breakfast, unless there is absolutely no alternative option.


Salisbury District Council's Homelessness Strategy sets out how the council supports and advises customers with housing problems.

In particular, its aim is to provide a preventative service by offering any and all customers assistance through the Backup Service. For example, this provides help towards rent deposits and rent in advance.

What will be done?

Village Design Statements and Parish Plans will be promoted to encourage appropriate development in the community.

Developer contributions are being sought to enable the building of a new community centre on the new estate south of Boscombe Road in Amesbury. Work is likely to start on the new centre in 2007/08.

 Local people in Shrewton to set up a community centre action group, with assistance from the community planner.

Salisbury District Council's Local Plan Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance aims

to achieve up to 40% affordable housing requirements on housing developments. Sites identified in the current plan should yield up to 138 more affordable homes in the area by 2011.

SDC is about to consult on a draft District Wide Design Guide which seeks to greatly improve the quality of new buildings built across the district.

Both previous Community Planning exercises and Best Value review of the planning service have highlighted the need to improve the quality of new buildings as a priority.



SDC aims to include up to 40% affordable housing on new developments

The Economy

What are the issues?

A need for an additional supermarket in the area.

Preservation of the current commercial and retail outlets in Durrington. Better shopping in Durrington and Amesbury.

Protect village shops and post offices in our community area to prevent further closures.

Promote the use of local produce.

More broadband in villages.

What is being done?

The supermarket in Amesbury will be improved. The local plan has allocated the Redworth House site for a larger supermarket. Terms have been agreed with the current operator which will enable the new supermarket to be opened by the end of 2005.

Shopping facilities in Durrington are not adequate and this issue will be addressed as a major part of the Durrington Parish Plan.

Parish Councils to monitor usage and support custom for their village shops and Post Offices. Salisbury District Council to offer help and advice to those businesses looking to diversify into tourism.

First local Food Festival held in Salisbury in September 2004 to help and support farmers and local supply chains.

SDC provides up to 100% relief on business rates to general stores, Post Offices, pubs and petrol filling stations in rural settlements where the population is less than 3,000 and certain criteria are met.

What will be done?

SDC will promote farmers markets in Salisbury and other areas.

In 2005/06, the District Council will investigate means to strengthen its planning policy to address the continuing decline of shops and services in rural areas and in local centres such as Durrington.

All exchanges in the area will be upgraded by February 2005 to enable access to broadband.



Protected species: village shops and Post Offices like this one in Winterbourne

Social care and Health

What are the issues?

Improve access to NHS dental care within the area.

Help for long-term patients.

Elderly and disabled groups in our community area require active support.

What is being done?

Long-term Patients

The Expert Patient programme – designed to empower patients to manage their own healthcare – is currently holding courses in Salisbury. Where there is enough demand locally (16-18 patients), courses can be run in Amesbury.

Elderly & Disabled People

Age Concern provides support for elderly people leaving hospital by preparing their homes for their return and easing them back into home life through practical help with shopping, benefits, etc.

The Hospital Alternatives Team, working with District Nurses, seeks alternatives to hospital admission in order to avoid inappropriate use of acute hospital beds, a prolonged and unnecessary stay in hospital or inappropriate admission to a care home.

The establishment of new procedures to

help health and social care professionals work together more effectively (Single Assessment Process) will improve services to the elderly. Direct Payments will increase the housing and care choices for older people.

A new Carer's Support Officer based at Boscombe Down will help improve support for carers of older people, including liaising with Link schemes.

The Community Planner can help by setting up an action group involving Parish Councils that will:

- Assess needs of the elderly and disabled in our Community Area, particularly those who are 'hard to reach'.
- Give publicity to the work of organisations working with the elderly or disabled, such as the Stroke Club, the Link Schemes.
- Attempt to recruit more helpers where necessary.

What will be done?

The Primary Care Trust will work with others, through the General Medical Services contract and initiation of a project, to develop services which support people with long-term conditions.

The Wiltshire Strategic Board aims for Wiltshire to become the Healthiest county in England by 2012.

The South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust will take over responsibility for dentistry from October 2005. As part of this new responsibility, it will seek to improve access to NHS dental care in the area as a high priority. Quality of NHS dental care will also be improved.

South Wiltshire Action Against Poverty to identify social exclusion and poverty in our community and put in place measures to address them.

Wiltshire Fire Brigade to provide free advice and home safety checks on domestic safety to encourage greater fire safety awareness.

Culture

What are the issues?

There is a need to gain more support for many community organisations in the area

Salisbury District Council would like to see much improved visitor facilities built outside of the World Heritage Site. These should help aid interpretation and understanding of the wider World Heritage Site landscape, as well as providing information on other attractions and facilities in the district as a whole.

A local museum in association with the visitors' centre would be an asset for the community.

There are 380 Ancient Monuments in the area, including barrows, prehistoric earthworks and hill forts, a medieval village and Stonehenge.

What will be done?

Establish a 'What's on?' guide or, where it already exists, improve it. Possibly it might extend to a small community newsletter.

District, Town and Parish Councillors to work with English Heritage to encourage the inclusion of a Tourist Information Centre at the Stonehenge visitors' centre.

There are major collections of Stonehenge artefacts at both Salisbury and South Wiltshire and Devizes museums. Both of these are supported by the government. New museums are not being encouraged by the government. However, access to the Stonehenge collection could be provided electronically.

Rural Arts Wiltshire & the participatory Arts Workshops scheme will provide arts services in the area in 2005-06.

A Wiltshire-wide partnership, including Wiltshire County Council, Salisbury District Council, arts organisations, local groups and businesses will deliver Big Ideas Mini Operas in Durrington in 2005-06.

Education, skills and learning

What are the issues?

More use needs to be made by the community of school buildings and libraries, both of which are a much undervalued resource.

Promote the extension of library opening hours and facilities.

There is a need to increase learning and develop particular skills, but travelling to Salisbury College can be difficult and expensive. Amesbury's outreach facility has recently closed.

What will be done?

Using School Buildings

The Extended Schools programme will develop schools facilities for evening and weekend use by the community. Schools can be used for physical activities and community cafés to reduce isolation and improve health.

Using Libraries

There are plans to develop Amesbury library in the same way as Mere library, using it as a one-stop shop for services provided by WCC and SDC. The Tourist Information Centre has already moved into the library area. This may provide an opportunity to extend opening hours.

Promote the extension of library opening hours and facilities.



The Community Planner to work with the leader of the WCC Smart Place Project to develop internet facilities via secure kiosks placed in library foyers or other suitable places.



Local community to meet with the WCC Library service to agree a way forward for re-developing the Durrington library site. This is a priority for replacement.

SWSA partners to investigate reinstallation of an outreach facility for the Northern area as part of their work to improve access to services.

Contact

If you would like more information about any of the priorities shown in the plan or want to get involved in a project, then please contact:

Tim Richards, Community Planner,
on 07776 470587.

Email: tim.richards@tesco.net

Or

The Partnership Team Manager
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