

Our Community Plan 2004 - 2009

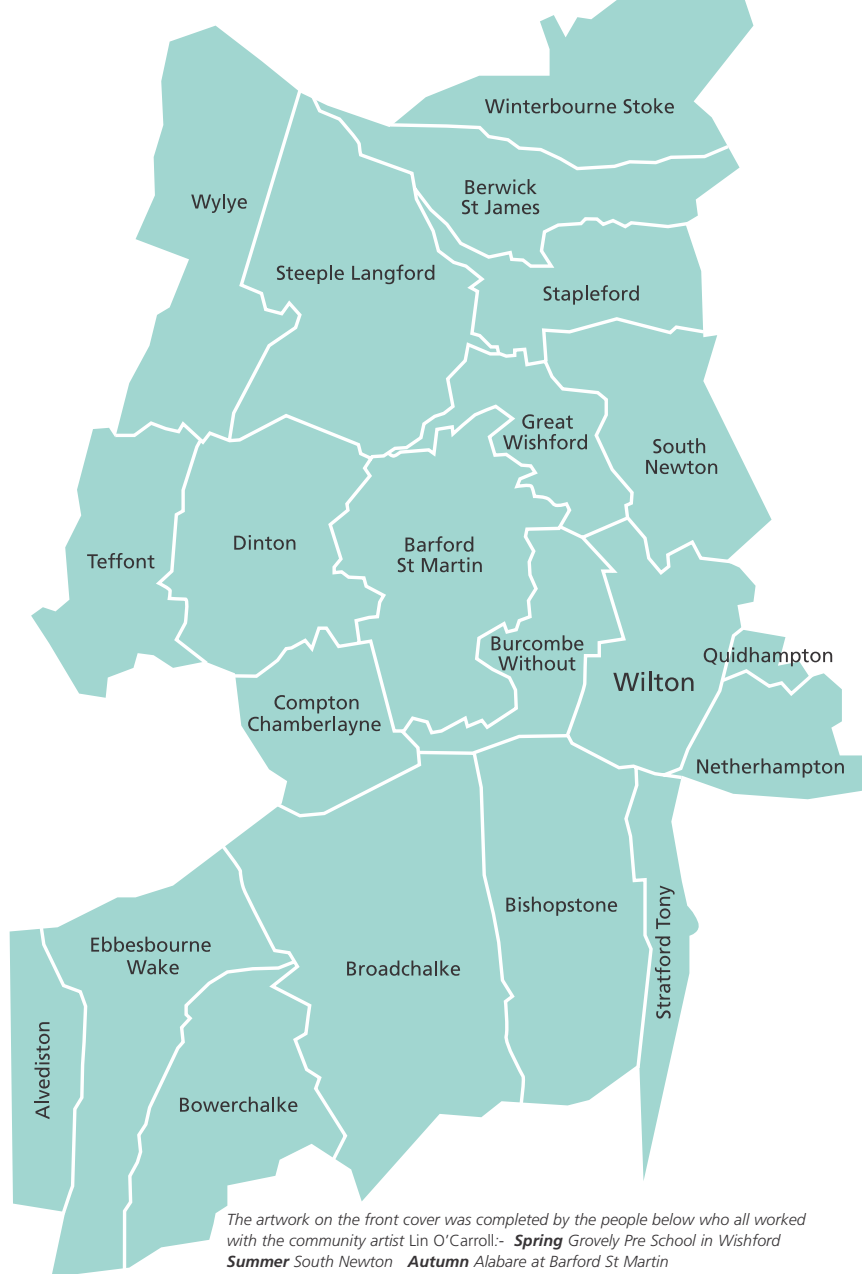


Four Rivers Ebbles, Nadder, Wylye, Till

Alvediston, Barford St Martin, Berwick St James, Bishopstone, Bowerchalke, Broadchalke, Burcombe, Compton Chamberlayne, Dinton, Ebbesbourne Wake, Great Wishford, Hanging Langford, Netherhampton, Quidhampton, South Newton, Stapleford, Steeple Langford, Stratford Tony, Teffont, Wilton, Winterbourne Stoke, Wylye

We  South Wiltshire

Introduction to **our** Community Plan



The artwork on the front cover was completed by the people below who all worked with the community artist Lin O'Carroll:- **Spring** Grovely Pre School in Wishford
Summer South Newton **Autumn** Alabare at Barford St Martin
Winter The Rotary Club of Wilton

In keeping with the Countywide initiative to reduce waste two of the groups used recycled material to form their artwork.

December 2004

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

The Four Rivers Community Area covers just over 7% of the County – an area of 25,130 hectares. There are approximately 10,840 people living in the area with well over a third of the population located in the town of Wilton. One in five of the people living in the Four Rivers Community Area are aged 65 years and over. Almost 14% of households in the Four Rivers area are without the use of a car, which gives an indication of residents reliance on public transport. Frequency of buses and fare pricing were raised as the main areas of concern.

The Four Rivers Area unemployment rate is at 2.83% with 26% of these unemployed aged between 16 and 24 years.

Wilton, the ancient capital of Wessex, has a strong and resilient character and is deeply rooted in the history of the County. Wilton was a regional centre long before Salisbury existed.

Nowadays Wilton is one of the smallest of Wiltshire's towns. The Four Rivers Community Area has the lowest and most thinly spread population living in an area which includes large tracts of chalk downland and extensive woodland.

The Four Rivers Community Area consists of one Town and nineteen Parish Councils, 3 County Councillors and 4 District Councillors.

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

Our community **Our vision**

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

- Churches Together
- Council for Voluntary Service
- Environment Agency
- Government Office for the South West
- Learning and Skills Council (Wiltshire and 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.southwiltshire.com/site/swsa

How this plan was put together

During the summer of 2003, the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance distributed a community questionnaire to 49,000 households. 37% were returned, of which 1818 were from the Four Rivers Community Area. The results from the questionnaire showed your priorities across the area and these were:

- 1 Looking after the Roads
- 2 Housing Local People can afford
- 3 Public Transport
- 4 Reducing Crime
- 5 Looking after the Environment
- 6 Cleanliness of roads, streets and open spaces

Many people also took the time to write comments about the specific issues under those headings that were causing concern. We also have information from previous community planning workshops, which were held in 1999 and 2001. Wiltshire County Council asked it's People's Voice Panel, in November 2003, which County Council Services they would like to see more money spent on. The top three are as below:-

Maintenance of existing roads	72%
Social Services for the elderly	53%
New roads and road improvements	48%

This information has been brought together along with information from a panel of young people known as 'Tomorrow's Voice' to form your Community Plan.

You will also see that various community

groups and organisations have been asked for their views and opinions.

The purpose of this plan is to publish the results showing what local people want to see, but also, more importantly, the plan will influence partner organisations of the Alliance to address priorities in your area. The plan will directly impact on policy making and strategic planning. It will also help community groups by showing what is being achieved and how the partner organisations can support this. We recognise that in every parish there are many volunteers working on projects, giving up their time to make a difference in their community. Some of the projects in this plan will need to be taken forward by you, the community.

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 recognize that we have probably not fully addressed the needs of less accessible groups. Work to remedy this is on-going.

In addition to the work that has been carried out at Community Area level, Local Parish Plans are currently being developed in a number of areas. They will help us gain a better understanding of the future development of local strategies and policies. They will also help us better understand 'real' local community needs. By the time this plan is reviewed in five years' time, we hope that many parishes will have a Local Parish Plan.

Economy of the area

Within Wilton the number and variety of shops within the centre is in decline due to premises being changed from business to housing use. The area will also be further affected with the closure of Naish Felt Mills.

Many local people use the supermarkets in Salisbury rather than shopping locally.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Support village shops, post offices and pubs	In 2005/06 Salisbury District Council will investigate means to strengthen its planning policy to address the continuing decline of rural shops and services. Depending upon the outcome of the Market and Coastal Towns project, further work may be required to put in place a positive action plan for Wilton Town Centre. Salisbury District Council provides up to 100% relief on business rates in rural settlements to General Stores, Post Offices, Public Houses and Petrol Filling Stations where the population is less than 3000 and certain criteria are met. Promote local goods by introducing Farmer's markets in areas where they are not established. Salisbury and South Wiltshire Local Food and Drink Guide distributed September 2004.
Link the Wilton Shopping Village to the town	Develop a project group of interested parties to explore the feasibility of this.
Access to Broadband throughout the area	Teffont exchange due to be updated for Broadband September 2004. Broad Chalke exchange updated November 2004. Stapleford exchange due to be updated April 2005. For people who come under the Wylfe exchange there are no plans for upgrade as yet. Look at alternative methods of obtaining broadband for areas not to be covered by BT.
Wilton Town Centre looks old and dirty	Work with all parties to look at ways of brightening up the market place. Expand the provision of flower tubs. Have a community tidy up day.
Weekenders buying second homes in villages	Council tax increased to 90% for people with second homes.

Education and Lifelong Learning

With the closure of Wilton Middle School in September 2005, plans are well underway to expand First schools into Primary schools. All Head Teachers are excited about working with children within the 5 to 11 age group. Westwood St Thomas has a new dynamic Head in post and is undergoing major building projects to be ready to welcome new and existing pupils.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Ensure that existing facilities within the Middle School remain available for education and sport within the community	The LEA very much supports the proposal to retain the site for educational purposes and has been negotiating with Salisbury College. Unfortunately budget problems are restricting the provision of outreach work from the college. Other opportunities and providers are being considered and the LEA is very keen to work closely with the local community to ensure they get what they want from the site in future. There are also aspirations to open a new Youth Development Access Point on the old middle school site.
Evening classes and part time college courses locally	Some classes already taking place at Wilton First School. Currently there is negotiation with Salisbury College and other potential providers to utilise the middle school for higher and adult education.
Maintain primary schools in villages	Look at how the schools could be used for extended use within the village. The three tier review will strengthen the sustainability of local primary schools.



Autumn
by Alabare at
Barford St Martin

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Larger Library to include:- After school homework club, IT suite for community, meeting room to run book club, rhyme time for mothers and toddlers and activities for young people during summer holidays	No obvious site has been identified. The library service would be keen to work with other partners on a co-location project should the opportunity arise.

Crime and Community Safety

Wiltshire is one of the safest counties in the country and the Four Rivers area is one of the safest.

The Community Area is served by 1 Sergeant and 8 Police officers all having their own community beat areas and also has 137 Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Reduce offences of anti social behaviour and criminal damage	<p>Criminal damage accounted to 16% of crime in Wilton in 2002/3. The Police aim to reduce this by 2% to 79 offences in 2004/5.</p> <p>The Police work with partners to identify areas of nuisance and anti social behaviour to ensure that these offences are tackled using combined resources to best effect.</p> <p>The community will work with the Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officer who co-ordinates multi-agency responses to complaints of ASB. Salisbury District Council provides term-time sports activities linked to anti-social behaviour reduction.</p> <p>Salisbury Domestic Violence Forum to raise awareness of domestic violence in rural areas as an important issue and hidden crime, whilst recognising the difficulties victims / survivors have in seeking help and receiving services.</p> <p>Wiltshire Fire Brigade will encourage greater fire safety awareness by providing free advice on deliberate fire setting.</p>



What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
More Policing of local villages	<p>Ensure that via close liaison and consultation with the local community, utilising community intelligence, police resources are targeted and focused maximising visibility and reassurance. Quarterly newsletter distributed by the Police throughout the Four Rivers Community Area.</p> <p>Crime Alerts issued – eg if there have been reports of distraction burglaries – to all Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators.</p> <p>Ensure that the Community Beat Officer is clearly identified and known to the local community so as to be actively engaged in problem solving and partnership working to respond to the communities needs.</p>
Fear of Crime in Wilton Market Place	<p>Wilton Police maintain a very good partnership with CCTV which forms part of the Salisbury CCTV network. CCTV in the Market Place is monitored and utilised at the appropriate times.</p>

Transport

Three major roads run through the area, the A36 Southampton to Bristol route, the A30 Salisbury to Shaftesbury and the A303 London to the West Country. As a result the whole area suffers from traffic congestion on a daily basis. Speed of traffic is an issue throughout the area, especially through villages, as is weight of vehicles using the roads. The following works are planned:- Construction of a new Park and Ride facility off the Avenue , Wilton to accommodate 420 cars. Improve the safety at Newcutt Crossroads. Provide a new signal controlled crossing of A36, King Street, Wilton.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Number of potholes and maintenance of roads.	The concerns and priorities expressed in the community plan match those of the County Council. In 2003/04 South Street, South Down Road and Waterditchhampton have all been resurfaced. 2004/05, will see repairs in Bulbridge Road and Randall Croft. Many local roads are receiving repairs, prior to a surface dressing. All of these measures are targeted at sites where potholes have been a persistent concern.
HGV's using narrow country lanes	The County Council will look to see if the area might benefit from setting up a local freight partnership working group.
Speed of traffic through villages	Pilot in Barford to be evaluated. Possibility of extending WCC to continue to apply criteria for justifying changes to speed limits and review where appropriate.
Improve public transport	Keep the opening of Wilton Railway Station and the possibility of introducing London Waterloo service and Cardiff to Portsmouth service high on the agenda of the Regional Transport Strategy.



What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Traffic Congestion and safety on the A36 corridor	Relief roads for the Wylye Valley and Harnham / Brunel Link are included in the Local Transport Plan.
Need cheap economic transport not empty expensive buses going up and down the valley	Work with WCC and bus operators to explore the scope for integration of rural bus services into Wilton Park and Ride. There are plans to develop the following:- Wilton Road Bus Priority; Quidhampton to Wilton Cycle Route; Improve traffic management in Lower Road Quidhampton.
Lack of disabled parking spaces only one available in Wilton Town Centre	Expand free parking in North Street. Invite disabled residents / shoppers in Wilton to meetings of Salisbury Disabled Access Group.



Environment, Land Based and Countryside

All of Wilton's rural hinterland has been an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty since 1983. The area is very important for biodiversity and rural landscape and has 3 National Nature Reserves in the area, 25 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and 4 Special Areas of Conservation plus several local wildlife trust sites.

Recycling facilities – lack of them and not being user friendly – came out a lot during consultation in the area. Also dog fouling seems to be a huge issue.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Problem with dog fouling in Castle Meadow and in some villages	It is now permissible to put 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.
More Parish lengthsmen please	At present each parish will get two visits per year.
Improved recycling facilities	Doorstep recycling will be introduced in Wilton Autumn 2004 for newspapers, glass, textiles, aluminium foil, metal cans and green waste. Kerbside paper and cardboard collections will continue in those rural areas which currently receive this service. Salisbury District Council, working with Wiltshire Waste Partnership aims to recycle 31% of household waste by 2010. New mini recycling schemes to be set up in some villages. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will support a waste minimisation project in the area.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Litter control with bins emptied more frequently in the Summer	Salisbury District Council is already one of the best performing Councils in the country for street cleanliness. Salisbury District will seek to continue to meet government standards on street cleanliness every year (as measured by Best Value Performance Indicator 199.)
Untaxed, scrapped and dumped vehicles should be removed from car parks more quickly	Legislation changed in 2002. Included in the new Regulations is the reduction in 'notice' period to enable certain vehicles to be removed within 24 hours. A new countryside computer based solution for dealing with abandoned vehicles is shortly to be introduced. This will link all the local authorities, the county council, police, fire brigade and the DVLA. People who report abandoned vehicles will be able to track the progress of their report via e mail or the council's website.
Promote village clean up	A new street cleaning specification will be drawn up during 2005 following a review of street cleaning services across the district.
Preserving the countryside	Identify what wildlife there is of importance in the area. Have one long term wildlife project (this could be creation of a community nature reserve, a pond restoration programme, a community wildlife mapping project.)

Social Care / Health

Primary Care Trusts assume responsibility for dentistry from April 2005. Work has started with practices to encourage them to expand their provision of NHS dentistry.

Wiltshire Fire Brigade provides free advice and home safety checks to encourage greater fire safety awareness.

All bodies involved in Social Care and Health have agreed to make Wiltshire the Healthiest County in England by 2012.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Improved home care to allow people to stay in their own homes	Improved recruitment and investment in the Wiltshire County Council's Home care service will help develop a high quality service. Introduction of the new Domiciliary Care contracts in October 2004 will help improve the range and quality of this service.
Improved transitional arrangements for older people leaving hospital and returning to their own homes	The establishment of Hospital Alternatives Team and a range of other community rehab initiatives has helped to improve the quality of service offered to older people discharged from hospital. This ranges from rehab beds at Bemerton Health Lodge to funding the Age Concern handyman scheme. The Hospital Alternatives team is also looking at preventing people needing to go into hospital in the first place.
Out of hours medical facilities patchy throughout the area	The introduction of the new PCT out of hours service in October 2004 will aim to improve coverage for the area.
Realising the SW/SA's vision of equality of opportunity for all	South Wiltshire Action Against Poverty to identify social exclusion and poverty in our community and put in place measures to address them.

Right: 'A dog is not just for Christmas' by Rotary Club of Wilton




Culture

The area has no cinema, sports centre and few facilities for the young people, added to the problems of lack of or expensive public transport getting into Salisbury for entertainment.

Wilton Museum is also closing down.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Lack of facilities for Young People	Salisbury District Council provides art services through Rural Arts Wiltshire and the Participatory Arts Workshops Scheme. The Youth Development Service is taking a lead on the development of the Wiltshire Alternative Youth Sports Partnership to develop alternative sports opportunities. Salisbury District Council provides a football coaching project for young people. Salisbury District Council looking to appoint an alternative sports officer subject to a successful funding bid.
Better play facilities needed in villages. Lack of suitable public areas is an issue.	Look at establishing project groups where this is an issue. South Newton's lottery bid for the all weather sports area was unsuccessful and the committee are looking at alternative ways of approaching the project. A public meeting is planned to get village views and approval.
More information about facilities and activities available in the area	Promote and encourage use of www.southwiltswilts.com Look at community IT facilities in areas where no community resource.
Cinema for the area	Project group to be developed to explore the possibility and need for a mobile cinema for the Four Rivers Community Area.



What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
Skateboard park	<p>Project group working on the possibility of this within Wilton and hopefully South Newton</p>
A place for young people run by young people	<p>The Youth Development Service staff engage with young people in the development of Youth Councils, Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, enabling people to be placed on the electoral register and involving young people in youth democracy at all levels locally and nationally.</p> <p>A new youth development access point in the army cadet hut in Wilton has been opened.</p> <p>The youth work curriculum engages young people in decision making and taking responsibility for the programme of activities and opportunities.</p> <p>The service will appoint a qualified youth development co-ordinator with the responsibility for the community area and s/he will lead on the consultation with young people and development of youth work provision.</p>

Housing and Built Environment

Affordable Housing is a key issue for the area. To help move this issue forward the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance have adopted the lack of affordable housing as one of their key priorities.

What are the issues?	What can we do about it?
More affordable housing	Salisbury District Council's Local Plan Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance aims to achieve up to 40% affordable housing requirements on housing developments. For the Four Rivers Community Area this will be a target of at least 22 homes by 2011. Salisbury District Council encourages communities to promote Rural Exception Housing reserved for local people.
Helping people who are homeless	Salisbury District Council is 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.
Poor street lighting in villages	The County Council does not allocate funding for enhancement to street lighting. The annual maintenance budget is only to cover the costs of routine maintenance and the replacement of failed equipment. However the upgrading of street lighting is generally included in traffic schemes.



Over to You

Your contribution is extremely important to the success of this plan for your area. We want to hear from groups that might be able to take things forward.

**The Partnership Team Manager
South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance
The Council House
Bourne Hill
Salisbury
SP1 3UZ**



Tel: 01722 434641
Email: swsa@salisbury.gov.uk
Website: www.southwiltshire.com/site/swsa

Or call the Community Planning Consultant
for for your Community Area

Lynda Williams on:-

Tel: 01225 713179
Email: lyndawilliams@wiltshire.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE MARKET TOWNS' PARTNERSHIP

Funding from the partnership was used to help produce this plan.