

MINUTES

Meeting: MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY AREA BOARD
Place: Mildenhall Village Hall, Mildenhall, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4LR
Date: Monday 5 October 2009
Start Time: 7.00pm
Finish Time: 8.50pm

Please direct any enquiries on these Minutes to:

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Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Chris Humphries (Chairman), Peggy Dow, Nick Fogg and Jemima Milton

Cabinet Representative – John Brady (Economic Development, Planning and Housing)

Officers

Julia Densham (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Carolyn Gibson (Principle Planning Officer) and Alison Sullivan (Community Area Manager)

Parish and Town Councils

Marlborough Town Council - Bryan Castle, Graham Francis and Andrew Ross

Baydon Parish Council - Anthony Prior

Froxfield Parish Council - Colin Slater

Fyfield & West Overton Parish Council – Sue Rogers

Preshute Parish Council - Melvyn Lillywhite

Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council - Sheila Glass

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Andrew Noble and Sergeant Ben Braine

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin and Jim Mahoney

Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership – Diann Barnett, Andy Devey and Richard Pitts

Wiltshire Police Authority – Chris Hoare

Marlborough Area Development Trust / Rural Needs Initiative Children's Centre – Betty Dobson

Marlborough Chamber of Commerce – Peter Davison

Marlborough Cluster Extended Schools – Karen Davis

Marlborough Youth Centre – Jo Wingham Cray

Campaign to Protect Rural England – Roger Hicklin and David Heather

Kennet Valley Arts Trust – John Cornell and Fiona Lawson

Members of Public in Attendance: 18

| <u>Agenda Item No.</u> | <u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u> | <u>Action By</u> |
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| 1. | <p><u>Chair's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Area Board councillors, the Cabinet Representative, the Community Area Manager and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.</p> | |
| 2. | <p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joan Davies (Savernake Parish Council), Bob Gutherson (Berwick Bassett & Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council) and Keith Wallace (Ogbourne St George Parish Council), also Martin Cook (Chairman – Marlborough Area Development Trust) and Val Compton.</p> | |
| 3. | <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>DECISION: The minutes of the meeting on 13 July 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record subject to the addition of Dr Sue Rogers in the attendance listing. The minutes of the meeting on 23 September 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record subject to the addition of an appendix containing Val Compton's comments.</p> | |
| 4. | <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> | |
| 5. | <p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>A letter of thanks had been sent to NHS Wiltshire for their involvement in the extraordinary meeting held on 23 September 2009.</p> <p>Tesco had held two consultation events to consider their proposals for a new store in the Marlborough area.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>Communities Issues Update</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager (CAM), Alison Sullivan, reiterated the issues reporting process and informed the meeting on how to submit an issue sheet, either electronically at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards or in paper format (available from the CAM.) She also introduced the web-site issues tracking system.</p> | |

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| <p>The meeting divided into two groups to discuss the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. shop accessibility in the town b. activities and resources for young people <p>Items relating to shop accessibility included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The High Street space could be redesigned to give 2/3 of the overall width to the south-side for two-way traffic, leaving 1/3 of the road way on the north-side for pedestrianisation. This would also allow sufficient space for ramps into shops. Provisions for parking and bus pull-ins would be made between the roadway and the pedestrian area. • The creation of an underground car park. • The meeting was reminded that retailers only have to make 'reasonable' adjustments for disability users – there needed to be a balance between the size of the business and what it could afford. • Cards had been successfully placed in shop windows giving phone details to alert the retailer to the disabled shopper outside requiring assistance to enter or to have services / goods brought to the door. • While the Chamber of Commerce had spoken to Shopmobility regarding an outlet in Marlborough, the provision of premises was not within the financial means of the Chamber. • A raised boardwalk on the north-side to avoid conflicting with listed building regulations. • A working group of key people could be formed to consider issue that included Wiltshire planners, the elderly and parents of small children, people who use wheelchairs or have a walking difficulty and the Chamber of Commerce. • Traders were likely to support access schemes as it led to increased trade. <p>Items relating to youth facilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of floodlights at the recreation ground would allow the football club to play further into the evening and dissuade drinkers using the park under cover of darkness. • Dog fouling was a problem at the ground due to insufficient bins being infrequently emptied. <p>Decision The Community Area manager to research the increased provision of bins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people aged 16+, both in and out of education, were required to pay full fares on buses which was not affordable. | <p>Alison Sullivan</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular, evening public transport provision to and from the rural areas to town centre was lacking. Although there was a community bus, this needed to be driven by a Criminal Records Bureau-checked adult. • Activities aimed at bringing the youth and elderly together were welcomed to break down stereotypes and engender mutual respect. • Increased provision of safe places where young people could meet. Out-of-school-hours access to the new school facilities could be considered. • Marlborough shops did not adequately cater to the needs of young people. • Prohibitive gym costs at the leisure centre made sports activities unviable for young people. • A youth council had been set up to to address some of these problems. | |
| 7. | <p><u>Funding and the Community Area Grant Scheme</u></p> | |
| a. | <p>Performance Reward Grant Scheme:</p> <p>Due to the successful meeting of 12 difficult public service targets for improvement, the government had awarded Wiltshire Council a Performance Reward Grant.</p> <p>£2.8m will be available over two to three years for bids from Area Boards that propose initiatives that take forward those issues that are important to local people.</p> <p>Expressions of interest forms and further details were available at the meeting and from the Community Area Manger.</p> | |
| b. | <p>Viridor Landfill Communities Fund:</p> <p>Agenda item number 11 to elect a Wiltshire Council representative to the Viridor Grants Panel was considered by the Area Board committee.</p> <p>Decision Councillor Dow was appointed to represent Wiltshire Council on the Viridor Grants Panel.</p> | |
| c. | <p>Community Area Grants Scheme:</p> <p>Consideration was given to two funding applications made to the Community Area Grants Scheme.</p> <p>Karolyn Fudge-Malik addressed the Area Board on behalf of Arts Together – Phoenix Marlborough.</p> <p>Peter Davison addressed the Area Board on behalf of We Love Marlborough.</p> | |

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| | <p>Decision <u>Arts Together – Phoenix Marlborough</u> – Award £930 towards the cost of recruiting and training volunteers to support an arts project for older people conditional upon the group bringing a report on its progress to the February Area Board meeting; and</p> <p><u>We Love Marlborough</u> – Award £2000 towards the cost of providing a Christmas community event in the town conditional upon the grant funding the street performers.</p> | |
| 8. | <p><u>Future Housing and Employment in the Marlborough Community Area</u></p> <p>Principle Planning Officer Carolyn Gibson gave a verbal presentation on the Wiltshire Core Strategy consultation. The new plan aimed to recognise the distinctiveness of the local area while creating a sustainable community. All were invited to attend the exhibition and workshop that would be held at Marlborough Town Hall on 24 November. The consultation's outcome would inform the Core Strategy report to the Cabinet in the New Year.</p> | |
| 9. | <p><u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</u></p> <p>Jim Mahoney, Area Manager, introduced the Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation that would run for 12 weeks from 21 September 2009. The plan would detail the Service's objectives over the next three years to make Wiltshire a safer place. Mr Mahoney invited interested individuals to register as stakeholders via the 'Have your Say' section on the website (www.wiltsfire.gov.uk) or by telephone (01380 732982.) The finalised version of the plan would be published on 1 April 2010.</p> | |
| 10. | <p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Police: Inspector Andy Noble updated the meeting on current policing activities in the Marlborough community area. Regarding core performance, overall reported crime was down and thanks were extended to parish council representatives who had helped to apprehend offenders in the rural areas. Three neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) existed, whose role was to engage with local communities and their needs, thus defining localised policing priorities. Local NPT officer details were obtainable from the Wiltshire Police web-site that also included information on local area events. The Inspector urged communities to continue feeding their issues through to Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership (MAVCAP.) The Area Board thanked Police Constable Michael Bayliss who had attended many parish council meetings.</p> | |

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| | <p>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service: The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.</p> <p>NHS Wiltshire: The written update distributed with the agenda was noted. A question was raised regarding out-of-hours services and the criteria by which doctors were selected given the press coverage of a recent incident. Consultation with the community was requested prior to such a decision being made.</p> <p>Decision NHS Wiltshire was requested to respond to this request.</p> <p>MAVCAP: There was nothing to report.</p> | |
| 11. | <p><u>Any Other Questions?</u></p> <p><i>Clarification on the increase of the grant to We Love Marlborough earlier on the agenda was requested as having no relation to 'simplifying accounting principles as had been stated by the chair.'</i></p> <p>The Chairman agreed the case.</p> <p><i>A request was made for greater sponsorship from Wiltshire Council for dog foul bins.</i></p> <p>The Community Area Manager had already been asked to research the issue and report back to a future meeting.</p> <p><i>There was a noticeable failure to maintain highways to a reasonable standard in the area.</i></p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Dick Tonge, would be invited to a future meeting to address this question.</p> <p><i>It was requested that the discussion on shop access be kept live.</i></p> <p>This was confirmed by the Area Board. The Cabinet Representative, Councillor John Brady, described the very successful Shopmobility project in Salisbury and suggested that the community consider the aforementioned Performance Reward Grant Scheme as a possible funding opportunity for the idea. He also considered that the other shop access ideas that had been mentioned should be explored.</p> <p><i>What was the role of MAVCAP now that the Area Board existed?</i></p> <p>The Chairman, Rich Pitts, had arranged a meeting with the Community Area Manager and Councillor Fogg to discuss this question.</p> | |

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| 12. | <p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked all those who had attended, especially the Young People. He reminded those present to complete an evaluation form on the meeting. The next Marlborough Community Area Board would take place on Monday 7 December 2009 at the Marlborough Leisure Centre.</p> | |