

## Agenda item 10

South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance  
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# Report

**Report subject** : Feedback on the Issues Raised from the Community Plans Progress Report

**Report to** : Northern Area Committee

**Date** : 23 August 2007

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## 1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this document is to update members on issues raised from the actions in the Stonehenge and Four Rivers Community Plans presented on 28 June 2007.

## 2. FOLLOW UP

**Action 25: 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.**

Issue: Members stated that there was no mention of the new sports fields and pavilions that were approved 6 months ago in Archer's Gate, there could also be land available there for a BMX facility.

Officer Response: In relation to the BMX facility, vacant land from the development may be given to the Town Council and if this happens, the Town Council is able to make planning submissions to the SDC for this facility. At this stage funding for the development from the developers is not available as the facility would need to be included in the original proposal.

**Action 152: The Wiltshire Primary Care Trust will take over responsibility for dentistry from 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.**

Issue: Members disagreed with the 90% figure given by the PCT for out of hours services. It was stated by one member that between 6pm Friday and 9am on Monday that the services were put under pressure and patients may not be able to access the services in the time given in the update.

Officer Response: It must be remembered that the out of hours dental service is for urgent treatment only – not routine. If emergency (under 24 hour) treatment is required patients are referred to the dental access centre in Chippenham or if treatment is required within 48 hours, to one of the High Street Dentists who have urgent contracts. 90% of people in Wiltshire who seek routine or urgent dental treatment can access it within 24-48 hours for urgent care somewhere within a 10-15 mile radius of their home.

Since the 2007 update there have been some changes in provision of out of hours dental service. From 6pm on Friday until 8am on Monday, patients are directed to ring Wiltshire Medical Services for telephone advice and triage. Any person whose condition is identified as urgent is offered an appointment with a dentist at Central Health Clinic on Sunday morning. Only approx 50% of the allocated 13 slots are normally taken most weeks. A similar service was tried in 2006 on Saturdays however the numbers using this session were very small and because of the small demand against the cost of providing the service we could not justify it being kept open and so the Saturday session ceased.

It does mean that for a small number of patients that require emergency 24 hour treatment they may have to travel further than the 15 mile standard (i.e. Salisbury area to Chippenham.) When we look at the numbers this applies to it is very small and against the population of Wiltshire PCT would still mean that 90% of patients have access within the DH guidance on treatment times i.e. 24 - 48 hours for urgent care and 10 - 15 miles travel from home to the clinic.

**Action 160: Sunshine Healthy Living Project - improving basic rural facilities with new outreach services that have encouraged healthier lifestyles, reduced social isolation and increased access to advice on health.**

Issue: Members believe that Homestart funding is being withdrawn and would like to know what is happening with that service.

Officer Response: The Sunshine Healthy Living Project has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund for the period 2003-2008. During this period, Homestart received a larger amount of BIG funds than originally budgeted. BIG funding for all of the SHLP partners will end, as always planned, in March 2008. It is understood, however, that Wiltshire PCT have recently cut their core funding to Homestart South Wiltshire and that this is likely to have a detrimental effect on Homestart's ability to provide their service to vulnerable young families.

**Action 178: Sites identified in the current plan should yield up to 138 more affordable homes in the Northern area by 2011.**

Issue: Members would like to know when we will get the actual houses built (i.e. more specific targets).

Officer Comment: The council will publish the dates known for those developments under construction, or those which have specific funding arrangement that require development within a specific time frame. Other developments that have been issued with a planning permission we can only estimate dates. The development process is governed by Planning Regulation and associated statutory timescales. The delays are generally with developers and them determining when they wish to bring a site forward. Even when planning permission is granted the developer may then 'land bank' the site. The local authority has no powers to enforce developers to bring forward sites and we are at the mercy of the market.

**Action 244: Identify where there is clear need for new footpaths and cycle ways.**

Issue: Members would like more priority given to footpaths especially around Solstice Park where more people are travelling along the footpath.

Officer Response: It is not clear which footpath is being referred to. If it is regarding the footway between Bulford and Solstice Park, please see letter to Bulford Parish Council from WCC in Appendix 1. Otherwise, see previous response to project 244a: the County Council cannot compulsory purchase land for new footpaths, but it can help improve existing paths or footways or negotiate with developers for land or right of access. Regarding improvements, the County assesses all suggested walking and cycling improvements against certain criteria using a standard methodology. Parish Councils may wish to write to WCC Integrated Transport to formally request that specific links be 'priority assessed' for improvement. Note also that requests for improved footways, and potential new footpaths, e.g. as planning gain from any new developments, are also assessed according to likely pedestrian usage. At present this is not considered to be sufficiently high to and from Solstice Park to merit the investment required.