

# Special Southern Area Committee

## Minutes

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 5.00pm  
Alamein Suite, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury

**THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE KEPT FOR USE BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS  
AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

### **P R E S E N T**

#### **District Councillors**

Councillor B M Rycroft – Chairman  
Councillor F D Bissington – Vice - Chairman

Councillors: G A N Anderson, R Britton, C Devine, I D McLennan,  
P J Leo, W Moss, Mrs M M A Peach and L Randall

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs P J Bissington

#### **County Councillors**

**Apologies:** County Councillors J P Johnson and K C Wren

#### **Parish Representatives**

Mrs B Carter (Downton), K Gross (Laverstock and Ford), Mrs P Horton (Alderbury),  
P Houston (Laverstock and Ford) and Mrs V McLennan (Laverstock and Ford).

#### **Officers Present**

David Bunting (Southern Area Community Planner),  
Ariane Crampton (Partnership Team Manager), David Neudegg (Policy Director)  
and Andrew Rose (Democratic Services).

### **MINUTES NOT REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL**

#### **332. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **333. PUBLIC QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME**

There were none.

#### **334. COUNCILLOR QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME**

There were none.

#### **335. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman requested that, as some Members had to leave the meeting early, comments and statements be kept as brief as possible.

### 336. SOUTHERN AREA COMMUNITY PLAN

Ariane Crampton, Partnership Team Manager, made a few comments to the Committee to set the scene. The points she made were as follows:

- The original draft of the Community Plan was first presented to this Committee a few months ago (20<sup>th</sup> May 2004).
- Since that time, David Bunting has been appointed as the Southern Area Community Planner, and Ariane returned from maternity leave. So, there have been some changes during the course of the Community Plan process.
- It is now envisaged that the Community Plans for all of the areas will be presented to the Executive of the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance (SWSA) on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, then to the SWSA Board meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and finally to the Cabinet of Salisbury District Council on 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- Ariane will also be writing a report to the Alliance regarding the issue of the discrepancy between the Area Committee boundaries used by Salisbury District Council and the Community Planning Areas. This discrepancy is as a result of the fact that many of the Council's strategic partners (such as the Police, Primary Care Trust etc) have different area boundaries than the Council.

Following this introduction, the Chairman advised that he would invite comments and questions from those present, on a page by page (of the Community Plan document) basis. The main comments and/or questions asked were as follows, with their appropriate response from officers (if applicable):

#### Pages 4-5

- Laverstock has been deleted from the Southern Area Community Planning Area and has been considered as part of the City.

Firsdawn joined the Southern Area in May 2003 and yet it is still contained within the Northern Area Community Plan.

Ariane repeated her previous statement that the boundaries for Community Areas (which are based to a large degree on those of the Council's strategic partners) and those for the Council's Area Committees are different.

- The reference to Bishopdown Farm Residents Association should be removed as this issue has not been adopted as an official policy of Salisbury District Council. The reference can be reinstated at a later date if this position changes.
- Nomansland should be listed as it is part of the Alderbury and Whiteparish Ward (although part of Redlynch Parish).
- There are three Members for the Downton and Redlynch Ward and not two as described in the Plan.
- Within the whole Plan there is no mention at all of any involvement of the churches, of any denomination, especially as there is a picture of a Church on the inside of the back cover.

#### Page 6-7

- Councillor F D Bissington requested that he receive a written answer to the following question:

In relation to the NB note on page 6, who authorised the statistical changes, why were these changes made, and thirdly, does this mean that the SWAG funding allocation, which is based on population, has been wrong with the City Area receiving more than it should and the Southern Area less than it should.

- There is no longer a walking bus in Downton and it is unlikely to be reinstated so reference to it should be removed from the Plan.
- Any reference to 'Downton Community Area' should be replaced by 'Southern Community Area'.
- There is no reference made to the business development that has taken place at Whaddon in this Plan.
- Within the "Community Profile" there is mention made of the remains of Clarendon Palace. It would be more relevant to the public if this was replaced with mention of the 4 secondary schools in the Area which is something people can identify with.
- The reference to new dwellings at Wick Lane should be updated to show that there are closer to 90 new dwellings.

The number of houses at Duck Lane is actually to be 125.

#### Page 8-9

- The information listed under the "What can we do" section is too basic and does not provide enough detail. The whole topic of transport is just too important to be dealt with in this way.
- Wiltshire County Council has no extra funds to spend on transport. Therefore, Parish Councils have a responsibility to try and initiate schemes. It must be remembered that they do have the power to raise funds for this reason. The whole subject of transport should be driven by local communities anyway.
- The reference to the Britford Park and Ride site is in the wrong box (should be in box for 'Access to Salisbury from Downton').
- The reference to the Petersfinger Park and Ride needs to be softened in tone as in its current wording it sounds like a definite.
- The Harnham Relief Road is not mentioned, and yet, this is a project that will affect many communities, not just Harnham.
- The perception of speeding vehicles in villages is always much greater than the reality. For instance, based on a perception of speed related issues, a study was undertaken in Pitton on vehicles entering the village. It was established that none of the vehicles were breaking the 30 mph speed limit.

#### Page 10-11

- There does not seem to be a role for the Police to play in the “what can we do” column. There is a feeling in local communities that there needs to be a greater Police presence.
- There is no mention of Police Community Support Officers. There should be more recruitment of Special Constables as the next best thing to full-time Police Officers. It must be realised that Community Support Officers can only do so much as they do not have the powers of Police officers.
- There seems little merit in highlighting Alcohol Free Zones as a solution to problems when the Police do not enforce the ones that already exist.

#### Page 12-13

- The issues highlighted in the document are very small parts of what comprises the countryside.

Ariane asked for any suggestions as to what can be included in this section to better represent the countryside. The suggestions made by Members were:

- Agriculture, forestry and land based operations are very important to maintaining the country landscape.
- Re-use of agricultural buildings
- New Forest National Park.
- The whole issue of the New Forest National Park has not been mentioned and this is something that affects exclusively the Southern Area of Salisbury District Council.

For Salisbury District Council there will need to be a debate as to whether a buffer zone can be created surrounding the borders of the National Park. Also, within the National Park, the area of Landford will be included. However, there is a problem in that Salisbury District Council reports to the Government Office of the South West but the National Park will be reporting to the Government Office of the South East. This may create issues for the areas of Salisbury District within the Park.

- Landford should be highlighted as an area particularly affected by flooding. Also, Environment Agency boundaries are a problem as this area falls between the South East and South West areas for the Agency.
- With regard to flooding on the River Avon; Members are not aware that Salisbury District Council was involved in ditch clearances. Also, who is to monitor the flood control measures? The monitoring is particularly important after construction of the flood control work has been completed.

David Bunting advised that the Environment Agency will undertake the monitoring.

- With regards to rights of way, the co-operation of landowners is vital to their maintenance.

#### Page 14-15

- Affordable housing is much more than just the provision of a house.
- There is no mention of the use of exception sites in relation to affordable housing

- Salisbury District Council has entered into an agreement with Asset Trust Housing Association to provide a large amount of affordable housing.
- The establishment of Special Planning Guidance, and the establishment of a Rural Housing Enabler have had a marked impact on this whole issue; especially with the ability to undertake fast Housing Needs Surveys in villages.
- In the New Forest Heritage Area more than one third of new housing is being designated as affordable.
- There needs to be more provision for local need when allocating properties designated as affordable housing, rather than simply taking names from the housing needs list.

#### Page 16-17

No comments

#### Page 18-19

- Downton also has an optician
- There is some concern that ambulances for many communities have to come from Boscombe Down.
- With regard to Salisbury District Hospital and the Primary Care Trust there are Public and Patient Forums in existence.
- The Link Scheme in Chalke Valley should be mentioned.
- No mention made of what actual measures will be taken to address the issue of services for the elderly. There is also no information about where people can go for help and assistance.
- There is much local concern over changes to the working hours of GP's and the out-of-hours cover that they will no longer provide. There should be highlighted in the Plan some kind of rolling review of this issue.
- One other issue to bear in mind is that a large amount of the care given to the elderly is provided by the private sector. However, there are many issues facing these providers, such as the expansion of nursing homes to accommodation for key workers (especially as staff such as nurses are not classified as key workers if they are employed in the private sector). All of these issues faced by the private sector need to be highlighted in the Plan.
- Within the Laverstock Parish Plan is a desire to see the opening of a GP surgery. The Parish is working hard to achieve this end.

#### Page 20-21

- Alderbury Primary School is not about to close.
- It is important to acknowledge that schools located in the City of Salisbury play an important part in the lives of people in the Southern Area as many people fall within

the catchment area for those schools. This, then, highlights other issues, such as transport into the city.

- Mobile libraries are not mentioned in the Plan.
- Salisbury College should be mentioned as it provides very many courses.
- There are also negative aspects of schools. For example, the area of Church Lane in Laverstock is now swamped by parents bringing/collecting children to/from school. Also, the campus there is just too small to accommodate the number of children, and this is going to get worse as new developments come on-line in Old Sarum and Duck Lane.

#### Page 22

- Odstock now has a dentist
- There is a monthly farmers market in Coombe Bissett and a WI market on Fridays in Downton.
- There is a conflict in the Plan with the stated desire to promote tourism but the planning policies of the Council act to discourage any new tourist attractions in the New Forest – which itself is now actively discouraging tourism as the forest is being damaged due to the large number of visitors to it. Therefore, the text in the plan needs to be more explicit in what it is trying to achieve.

#### General Points relating to whole Plan

- The main issue with the Plan, as it is presented in its final version, is that it is too similar to the previous Community Plan drawn up several years before. The issue with that Plan was that there was no ownership of the issues (due to a perception that it was meaningless) and therefore, nothing was actually done about the issues raised at that time. It was just not a tangible document.

When this new Community Planning process commenced it was agreed that each parish would have it's own page in the document, and on that page would be outlined their particular issues. Then, parishes which state that they have the same problems could all work together to try and find a suitable solution that would benefit them all. This idea became quite advanced in the drawing up of the Community Plans. It appeared that this way of working would grow over time as more and more parishes bought into the process.

Unfortunately, this idea has been removed from the final version of the plan which has reverted to the old style of Community Plan that has been proved to be of not much merit.

Ariane replied that there have, as explained at the beginning on this meeting, been changes in personnel and thus continuity. However, the main problem was that the approach mentioned above left very many gaps in the Plan and so it was very difficult to progress and move it forward, However, if there is a strong feeling, we can revert to the previous format.

The Member replied that there is not a problem with having gaps as it demonstrates that no solutions to particular problems have yet been identified which will encourage communities to think of ways to do so, hopefully in partnership with other communities who have highlighted similar issues. The problem is that the plan is now a top-down approach by the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance (SWSA) rather than bottom-up. There does not seem to be a role for the SWSA to play in the delivery of actions and to a large extent it implies that communities must solve these issues for themselves.

David Neudegg, Policy Director, responded to this comment by stating that the Plan should not be viewed as a work programme for the Strategic Alliance and that a lot of the plan is indeed highlighting what communities can do for themselves. Local issues need to be solved at a local level.

- There are several parishes which are currently developing their own plans, and this work may be undermined by the creation of a new tier of plan.
- Concern that nowhere in the Plan is there any mention of funding sources that can be used to help address problems. It is important that Parish Councils know where to go to for financial assistance. There should be a page in the Plan document dedicated to factual information, giving details of what people can do, where they can go and when, together with useful contact details.

The Committee was advised that the projects in the Plan will be taken forward when there is funding available.

Following the discussions, Ariane advised that it was clear that the Southern Area Plan, in its present form, could not be taken to the SWSA for approval in November. Therefore, a Working Group would be set up to consider revisions to the Plan. The membership of the working group will be Councillor Ian McLennan and Mrs B Carter, Parish Councillor for Downton, working with the Alliance and David Bunting.

The meeting concluded at 6.40 pm

Members of the Public: 2