

Title: **Westbury Area Action Group Update**

Report Prepared By: **Rev Paul Richardson**

Background

At the Westbury Area Seminar in April 05 Westbury Area Action Group presented a summary of the Community Plan for the Westbury area which was due for publication the following month. The following is an update on progress of implementing plan.

Update

1 Launch of the Plan:

The Westbury Area Community Plan was published in May last year. The plan includes 25 pages of issues and ideas for improving the area. The Plan was circulated across the community area and is available through the library and town council offices.

2 Implementing the Plan:

- With so many ideas and issues it has been necessary to look at the plan and identify areas where WAAG could make an impact. Many of the issues and projects highlighted in the plan lie within the remit of statutory agencies, eg Housing Private Finance Initiative and public transport where WAAG's role is mainly an informing and lobbying one.
- A paper went to the District Council's Cabinet in August. Examples of the District Council's activity related to community plans is summarised elsewhere.
- The plan has been fed into the District and County-wide Local Strategic Partnerships, where they are considering, alongside the issues in the other plans, district and/or county-wide issues highlighted in the plan.
- WAAG has reviewed the plan and identified areas which people can work on together locally. These areas were then prioritised into 2 phases.

3 WAAG Priorities:

- **Vision for Westbury** – being implemented through the Town Council's Five Towns Initiative.
- **Westbury Area Website** – will be developed through the new Wiltshire Community Web to help promote WAAG and other projects and initiatives that are highlighted in the community plan. Plan underway.

- **Westbury Area Health for All project**
There are a number of issues scattered through the plan that could be addressed by a project around health in its broadest sense, eg exercise, healthy eating. A project will developed around this area.
- **Support to Young People in the Westbury Area** – issues around young people appear throughout the community plan. Initially this particular group will focus around a Young People's Fayre in the summer, bringing together a range of providers and activities.
- **Westbury Area Community Safety Group** – WAAG will be working together with the town council to develop a Community Safety Group across the area
- **Westbury Area Tourism** – WAAG will be working together with the Town Council to develop a plan to help maximise tourism opportunities.

Project Plans are being developed for each of these projects.

WAAG would welcome more involvement in the priority areas to help develop and implement the project ideas.

References:

Westbury Community Area Plan

Rev Paul Richardson, Westbury Area Action Group
20th January 2006

