

MINUTES

Meeting: WESTBURY AREA BOARD
Place: The Paragon Hall (Westbury Labour Club), Haynes Road, Westbury,
BA13 3HA
Date: Thursday 23 July 2009
Start Time: 7.00pm
Finish Time: 9:40pm

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

Mr Russell Hawker (Chairman), Mr David Jenkins (Vice Chairman), Mr Michael Cuthbert – Murray and Mrs Julie Swabey.

Parish and Town Councillors

A F Brine (Heywood), F Morland (Heywood), M Jones (Edington), P Sexstone (Heywood), A Irving (Dilton Marsh), K Davis (Bratton), S Ezra (Westbury), M Hawkins (Westbury), and S Andrews (Westbury).

Partners

Wiltshire NHS – Jo Howes

Wiltshire Police – Inspector David Minty, PC Peter White, PC Gwyn White, PC Johnson and PC Nick Holt.

Wiltshire Council – Alan Feist, Service Director

Wiltshire Council – Councillor Fleur De Rhe Philipe, Cabinet Member

Members of Public in Attendance: 74

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<u>Chair's Welcome and Introduction</u> The Chairman introduced the Board Members, and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Westbury Area Board.	
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Dr Peter Biggs	
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Mr Michael Cuthbert-Murray declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 b) and c) because he is a member of the Town Council and a market trader in Westbury. Mr Russell Hawker declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 a) b) and c) due to having a relative who owns property in these areas. Mr David Jenkins declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 c) due to his membership on the Chamber of Commerce.	
4.	<u>Minutes</u> Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
5.	<u>Introducing the Area Boards and Making it Work</u> The Area Board received a DVD presentation, and Rachel Efemey was introduced as Wiltshire Council's new 'Westbury Community Area Manager' (CAM). Rachel explained that the Community Area Manager had the primary role of coordinating and supporting the work carried out by the Board Members, Parishes, Partners, Officers and local residents. An update on the following was given: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Grant Scheme • Area Assessments • Future Funding It was explained that £22,246 of funds are available for projects in the Westbury area for the rest of the financial year. The board was informed that grant applications needed to be completed and submitted six weeks prior to the next meeting date throughout the first year to March 2010. Copies of the DVD and the Grant application packs are available by contacting the Westbury CAM Rachel Efemey on 07788 643171	

	<p>rachel.efemey@wiltshire.gov.uk</p> <p>or by looking on the web page www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards</p>	
6.	<p><u>Role of Community Area Partnership and Community Plan</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from Rev. Jonathan Burke, of the Westbury Community Area Partnership, on the role and work of the partnership and the development of the Westbury Community Area Plan. Some of the points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership is anticipating its first meeting. • It is an independent body but topics covered will relate to the Westbury Area Board. • There is a direct aim to be inclusive of the community, covering many areas to meet local needs. • A request was made for volunteers for a steering group discussing such topics, the public were encouraged to collect details at the end of the meeting if they were interested. 	
7.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The board received introductions and updates from Parish and Town Councils and partners, the following points were raised:</p> <p>Parish and Town Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Andrews from Westbury Town Council emphasised that the Council were keen to work in a positive way with the Area Board. • Michael Jones of Edington Parish Council explained that he was keen to ensure that the views of the villages are fully appreciated. • Alison Irving of Dilton Marsh Parish Council also reflected this view emphasising the importance of communicating with villages. • Frank Brine of Heywood Parish Council expressed an interest in what the Area Board could do to improve the Westbury High Street. • Ken Davis of Bratton Parish Council expressed that his Parish Council are pleased to be involved. <p>Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Dave Minty introduced himself and explained that his role would be to feedback to the board for future meetings. • Inspector Minty also explained that there would be two dedicated police constables to represent the town and rural areas of Westbury. 	

	<p>National Health Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo Howes introduced herself as the NHS representative for the board and in addition to the written update previously circulated, gave an update on dentistry and Swine flu in the area. <p>Community Area Young People's Issue Group (CAYPIG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the absence of Sally Willox, Michelle Slade introduced herself to the Board as the representative from the Westbury Youth Centre. Michelle gave an update on upcoming events, activities and the successes achieved by CAYPIG. <p>Chamber of Commerce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Jenkins introduced himself as the Chairman of Westbury Chamber of Commerce and explained that there is help available for Westbury businesses in the current difficult economic climate, including a competition, details of which could be collected from him at the end of the meeting. 	
8.	<p><u>Local Issues</u></p> <p>Niki Lewis, Service Director of Community Governance & Leadership, Wiltshire Council explained the issue logging process, and some of the points she covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue forms available online or by contacting the CAM Progress of submitted issue forms can be tracked online Common issues are dealt with across the Board area Action starts as soon as the issue is submitted Discussion and research may find a solution without referral to the Area Board by action from frontline services of the Council and/or its partners Issues may be taken to the Board for action if still unresolved <p>Queries on the process can be emailed to nikilewis@wiltshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Niki Lewis outlined the grants process, some of the points covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple Criteria and process, explained in application packs Up to £1,000 available without match funding Up to £5,000 available with match funding Applications to be submitted six weeks prior to the next meeting <p>The public put forward the following questions:</p>	

- A Westbury resident explained that she had complained to the council about a problem of dog mess and the lack of bins in the area, but this had not been resolved. She was asked to complete an issue sheet so that the appropriate officers can look into this.
- Niki was also asked if the public were able to put forward ideas and suggestions as well as their issues, to which Niki responded by saying yes and that this was very welcomed.
- An enquiry was made as to how the Area Board would liaise with the Town Council, to which the board was told that a nominated representative should attend each Board meeting to feed back, but as well as this two of the Councillors on the board were also town councillors.

The board received an update on the Westbury Bypass from David Bullock, the Highways Improvements Manager

Some of the points raised were:

- On 1st July planning permission for the Westbury Bypass was refused. The Legal Department have advised that there were no grounds for appeal.
- The full inspector's report as to why this was refused is available to the public by contacting the planning inspectorate, and a copy can also be found at the Westbury library.
- Alternatives will now be looked into by the Highways Department.
- Consultation will be sought from the public and neighbouring authorities.
- The budget that had been agreed for the Bypass can no longer be secured or ring fenced for other local improvements.
- Future steps will be to review the situation to report back to Cabinet and an update of all developments will be brought to the following Westbury Area Board.

The Board received an update on the Maristow Street – Rotunda Area Improvement Project from David Bullock and Tim Martienssen, Interim Head of Regeneration

Some of the points raised were:

- Maristow Street is the next step in improvements arising from the Vision for Westbury Plan. There has been a strong stream of public feedback, with high cost concepts being requested.
- The implementation of changes will be staggered to keep disruption to a minimal.
- There is an importance in services working together to collate resources.
- Consultation is still open to the public and the next steps will be

to form a steering group. Young people will also be welcomed to be part of this to establish alternatives for social congregation areas.

The board received an update on Post Office Ltd as part of the public consultation on proposals to site the Westbury Post Office at Co-Op

Some of the points raised were:

- The Post Office must consider public consultation for the location of the Westbury branch, but essentially the final decision is theirs.
- In evaluating the pros and cons, the Co-Op is a strong option meeting government guidelines and providing such amenities as parking and disabled access.
- Other options may still be viable, including premises in the centre of town and these need proper consideration.
- It was officer and public opinion that consultation so far had been limited and non transparent in areas

Resolved:

- To support Tim Martienssen's recommendation, which was that the council be allowed up to 3 months to explore all opportunities for keeping the Post Office in the town centre through working with various partners and the Town Council.
- Tim Martienssen to take this suggestion forward with Westbury Area Board's support when he next meets with the Post Office Ltd and Cabinet members.

Group discussions then took place among the public attending to prioritise those issues most pressing from the previously circulated list

The six issues that were found to be of most concern were as follows:

- A350 Traffic Relief in Westbury
- Pedestrian Crossing over A350 Warminster Road in Westbury, by Cedar Hotel.
- Location of Westbury Main Post Office
- Westbury Police Station needs Enquiries Desk to be re-opened.
- Town centre Improvements – Implementing the Vision for Westbury to improve the shopping system – sorting the direction of single way traffic into a more logical arrangement
- Tackling Anti-social behaviour in the town centre – possible alcohol ban in public areas.

The Chair thanked the public for their feedback and explained that these issues would be taken up by officers and relevant updates would be brought to the next Area Board.

9.	<p><u>Election of Representatives</u></p> <p>The Chairman announced the nominations for representation on the Community Area Partnership, and other local outside bodies. A table of the results is below.</p> <table><tr><th>Outside Body Title</th><th>Representative</th></tr><tr><td>Warminster and Westbury CCTV Partnership</td><td>Russell Hawker</td></tr><tr><td>Westbury Youth Issues Group (CAYPIGS)</td><td>Julie Swabey and David Jenkins</td></tr><tr><td>Community Area Partnership</td><td>Russell Hawker</td></tr></table> <p>Also appointed:</p> <table><tr><td>Maristow Street – Rotunda Area Improvement Project Steering Group</td><td>Michael Cuthbert - Murray</td></tr></table>	Outside Body Title	Representative	Warminster and Westbury CCTV Partnership	Russell Hawker	Westbury Youth Issues Group (CAYPIGS)	Julie Swabey and David Jenkins	Community Area Partnership	Russell Hawker	Maristow Street – Rotunda Area Improvement Project Steering Group	Michael Cuthbert - Murray	
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10.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates, Evaluation & Close</u></p> <p>The Area Board was informed that the next meeting was due to be held on Thursday 22nd October which was during the school half term, it was felt that this could have an impact on those who may wish to attend.</p> <p>Resolved: The next meeting would be brought forward and would now be held on Wednesday 16 September, 6.30 for 7pm – 9pm at Matravers School, Westbury.</p>											