

MINUTES

Meeting: WESTBURY AREA BOARD
Place: Main Hall, Matravers School, Springfield Road, Westbury, BA13 3QH
Date: Wednesday 16 September 2009
Start Time: 7.00pm
Finish Time: 9:40pm

Please direct any enquiries on these Minutes to:

Lisa Moore (Democratic Services Officer), Tel: 01722 434560 or (e-mail) lisa.moore@virgin.net

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Councillor Russell Hawker (Chairman)
Councillor Michael Cuthbert – Murray
Councillor David Jenkins (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Julie Swabey

Parish and Town Councillors

A. F. Brine (Heywood), M. Jones (Edington), A. Whittle (Bratton) P. Sexstone (Heywood) and S. Andrews (Westbury).

Partners

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Group Manager Glynn Moody
Wiltshire Police – Inspector David Minty
Wiltshire Council – Alan Feist, Service Director
Wiltshire Council – Councillor Richard Tonge, Cabinet Member

Total Attendance: 62

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<u>Chairman's Welcome and Introduction</u> The Chairman introduced the Board Members, and welcomed everyone to the Westbury Area Board.	
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> K Davis (Bratton Parish Council), M. Hawkins (Westbury Town Council), Jonathan Burke (Westbury CAP) and Rosemary Henderson	
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillor Julie Swabey declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 (Grants) due to her input in the 'Community Speedwatch' application, she addressed the board as a member of the public for this item and did not vote.	
4.	<u>Minutes</u> Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
5.	<u>Community Area Partnership Update</u> Kerry Eatwell, acting co-Chair of the Community Area Partnership updated the board on recent activity and explained that their first meeting was due to take place on the evening of 14 Oct 2009 at Bratton Primary School and the public were welcome to attend.	
6.	<u>Partner Updates</u> The board received updates from partners, the following points were raised: Wiltshire Fire and Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts will be made to have a representative of the Fire Service at as many area board meetings as possible. • Fire Officers have been attending schools in the area to hold talks on the issue of deliberate fires. • Project 'Fire Stop' is in practice, aimed at extending help and information to vulnerable people in the area. Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector David Minty explained that the main issue for his update was around staffing. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board was notified of the passing of P.C. Mike Johnson and Inspector Minty thanked the parish councils for their support during this difficult time. • P.C. Nick Holt will be leaving the Westbury area to pursue CID Officer training. • A process to fill the two posts has therefore been put in place, and notification of which police officers were successful will be brought to the next area board. • In regards to crime in the area, the board were told that burglaries were now on the decline and violent crimes had marginally increased, efforts will be focused on this in the coming weeks. • Other focuses of the police will be on the upcoming Halloween and Bonfire night events, to protect those vulnerable people who may experience trouble. <p>Community Area Young Peoples' Issue Group (CAYPIG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Willox informed the board that funds had successfully been gained to go ahead with the building of a youth shelter at the youth centre. A planning application would therefore soon go forward. 	
7.	<p><u>Issues Updates</u></p> <p>The board received updates on those issues highlighted at the previous area board, the following points were raised:</p> <p>The Lack of Enquiry Desk at Westbury Police Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Minty explained that this was an issue of staff cost against usage, and that unfortunately it was previously decided that due to its infrequent use a Police Officers time was better utilised patrolling Westbury or responding to emergency calls, which is why it had closed. • However, the desk has since been open at least once a week as a drop in centre. When asked why the hours for this drop in centre were not published the Inspector clarified that his Police Officers time could not be guaranteed in advance. • The Inspector informed the board that he was also looking into a scheme to re-open the inquiry desk where volunteers can be used to man the desk. This would take time in finding and training volunteers, the aim is to have a resolution before Christmas. • It was also explained that despite the closure of the desk, information can still be gained and issues put across via the Wiltshire Police website. <p>Crossing on Warminster Road (A350) by the Cedar Hotel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following update was provided by Alan Feist, Service Director, Wiltshire Council: 'The previous work to identify a suitable crossing point has been 	

	<p>reviewed following the refusal of planning permission for Westbury Bypass. Engineers are now undertaking work to determine a suitable location for a crossing given the site and traffic conditions. The initial phase of this work has begun and a scheme will be developed to a stage suitable for consultation during the autumn.'</p> <p>Oldfield Park parking project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Feist informed the board that the project would be run as a pilot scheme. This would work with the community to gain their feedback and work together to take the issue forward. • Surveys would be carried out to accurately assess the need and a local steering group will also be formed. <p>Access from villages to Westbury Youth Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Willox has made several visits to Matravers School to gain feedback from the pupils, especially those that live in the rural villages, to better understand what problems are faced. Sally also explained that efforts will be made to get out to the villages themselves to gain the same feedback. • Councillor Swabey requested that figures from these findings are brought to a future area board. • One main theme found was that current transportation methods are not used because the young people find these to be too expensive and with timetables that do not suit, however they would use it if free or subsidised. • Councillor Tonge informed the board that a survey of the complete transport system in Wiltshire is due to take place, looking at costs and taking into consideration such factors as young peoples needs. The reports conclusion will then go into next years budget with the aim of finding resolutions to problems such as this. <p>Resolved: that an update on the progress of this be brought to the next area board by Sally Willox. Councillor Tonge agreed to take the message from the young people, to the Cabinet.</p> <p>Street Drinking and Anti Social Behaviour in Westbury Town Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Minty explained that the police faced two separate factors within this issue. Firstly, street drinkers who start during the day and continue through to night time. Secondly, late night drinkers who are on the streets following closing time and cause violence and anti-social behaviour. • Pippa McVeigh, Head of Crime Reduction, explained that it was her role to look at this problem across the county and finding solutions. There are schemes to address the drinking problems, but there are no quick fixes. 	<p>Sally Willox</p> <p>Councillor Dick Tonge</p>
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	<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the board supports the recently established working group considering alcohol related issues in Westbury, and that this group becomes a 'task and finish' group for the area board. 2. That the group develops an action plan to be brought back to the next meeting of the board and thereafter to monitor and report progress to the board. 3. The group should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wiltshire Council members from the area board - Appropriate officers of Wiltshire Council, including the Antisocial Behaviour Reduction Officer, Community Safety Manager, Licensing Officer, with input from other service areas if needed. - Westbury Town Council representative - Community Area Board Manager - Wiltshire Police <p>Traffic Relief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board were presented with a report written by David Bullock, Highways Improvement Manager, seeking support from the area board in reviewing the strategy for traffic relief in Westbury following the refusal of planning permission for the A350 Westbury Bypass. <p>Resolved: that the area board support this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board received a report with the agenda of the main reason for the rejection of Westbury Bypass. The report is available at: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/westburyareaboard.htm <p>Resolved: that the report be noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue was raised of Network Rail requesting a 3 tonne weight restriction on Station Road Bridge due to the assessment of its structural condition, and it was asked if any action had been taken. The board were informed that Highways will be required to advertise and introduce a 3 tonne weight limit, and Railways will also be reinforcing the bridge to strengthen it to allow for a 7 tonne capacity. <p>Westbury Main Post Office Update</p> <p>It was confirmed to the board that the location of the new Post Office will be at Co-op on Bitham Park from Thursday 24th September 2009.</p>	CAM
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8.	<p><u>Grants</u></p> <p>a)</p> <p>The board considered and made decisions on any applications submitted to the Community Area Grants Scheme. The decisions made were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bratton Parish Council (on behalf of the 5 Parish Councils in the Westbury Community Area) – Community Speedwatch - £1000 requested. <p>Resolved: that the application be approved</p>	
	<p>b)</p> <p>Peter Dunford, Community Area Team Manager (Wiltshire Council) informed the board about the Performance Reward Grant Scheme, in conjunction with the previously circulated report available at http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/wiltshirefamilyofpartnershipsworkingtogether/localagreementforwiltshire/performance_reward_grantscheme.htm</p> <p>Resolved: that the report be noted.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Planning for the Future of Westbury, Core Strategy Consultation</u></p> <p>The board were presented with a description of the Local Development Framework consultation process and how members, residents and other stakeholders can have their say on future planning policies for Westbury and Wiltshire as a whole. Some of the points covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial planner's purpose is to develop a clear vision for the future, creating guidance for developments. • The South West Regional Spatial Strategy will be taken into account. • Representations from the public are taken into consideration and are a valid and important contribution to the process as a whole. <p>The next steps in the consultation were explained. In the Nov/Dec period there will be awareness raising including a planning newsletter and press release. There will be direct involvement from officers in the form of exhibitions and workshops. Existing networks will be utilised in the process and online information and activity packs with DVD's will become available. The Public Exhibition will be on Wednesday 25 November 2009 at The Laverton Hall Westbury, 1pm – 7pm.</p>	

10.	<u>Nominations to Outside Bodies</u> The board elected Russell Hawker to represent the Westbury Area Board on Leigh Park Community Association (Westbury).	
11.	<u>Any Other Business that the Chairman considers to be urgent</u> There was none.	
12.	<u>Future Meeting Dates, Evaluation and Close</u> The board were informed that the next meeting will be on Thursday 10 December 2009, at the Main Hall, Matravers School, Westbury.	