

MINUTES

Meeting: WESTBURY AREA BOARD
Place: Matravers School, Springfield Road, Westbury, BA13 3QH
Date: Thursday 10 December 2009
Start Time: 7.00pm
Finish Time: 9.10pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Marie Todd (Area Board and Member Support Manager), direct line 01225 718036 or email marie.todd@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllrs Russell Hawker (Chairman) and David Jenkins

Cabinet Representative – John Brady (Economic Development, Planning and Housing)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Allan Creedy (Transport and Development Manager), (Sally Hendry (Community Area Manager) and Marie Todd (Area Board and Member Support Manager)

Town and Parish Councils

Cllrs JA Moody (Dilton Marsh Parish Council), ME Jones (Edington Parish Council), AF Brine (Heywood Parish Council), S Andrews and M Hawkins (Westbury Town Council), Francis Morland (Westbury Town Council, Heywood Parish Council and Dilton Marsh Parish Council) and A Whittle (Clerk to Bratton Parish Council)

Partners

CAYPIG – Marek Przybylski and Lotti Waghorn
Community Area Partnership – Rev Jonathan Burke and Kerry Eatwell
Matravers School – Tom Brodie, Bev Jessop and Heather Leach
Patients Forum – Bill Fanning
Wiltshire Access Group – D Gordon and R Windiss
Westbury Churches Together – Carole King
Westbury Churches Together and Westbury Leigh Baptist Church – Rev D Davies
White Horse News - Chris Melvin
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin
Wiltshire Police – PS Ashley, PC Foulger and PC Philpott

Wiltshire Police Authority – Cllr Ricky Rogers
Wiltshire Times – James Williams
Westbury Youth Centre – Michelle Slade

Members of Public in Attendance: 18
Total Number in Attendance: 53

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Westbury Area Board. He introduced Sally Hendry the new Community Area Manager for Westbury.</p> <p>It was noted that as there were only two Wiltshire Councillors present that the meeting was not quorate and that therefore no decisions could be made. However, there were a number of updates and reports to be discussed at the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Councillors Julie Swabey and Michael Cuthbert-Murray, Dr P Biggs and Cllr Christine Mitchell (Westbury Town Council).</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>As the meeting was inquorate the minutes of the two previous meetings will be confirmed at the next meeting.</p>	Marie Todd
4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
5.	<p><u>DVD and Presentation on Wiltshire Council Budget</u></p> <p>The Chairman explained that this exercise was part of the consultation on the Council's budget 2010-11. Residents' views were sought on how the Council's services should be prioritised, and this would form part of the consultation process prior to the Council setting the budget in February 2010.</p> <p>A short film was shown, which set out the main services provided by Wiltshire Council, how much these cost, and how they were funded. Following the film, those present were invited to complete "voting cards" which asked whether more, the same or less money should be spent on various services. The results from this Area Board would be made available later in the meeting, and the overall results would be reported to the Cabinet.</p>	

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6.	<p><u>Community Area Partnership Update</u></p> <p>Rev Jonathan Burke gave the following update regarding the work of the Community Area Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership last met in October and the main topic discussed was transport. The discussions would feed into the review of the local transport plan (LTP). • Concern had been expressed regarding the location of the Post Office in Westbury. There were some issues relating to access and the Partnership was currently undertaking some research on this matter. • The next meeting of the Partnership would take place on 13 January at Matravers School at 7pm for 7.30pm. The main topic for discussion would be the perceived anti-social behaviour in the area and how best to bridge some gaps. • The Partnership was supporting some local organisations such as “Fit as a Fiddle” and “Walk it and Work it”. • The Partnership was keen to assist with any potential grant funding applications. • Work was also progressing with local residents who wished to transform the Laverton into more of a community building. 	Community Area Partnership
7.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The Area Board received the following partner updates:</p> <p>(a) <u>Wiltshire Police</u></p> <p>Crime had decreased in the Westbury Area. High visibility police patrols had now been put in place in the evenings. Work had been undertaken with young people to prevent anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Quite a lot of work had taken place on the Community Speedwatch project. The A3098 was the main area of concern. It was likely that the Bratton area may also require a static camera to help to prevent speeding.</p> <p>A metro count had taken place in the Dilton Marsh area and the average speed had been 28.8mph.</p>	

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	<p>(b) <u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</u></p> <p>A detailed update report was circulated at the meeting. It was noted that the Christmas period was a busy time for the Fire and Rescue Service due to the increased use of candles at this time of year. If anyone required fire safety advice then this was available on the Fire and Rescue Service website or by telephoning Mike Franklin on 07919 306037.</p> <p>(c) <u>Chamber of Commerce</u></p> <p>Cllr David Jenkins gave a short presentation regarding the work of the Westbury Chamber of Commerce. The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50% of local businesses said there was a lack of suitable parking facilities in the area. • There were too many estate agents, charity shops and takeaways. • Turnover of shops and businesses was high and there was a need for a wider variety of shops to attract outside people. • It was important to make the town as attractive and accessible as possible. • The Chamber was planning to hold a business/job fair next year to help to stimulate the local economy. • The Chamber could offer networking opportunities and was part of the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce which included 17 towns. • Cllr John Brady then explained that the Council had identified land as part of the core strategy for business development in an attempt to stimulate the local economy. • The Cabinet had also set up a future job fund using £4m of government money. This would enable local businesses to take on apprentices for six months at no cost. This scheme was being provided in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Wiltshire College. 18-24 year olds who had been out of work for a certain period of time and university graduates returning to Wiltshire were eligible to take part in the scheme. • It was hoped that the Vision for Westbury project and upgraded signage would also help to improve the High Street. 	
8.	<p><u>Issues Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received updates on the following issues:</p>	

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	<p>(a) <u>Access from Villages to Westbury Youth Centre</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a report from the Community Area Young People's Issues Group (CAYPIG). The report highlighted concerns regarding transport for young people living in the Westbury Community Area preventing them from accessing out of school hours services. The young people also offered suggested solutions to transport issues, from the perspective of young people and to take action on these to try to provide an accessible transport service. A questionnaire had been sent out to those young people living in the villages and had found that they did not tend to use the public buses for various reasons.</p> <p>It was noted that the CAYPIG would provide a further update at the next meeting. The Board wished to ascertain to what extent the young people's needs had been met. It was important to identify which nights of the week the transport would be required to tie in with the youth facilities being available. The Board thanked the young people for their hard work in gathering evidence on this topic. It was also agreed that their findings would be sent to the relevant Cabinet member.</p> <p>(b) <u>Traffic on B3098</u></p> <p>Mr A Creedy updated the Board on the review of signage that would be taking place during 2010.</p> <p>(c) <u>A350 Traffic Relief</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that the Council was no longer pursuing a bypass scheme. There would now be a complete review of the A350 and the rail/bus corridors were being reviewed. This would be done through the local development framework (LDF) and the review of the local transport plan (LTP). The focus would be on delivering sustainable growth. The Government focus was now on "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS). Major development was likely to take place in Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham and there could be redistribution of transport capital for Westbury. However, it was noted that the traffic through Westbury could well increase with the development to the north and south.</p> <p>It was confirmed that instead of a 20mph speed limit through Westbury it was likely that changes to the environment such as creating "historic core zones" could be used to change the behaviour of motorists. The Historic Core Zone project was originally an initiative introduced by the English Towns Forum back in the 1990s and it investigated how traffic management schemes could be designed to suit areas with special historic character.</p>	<p>CAYPIG</p> <p>Marie Todd</p> <p>Alan Feist</p>

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	<p>The range of measures included in Historic Core Zone projects is wide, but broadly fall into several key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian amenity – exploring how to create ‘pedestrian zones’ which do not necessarily exclude traffic, but ensure drivers give way to pedestrians without relying solely on physical measures. • Traffic signs – experimentation with means of signing, and adapting to better fit in with surroundings, particularly in 20mph and pedestrian priority areas. • Street furniture and materials – use of locally referenced materials and bespoke furniture in innovative ways to not only improve the public realm but also to help denote specific zones and traffic management measures within the Historic Core Zone. • Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) – applying good practice to the development of clear and simple TROs to avoid the proliferation of signs and road markings in historic areas. <p>It was noted that the Council hoped to continue initiatives in the town to prevent traffic congestion but that along with the failure of the bypass proposal funding for the town centre improvements had also disappeared.</p> <p>(d) <u>Crossing on Warminster Road</u></p> <p>Mr A Creedy reported that a survey had now shown that the best location for a pedestrian crossing was near the Cedar Hotel and that this should be taken forward fairly soon.</p> <p>(e) <u>Town Centre Improvements (Maristow Street and Rotunda Project)</u></p> <p>A steering group had been set up to consider the proposed improvements to Maristow Street and the Rotunda project. Further public consultation would take place in 2010 on the detailed proposals.</p> <p>(f) <u>Parking on Oldfield Park</u></p> <p>It was noted that once the results of a recent survey had been analysed workshops would be held with residents to discuss potential solutions. It was important for the relevant evidence to be collected.</p> <p>(g) <u>Parking Management in Westbury</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update report on the issue of on street parking enforcement in Westbury. The statistics demonstrating</p>	

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	<p>parking enforcement and education activity were set out in the report. It was important to work with local traders to obtain the best outcome for the town.</p> <p>(h) <u>Late Night Drinking and Anti Social Behaviour in Westbury</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update following concerns raised at the last meeting. A working group had been set up to consider this matter and had met 4 times. The group included licensing officers, police and residents. An action plan had now been agreed and a copy was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The main concerns of residents in West End were noise between 11pm and 4am on Fridays and Saturdays, litter, the screeching of tyres and other anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The Police had increased patrols in the area and were working with landlords to prevent anti social behaviour. They actually entered the pubs when on patrol and attended local pub watch meetings. A roaming street camera had been placed in the West End area and work was ongoing with street drinkers in the Market Place.</p> <p>A log sheet had also been produced which enabled residents to keep a record of incidents and forward these to the police. 7 log sheets had now been received.</p> <p>It was proposed to hold a further meeting of the working group in early February</p> <p>The Area Board supported the action plan and agreed that updates should be brought to future meetings.</p> <p>(i) <u>Tourism and Signage in Westbury</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager reported that work was currently being undertaken to raise the profile of Westbury. This had been raised as an issue by Cllr David Jenkins who had highlighted the need to better promote the town and its heritage. This could be done by adding and updating specific signage to identify places of interest and thus encourage people to walk around and explore the town. This would also have a beneficial effect on the local economy.</p> <p>A blue plaque scheme was also being considered along with a town trail and tourist leaflet. There were a number of interesting historical buildings in Westbury such as Angel Mill and the Church Street swimming pool. The wool industry was also an important part of the town's heritage. This project has the backing of the town mayor, Sue Ezra, the county archivist and the heritage society. Fact finding research had also been undertaken with Warminster Civic Trust. Suggestions would be sought to identify suitable sites for the first plaques. An update on this project would be brought to future area board meetings.</p>	<p>Cllr David Jenkins Sally Hendry</p> <p>Cllr David Jenkins Sally Hendry</p>

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9.	<p><u>Community Grant Applications</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager reported that an extraordinary meeting of the Area Board had taken place on 1 December 2009 to consider three grant applications.</p> <p>£2,100 had been awarded to Westbury Town Council towards the cost of providing bollards in Market Place. £1,000 had been awarded to Bratton Parish Council to fund new village allotments. It had been recommended to the Leader of the Council that £300 be awarded to the Westbury Heritage Society to purchase prizes for the Westbury photographic competition.</p> <p>There was still around £18k available for community grants and the Board was very keen to hear from any interested groups. The Community Area Manager, Sally Hendry would be available from 2pm on 17 December and 7 January in the Westbury Library if anyone wished to discuss any local issues or grant applications.</p>	Sally Hendry
10.	<p><u>Feedback on Budget Consultation</u></p> <p>The results of the budget consultation were reported as follows:</p> <p>Top three results for more spending:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2. Adult social care for older people (joint 1st and 2nd place) 1/2. Traffic Management (joint 1st and 2nd place) 3. Adult Social Care for mentally ill and disabled people <p>Top three results for less spending:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archives or public records 2. Road safety training 3. Town centre improvements 	
11.	<p><u>Report back from Area Board Representatives on Outside Bodies</u></p> <p>Cllr Russell Hawker reported that the Council had stepped in to take control of the proposed community centre and nursery site and would be appointing a project manager to facilitate the progress and development of the Leigh Park Community Centre and Association. Despite considering resigning as the Council's representative on the Association Cllr Hawker had decided to continue due to these positive developments.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no urgent business to consider.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 11 February 2009 commencing at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	