

Partner Update

Update from	 Marlborough Town Council
Date of Area Board Meeting	24 th January 2017

Headlines/Key Issues

Public Toilets - Update

Councillors have selected their preferred contractor for the refurbishment of the public toilets at George Lane Car Park and depending on weather, work is planned to start in late February with completion in April. All is looking good for opening in the spring. Borrowing approval for the project has been received and a loan will be drawn down from the Public Works Loan Board – a statutory government organisation that lends at preferential rates to local authorities. Running costs of public toilets are high – cleaning, utilities, electricity, water, business rates, etc. We have been advised by the British Toilet Association that the toilets should be a chargeable service to help meet these costs and Councillors have agreed to a rate of 20p which is in line with charges in similar sized towns across the country and will help to keep down the costs for local council tax payers.

The Town Council is grateful for the contribution of £1,000 towards the project from the Marlborough Area Board.

The Chantry Lane toilets will remain open until George Lane is ready and will then be sold to help fund the remainder of works to the building.

Asset Transfers and Devolution of Services

Alongside the setting of budgets and the precept for 2017/18, Members also looked at proposals for taking on assets and services from Wiltshire Council – an offer put to the Town Council in 2016. This would involve taking on a 'bundle' of assets and services as has been done by Salisbury City Council. Expressions of interest were made some time ago by the Town Council about the former Youth Centre at St Margaret's Mead and the Corner House (former Children's Centre) together with requests for details of running costs, condition surveys, etc. Further questions have been sent to WC about all those assets and services put forward to ensure that the Town Council has all facts in hand so it can be as ready and resilient as possible for the undoubted increase in services and assets it will be taking on. A Working Party has been set up to look at the proposals in detail.

Town Council - Small Grants Scheme

The scheme for 2016/17 is now closed with all the awards allocated. This year there have been funding grants made to East Wilts Mencap, St John's Ambulance, Phoenix Brass, The Jubilee Centre, Prospect Hospice, Manton Pre-school, The Bobby Van Trust, Revitalise and more. The scheme will re-open from April 2017.

Making Changes

The Town Council is working with the Area Board to bring together those with long term conditions, physical and learning disabilities and mental health issues. This group will feed into consultations such as the JSA and issues affecting them throughout the community area. It next meets on Wednesday, 25th January at 3.30pm at Marlborough Bowls Club.

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Kingsbury Street – A group of residents in Kingsbury Street has contacted the Town Council about traffic and parking concerns. A public meeting is being arranged for representatives, Wiltshire Council and the Town Council.

Air Quality Issues

A presentation was made to the Town Council about air quality issues on 9th January and a proposal to request metro counts on all roads leading into the town as a starting point to a 20mph speed restriction will be discussed ahead of the next CATG meeting.

Other Planning Issues

The Planning Committee has requested to be involved in planning discussions around the future of St Peter's School building and also in reserved matters for the Crown Estates land at Salisbury Road (which has already been granted outline planning permission).

The Town Council was disappointed that, in spite of its representations and those of local residents, McCarthy & Stone will be stepping out of its S106 Agreement and will not be making a contribution of £334,625 towards affordable housing which was linked to its development at Granham Hill.

Civic Dinner

The Mayor will be hosting a Civic Dinner on Friday, 24th February 2017. Guests of Honour will be the 4th Military Intelligence Battalion. Tickets and more information available from the Town Council offices.

Marlborough Puppet Festival

This is a new event planned for July 2017. Many of Marlborough's residents will remember the importance of Pelham Puppets to the town and may well have worked at the factory based in London Road. Others will have grown up playing with the internationally famous puppets and will have their own personal favourites. The Town Council is delighted to be helping to support the organisers of a Pelham Puppet Festival in the summer. Anyone who would like to be involved in this, please contact the Town Council offices.

**For more information, please contact Marlborough Town Council
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