



BA13 COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP Report January 2020

The most recent BA13+ Community Area Partnership meeting took place last November at the Laverton and was themed around TRANSPORT in the Westbury area.

The first guest speaker was **Graham Ellis** from TravelWatch South West, which promotes the interests of users and potential users of public transport across the region. Graham explained that Westbury is an important railway hub. The potential for a new Ashton Park Station beside the White Horse Business Park was also mentioned. Graham described the timetable changes which GWR are bringing in during December this year which would lead to an increase in frequency of trains from Westbury to Bristol and Bristol to Swindon, and then went on to cover the subject of buses and recent changes to the timetable, including a reduction from two buses an hour to one bus an hour on the D1 service, with possibly more changes to come.

Paul Pointer, the Chair of the Transport group on Westbury Neighbourhood Plan, then went on to explain that we understand that residents would like to be able to cycle safely around the town, particularly to and from the railway station, the town centre, the trading estates and the schools. It's difficult to envisage how cycle routes could be built on existing routes, but we can however influence future developments, and hopefully encourage a shuttle Hopper service to and from the railway station, certainly during peak periods.

Phil McMullen, the BA13 CAP administrator, then went on to explain that a key element of the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan for Westbury is to identify sites for future development in the town in order to address any identified local needs. Project Staff have therefore called for land-owners in the town to get in touch if they might potentially have an interest in promoting their land for development, primarily for a mix of affordable and open market residential use. It was also made clear that they would welcome details of land that owners might wish to see taken forward to provide wider community benefit, for example as space for children's play areas, allotments, cycle paths and footways, or for leisure or educational use.

Graham Ellis welcomes follow-up contacts at graham@wellho.net. Westbury Neighbourhood Plan can be contacted at neighbourhoodplan@westburycouncil.gov.uk

The next BA13 Community Area Partnership steering group meeting is to be held on **Wednesday 11th March 2020**, at Crosspoint in Westbury at 7.30 pm.

Phil McMullen
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