

New Power Behind The Pillars

Moves to improve the quality of life in and around Warminster will be the focus of a local organisation, which has recruited someone especially for the job.

Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP) has appointed Debra Leslie in the new role which will involve updating the community area plan.

The plan highlights the key local issues that affect the daily lives of people who live, work and play in the locality.

Debra, who has lived in the area for eight years, has considerable experience as a senior manager with Shell International, working with a number of the Shell Businesses in a Project Management role.

Debra said, "My husband is currently working abroad and with our children now well settled at school, I have been looking for a way to contribute to the local community by drawing on my business skills and experience.

"Given the wide-ranging nature of the partnership's remit, I feel this is just the opportunity I've been hoping to find."

The community plan, which covers the period 2005 – 2015 is structured around eight key topics known as pillars which include economy, tourism and employment, housing and the built environment.

It also features culture including leisure, recreation, heritage and arts, countryside and land-based issues, transport, access and traffic, education and life-long learning, health and social care and crime community safety.

The topics will be considered from particular perspectives

such as young and older people, the villages and the environment.

The update of the plan will include a review of progress to date on the various issues covered by voluntary and community-based organisations together with local authorities and agencies.

Debra will organise consultation forums and surveys which together with future initiatives for the area, will form the bedrock of an updated plan up to 2025.

She will also focus on raising

the profile of the pillars which have not attracted as much community involvement as others in the past and encourage the role of community groups.

WVCP chairman, Digby Barker said, "A number of community groups relating to the pillars are extremely active and while operating autonomously under the 'umbrella' of the partnership, benefit from its provision of support and encouragement where needed.

"I know Debra is also looking forward to this aspect of her role."



Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP) co-ordinator Debra Leslie.