

Area Board Review and Actions

During summer 2011 an electronic review of all area boards was undertaken. The responses relating to Malmesbury area board were generally very positive, but it was felt as there was always room for improvement, issues which did not receive a high score should be considered again as part of a workshop at the 9 November 2011 area board. The feedback received has been considered and some actions identified. If these are approved at the 18 January area board they would be implemented immediately.

	The Question	Ideas from the Workshop	Actions
1.	How should we consult with parish councils about issues that are referred to the area board?	<p><i>Recognise different sizes of parish and different ways of operating and requirements</i></p> <p><i>The area board <u>must</u> refer issues to the relevant PC giving it the opportunity to solve the issue or defer to the Area Board</i></p>	All community issues are/will be referred to parish/town councils (Clerk and Chairman) and given two weeks in which to respond as to whether the parish/town council are already or wish to resolve the matter or whether they wish the area board to take the lead.
2.	How should we increase your opportunity to have your say?	<p><i>Easier access to meetings</i></p> <p><i>Allocate more air time to the villages</i></p> <p><i>Alternate area board between Malmesbury and villages</i></p>	<p>Venues will vary as far as possible.</p> <p>The Chairman invites contributions from the floor when items are being discussed.</p>
3.	What topics would you like to see on the area board agenda	<p><i>Better communication and two way interaction with parish councils (especially where smaller villages are in that parish)</i></p> <p><i>Encourage parish councillors to attend meetings and give reports on what is happening in the smaller villages</i></p>	<p>Parish/town council Clerk/Chairman will be invited by Democratic Services Officer to submit items for the agenda. Please give plenty of notice to allow research/speakers to be identified.</p> <p>N.B. This may not be used to circumnavigate the issues process.</p> <p>Parish/town councils are invited to submit updates about local activity.</p>

4.	What issues would you like to see the area board consulting on widely with the community?	<i>Speeding in small villages</i> <i>Ask Elizabeth Ngero to give a Community Speed Watch presentation of data for villages where they have been using speed detection devices – resulting in a public discussion with a view to hearing other villages experiences and also general fact funding on available tools/funding/advice and support</i>	Speeding is regularly considered via the Community Speedwatch Scheme and Community Area Transport Group.
5.	What topics would you like to be able to make a decision on?	<i>Area Board meeting is not fairly representative</i>	The Chairman invites everyone to have their say at meetings. Decisions are made by elected councillors in consultation with local people.
6.	What further powers should the area board have?	<i>None</i> <i>Planning</i> <i>CATG</i> <i>Local purchasing</i> <i>Budget – core service and project assistance</i>	Planning is separate, but representation to all planning applications is possible by individuals and parish/town councils. Local people are engaged in Malmesbury and Sherston developing pilot Neighbourhood Plans. All CATG recommendations are considered by the area board which makes the decision about funding projects.
7.	How can we improve publicity/information about the area board meetings?	<i>Increase email contacts</i>	Investigating new ways to encourage sign up to receive area board, 'Just a Minute' and electronic newsletters.
8.	What additional information would you like to see on Malmesbury area board website?	<i>Information on all community issues, diary dates etc in the area</i>	Community issues can be reported and tracked on the Malmesbury area board webpage where minutes of meetings can be found.

			www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards A new web presence is being piloted with the ambition in the near future to be able to provide far more community information.
9.	How would you like your local Wiltshire councillors to be more involved in resolving issues?	<i>Attend parish council meetings</i> <i>Individual – quick responsive</i>	Most councillors do regularly attend parish council meetings.
10.	How should the area board consider the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people?	<i>Social Services</i> <i>Police</i> <i>Relevant Charities</i> <i>Community First</i> <i>Age UK</i>	The area board's team are currently involved in a project, 'Wiltshire Voices' which seeks to identify and raise awareness to the needs of groups of people whose voices are rarely heard at area boards.