

MINUTES

Meeting: DEVIZES AREA BOARD
Place: Devizes Sports Club, London Rd, Devizes SN10 2DL
Date: 28 January 2013
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.30 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer), on 01249 706610 or alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Laura Mayes (Chairman), Cllr Jeffrey Ody, Cllr Jane Burton (Vice Chairman), Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE and Cllr Liz Bryant

Wiltshire Council Officers

Dave Ashdown (Technical Support Officer), Danny Everett (Drainage Engineer), Richard Rogers (Community Area Manager) and Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer)

Town and Parish Councillors

Devizes Town – Peter Evans, Sue Evans, Simon Fisher, Kelvin Nash, Margaret Taylor and Ray Taylor

Bishops Cannings – G Anstell

Bromham - Jo Partt

Cheverell Magna – Ann Lumb

Easterton – C Saunders

Erlestoke – Dean Moore

Etchilhampton – M Woods

Market Lavington – D Ballardie

Rowde – Peter Allfrey, Jackie Bawden, Rebekah Jeffries and Albert Wooldridge

Urchfont – Nicky Mitchell

West Lavington – Sandra Gamble

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Matt Armstrong and Angus Macpherson

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Devizes Community Area Partnership – Peter Baxter, Kate Freeman, David Fuller, Simon Jacobs, Margaret Nightingale, Ian Rose, Rick Rowland and Tony Sedgwick

Total in attendance: 86

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome and Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special mention to Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council, and Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon.</p> <p>The Chairman provided information about the topics below, as in the agenda pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Welfare Reform in Wiltshire – The Welfare Reform Act 2012 would bring about Government change to welfare intended to simplify the benefits system and encourage people to work. Those affected would be contacted and further information was available on the Wiltshire Council website. ii. Youth Service Update – including the formation of Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) in each community area, led by young people. The YAG would be a more formal version of the previous CAYPIG. iii. Wiltshire Online: Connectivity and Provision – the Wiltshire Online Programme would bring availability of standard and superfast broadband to homes and businesses across the county. iv. Legacy for Wiltshire – a series of evening events were being held to focus on what could be done in 2013 to help communities come together and celebrate, as in 2012. The Chairman drew attention to the event at the Corn Exchange on Wednesday 27 February at the Corn Exchange, Devizes at 6.30 pm, with refreshments available from 6.00 pm. v. Joint Strategic Assessment for Health and Wellbeing 2012-13 – this document was now available and could be downloaded from the Wiltshire Intelligence Network website.
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies had been received from Richard Harris (Integrated Youth Service Locality Team Leader) and Paula Winchcombe (Devizes Community Area Partnership).</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record.</p>
4	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Bryant declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10d, a grant application from Rowde Community Village Shop, as her mum worked as a volunteer in the shop. She was free to take part in the debate and vote.</p>

5	<p><u>Four Years of the Area Board</u></p> <p>Councillor Mayes explained that four years had passed since the introduction of the area boards with the move to a unitary Wiltshire Council. The area board had developed from addressing service issues to taking on strategic projects. Councillor Mayes explained the key to success in Devizes had been the active community that the area board worked with and she thanked its members and the supporting officers.</p> <p>A short film was shown about the achievements of the area board and how it was working with local people. The film was available to view on the Wiltshire Council website.</p>
6	<p><u>Angus Macpherson, the new Police and Crime Commissioner</u></p> <p>Angus Macpherson, Wiltshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, presented information about the future of policing in Wiltshire.</p> <p>This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Commissioner – this was a commissioning role to ensure a policing service fit for purpose in Wiltshire. • Angus had a budget of £100 million and five support staff. • He was at present writing a five year Police and Crime Plan to set the strategic direction of policing in Wiltshire and Swindon. • The plan was available for comment from 18 February until 10 March, with the intention to publish the plan on 28 March. You can read and give views on the plan via the Police and Crime Commissioner's website – www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk. • In short, the aim of the plan was for community-based policing, protecting the most vulnerable, putting victims and witnesses first, reducing reoffending, improving quality of life, customer service, ensuring a timely response and unlocking resources. <p>This was followed by a short question and answer session, which covered the main points below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police and Crime Panel – this was a statutory Panel hosted by Wiltshire Council and made up of councillors from Wiltshire and Swindon and two independent members. The main role of the Panel was to hold the Commissioner to account. • A list of Panel members was available to view on the Wiltshire Council website and their meetings were public meetings. • A strategic review of the entire Wiltshire Police estate was underway. • Recruitment for Wiltshire Police had not taken place for three years, however Angus was now in the happy position of being able to recruit. A pool of 1,000 applicants had been received recently for 20 posts.
7	<p><u>Jane Scott - Leader of Wiltshire Council</u></p>

Councillor Jane Scott OBE provided a short overview of the future of local government. Local government was largely controlled by Whitehall and made relevant to Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council was a big and efficient authority working at the local level through the area boards. The move to one unitary Wiltshire Council had saved nearly £100 million over the last four years. There were challenging demographic times ahead, with an increase in both younger and older people, and finance remained an issue. Wiltshire Council was looking to provide its services in new and innovative ways, such as volunteers coming forward to plug the gaps in the library service. Joint working with partner organisations would continue to be important. An element of this was the sharing of public assets, for example Wiltshire Police moving into the Monkton Park office with the closure of the police station at Wood Lane. In summary, Wiltshire Council was in a strong position to weather the current storm in local government.

This was followed by an opportunity to ask questions, which covered the following main points:

- Wiltshire Council had not increased council tax in the last four years. However it should be for local people not central government to decide whether town and parish councils should cap their precepts.
- Wiltshire Council had a two year pilot scheme to monitor the success of 20mph limits.
- Wiltshire Council clearly supported a Trans Wiltshire train line to improve rail connectivity across the county.
- Air quality in Devizes – a bypass was not financially viable for the town. A lot of traffic was locally generated and Councillor Scott encouraged everybody to consider leaving their cars behind when possible and to develop walk/cycle to school/work schemes.
- Community asset transfer of The Shambles and its market – Councillor Scott was not aware of reluctance for the transfer and believed the issue was still open for discussion. Councillor Mayes clarified if the market was transferred concerns had been raised regarding the associated loss of revenue.
- Superabundance of housing in Devizes and the role of local people in controlling build – Councillor Scott commented the Core Strategy was now in progress and it was important to remember that young people did want housing they could afford. In Devizes, a number of developers had got in before the Core Strategy was in place and Wiltshire had lost several appeals on the basis that houses were needed to boost the economy. Once the Core Strategy was in place, neighbourhood plans could be further developed with community input as to where build should go.
- Wiltshire Council was committed to supporting parish councils to take on the running of very local services such as play areas. However the support on offer had not always been taken up.

Decision

Rowde Parish Council would liaise with Richard Rogers regarding the support available to them from Wiltshire Council.

8	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>a. The written update from Wiltshire Police was noted. Wiltshire Police was pleased to report that the local team was up to full strength. There were a number of new faces as team members were developed and would inevitably move on.</p> <p>b. The written update from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service was noted. Mike Franklin highlighted that the number of fires had dropped to only five in December 2012.</p> <p>c. The written update from NHS Wiltshire was noted.</p> <p>d. The written update from Devizes Community Area Partnership was noted. Tony Sedgwick congratulated Devizes Area Board on its achievements in the last four years and added that a great strength was the relationship between the Partnership and the area board. Display boards about safe cycle routes and the Devizes Transport Strategy were available to view and comment on at the meeting and on the Partnership's website. The economy group were continuing with their mentoring scheme in schools and were encouraging new businesses through the 'Devizes Means Business' scheme. The reopening of a tourism desk was an exciting development and Tony thanked Age UK for their generosity as its host.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Area Board agreed to release the second tranche of agreed funding of £5819.00 to the Devizes Community Area Partnership.</p> <p>e. Councillor Gamble presented an update about the Community Area Transport Group. With regards to the proposed path over the Green, while it was not mandatory to light, this was strongly recommended for safety reasons. Installing low level lighting was now being investigated. The Devizes Transport Strategy had been discussed comprehensively at the area board meeting in September and the Partnership and Kate Freeman were thanked for their work. A task and finish group had been established to form a priority list and a schedule of work. The group would report back to the area board.</p> <p>f. The Air Quality Steering Group had held two meetings thus far. Their first task had been to clarify their purpose and to develop terms of reference. The administration of the air quality management area decision had been completed and reported to Defra.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Devizes Area Board ratified the terms of reference, as included in the agenda pack, for the Air Quality Steering Group.</p>
9	<p><u>Flooding on the Roads</u></p> <p>Danny Everett, Wiltshire Council Drainage Engineer, provided information about dealing with flooding on the roads in the community area. The situation today was very different to that in May when there had been a hosepipe ban. Danny provided an overview of the successful experiences during the recent flooding</p>

	<p>with regard to drainage. He explained that the drainage team operated with a wide remit with limited resources. This included drainage of high speed roads, property flooding, low speed roads, residential land and agricultural land. Danny invited parish and town councils to provide maps and data on historical flooding to help develop future action plans and preventative strategies.</p> <p>Danny confirmed that the landowner was responsible for blocked ditches. If there were problems with clearing ditches, the next step would be to contact the relevant parish council. Wiltshire Council would only then become involved if this became a 'sticky' issue.</p>
10	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>Councillors were asked to consider five applications made to the Community Area Grants Scheme.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts were awarded the remaining £2,900 of the £5,000 that was ring fenced for their work this financial year.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the 2012/13 grant criteria and this application would help increase cultural activities.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Friends of Erlestoke Prison were awarded £1,500 towards a mosaic project with the offenders to help them think about their victims, on condition that the project was shared with the local community.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the 2012/13 grant criteria and would help with the prevention of crime.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Market Lavington Parish Council were awarded £275 towards equipment for the Friday night youth club.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the 2012/13 grant criteria and the initiative helped to address concerns around anti social behaviour, as well as offering more positive activities for young people.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Rowde Community Village Shop were awarded £999 to make alterations to the shop in order to meet safety regulations and increase storage capacity.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p>

	<p><i>The application met the 2012/13 grant criteria and the transfer of stock from the loft area where it was stored to the shop via a ladder was very difficult for the elderly volunteers and also against safety regulations.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Cycle Devizes were awarded £1,000 towards an event to celebrate national bike week in June 2013.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the 2012/13 grant criteria and cycling was one of the key priorities for the area board to reduce reliance upon car usage and for health reasons.</i></p> <p>The Chairman asked the councillors to consider a recommendation to delegate certain authority over the pre-elections period in order to facilitate the smooth and efficient running of area board business.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> That in respect of urgent matters that may arise from time to time between meetings of an area board, the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the unitary councillors on the area board, be granted delegated authority to make any necessary financial decisions. A report explaining the decision and the reasons why it was considered to be urgent shall be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the Area Board to ensure that such decisions are subject to public examination.</p>
11	<p><u>Evaluation and Close.</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished them a safe journey home. The next meeting would take place on Monday 20 May at 6.30 pm at Devizes Sports Club.</p>