

# Just a Minute

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Devizes Area Board

July 2011

Just a Minute is a summary of the official minutes for the Devizes Area Board as well as some other useful information. Copies of the full set of formal minutes are available from Alexa Smith - contact details can be found on the back page.

## Chairman's foreword

Welcome to our latest edition of Just a Minute – the Devizes Area Board newsletter that keeps you up to date with all the latest issues. We had a good meeting in July, covering many topics.

I particularly enjoyed presenting the feedback from a series of meetings Richard Rogers and I had with many of our parish councils. The meetings were extremely useful and will help the Board to work more effectively with our parishes. We are already seeing the results of shared projects like village gates and safety bollards, and I would encourage parishes to come to us when they have ideas and projects to see how we can help.

The hot topic for Devizes has been concerns about pollution and air quality. More congestion through the town has led to increased pollution levels. This is something we must address. We have taken a number of steps to do this: monitoring air quality, updating the traffic model, creating more cycle routes and improving junctions to increase traffic flow. Wiltshire Council officers are working with the Board to ensure any significant developments in the town must undertake an environmental impact assessment, address the issue of air quality, and propose measures to mitigate the impact.

Finally, everyone at July's meeting got a chance to vote on which projects they would like the Board to work on for the coming year. Read on to see what was agreed!

*Laura Mayes*

Chairman Devizes Area Board



## Area Board sets its priorities

Devizes Area Board has committed itself to taking forward the following 4 existing areas of work:

1. Support the creation of neighbourhood plans to compliment and strengthen the Wiltshire Core Strategy
2. Provision of skatepark and BMX site in Devizes
3. To focus upon those health related issues that need improving in the area (e.g. childhood obesity)
4. Continue the work of the Traffic Group with an emphasis upon tackling pollution and congestion in Devizes

There is also an opportunity to help establish a community farm and this will become a priority if it is confirmed



At the Area Board meeting, those attending

were asked to vote for their top two priorities from a list of 6. Top came 'health provision' and 'low cost housing for local people' with 'Economy and employment' coming in a close third. Each Unitary Member will be responsible for taking a lead on one of the priorities.

## New improvements along London Road agreed

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The Area Board agreed the proposal from the Devizes Traffic Group to improve congestion along the London Road and help promote cycling. A strategy to provide a safe cycling route through Devizes and especially to the new School has been put together. Through utilising unallocated funding from the development along Folly Road, the first phase of the work can be taken forward for implementation this financial year:

- I. Toucan crossing for pedestrians and cyclists close to where Windsor Drive meets London Road
- II. Shared use footway/cycle track from new crossing to NCN4 / canal towpath
- III. Provision of marked parking spaces and new road markings on London Road before Estcourt Street
- IV. Relocate existing bus stop from West of Morrisons to the Surgery.
- V. Provision of secure cycle parking area in town centre

It is excellent news that the Area Board working together with Devizes Community Area Partnership has not only been able to deliver these improvements but also set out a vision for future work as funds become available. A big 'thank you' needs to go to all those who have helped and in particular those who have been part of the Cycling Working Group

## Parish and Town Councils

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Cllr Mayes gave a short report on the key messages and resultant actions that have arisen from the visits that she and Richard Rogers have made to the Parish Councils.

These are:

1. To provide a table reserved for Parish Council reps at the meeting and to ask them for their comments first
2. To be conscious of the differences between Parish Councils and to hold a future meeting aimed mainly at the rural parishes
3. To help support joint working between Parish Councils
4. To improve communication in both directions and for the Board to be a champion for simpler and better consultation.
5. To provide a simple summary to help Parish Councils understand the bigger picture and see how the various groups fit together
6. Support Parish Councils to understand and implement the Localsim Bill



The Parish Forum meets every two months and at the last meeting it was felt that these were the main areas to work on and especially to help improve the way consultation is carried out.

## Changing the way we support 13 to 19 year olds

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Wiltshire Council is looking at changing the way youth work for 13 to 19 year olds will be carried out. Those attending the Board heard about 4 different options that are being consulted on at the moment and how each would change the way youth work occurs in the Devizes area. These are:

1. Testing the market for youth work services
2. Developing local partnerships with the voluntary sector, schools and college
3. Close alignment with campus developments and local management
4. Changing local youth work through reduced reliance on existing buildings



To find out more or to respond to the consultation, go to [www.wiltshirepathways.org](http://www.wiltshirepathways.org)

## Early look at DCAP survey

The Area Board were given an early glimpse at what may be emerging from the questionnaire that the Devizes Community Area Partnership sent out to all households. About 3000 responses have been returned which is excellent. Approximately 1000 have already been entered.



Early indications are that people enjoy living in Devizes and are reasonably pleased with

their facilities and services. There also seems to be some evidence that the Area Board priorities such as low cost housing and reducing reliance upon the car are the right ones. All the returns will need to be entered and analysed and these will be used to help shape future work. In addition, all those attending the local schools have taken part in a complimentary consultation exercise and these results will also be available.

## New Waste & Recycling Service

Whilst we are all recycling our waste better than we have done, we need to do more to reach government targets and avoid having to pay more local tax to dispose of our waste in landfill. Consultation was carried out in summer 2010 on

whether residents in the area would support a new proposal. Over 97% of respondents voted in favour! As a result the following changes will be introduced.



1. New bins for plastic bottles and cardboard in November 2011
2. New non chargeable garden waste collections. You need to sign up for this at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin) before Sep 2011 in order to get your bin in Feb 2012.
3. Black box recycling will be every 2 weeks
4. Household waste will be every 2 weeks

## Grants

The Area Board welcomes grant applications particularly for new innovative work or where it helps address its priorities. Forms and guidance can be found by [clicking here](#)

### Three grants were awarded by the Devizes Area Board at its July meeting.

- Devizes Carnival was awarded £2,200 to run more activities particularly in more rural areas and with schools.
- White Horse Opera were awarded £999 to purchase mobile lighting to enable them to perform in more locations
- Market Lavington Parish Council were awarded £1,275 towards setting up a pilot project to provide youth work in the Parish

## Energy monitors a success

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The scheme, launched on April 4<sup>th</sup> which allows members of the public to borrow energy monitors from their library has received excellent feedback.

A lady who borrowed one came in a week later absolutely delighted. She had saved £20 a week off her electricity bill simply by switching off one electrical item. Her old chest freezer, which barely had any food in it anyway, was using nearly half of all her electricity. Someone else borrowed one of the new Energy Monitors to demonstrate to his recalcitrant daughter that it was much cheaper to boil just enough water in the kettle for one cup, rather than filling it full. He was so delighted with the result that when he returned it he announced that he was going to buy one for himself!

If you would also like to borrow one and save some money, then contact your local library for details.

## Contacts

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Your councillors are:

**Laura Mayes – Chairman – Roundway**  
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**Jeff Ody – Vice Chairman – Devizes & Roundway South**  
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**Elizabeth Bryant – Bromham, Rowde and Potterne**  
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**Nigel Carter – Devizes North**  
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**Richard Gamble – The Lavingtons and Erlestoke**  
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**Lionel Grundy OBE – Urchfont and the Cannings**  
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Your Council officers and partner contacts include

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**Police - Inspector Ron Peach**  
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**Wiltshire & Swindon Fire & Rescue Service: Rob Wild**  
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## Keep in touch

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Would you like to receive e-mail alerts, information and future editions of Just a Minute telling you about the Devizes Area Board and its partners? If so, please sign up to the Community Area Network by sending an e-mail with your details to: [Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Our meetings begin at 7pm, but we invite you to come along from 6:30pm to join us for refreshments and the opportunity to speak with your local Councillors and partner representatives.

## Future meetings

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**Devizes Area Board - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
October 2011, 7pm, Devizes Bowls Club

**Parish Forum – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**  
September, 6.30pm, Browfort, Devizes

**DCAP - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 5.30pm**  
Browfort, Devizes