Welcome

We enjoyed visiting Kennet Valley Village Hall for our April area board meeting. The meeting was well attended and we welcomed a higher than usual number of parish councils.

The area board enjoyed informative presentations, particularly from Sustrans and from the North Wessex Downs AONB.

I look forward to welcoming you all to the next area board meeting to be held at St Michael’s Primary School, Aldbourne on 21 June.

Cllr Chris Humphries – Chairman

Partner updates

**Wiltshire Police** have made some changes to their staffing in the Marlborough community area. We welcome Inspector Ron Peach and his deputy Sergeant Mark Gale and look forward to seeing them at future area board meetings. We thank outgoing Inspector Andy Noble for his work and support in our area.

**NHS Wiltshire** – A new Wiltshire service for adults with eating disorders is now available at Savernake Hospital, Marlborough. This new service provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust offers a range of interventions and based in Wiltshire it will make it easier for local people to use.

Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership has agreed to transfer the management of the Community Area Plan project (to be delivered by the Development Trust) from the partnership to the area board.

Rich Pitts, chairman, advised that he would be standing down in terms of the active development of MaVCAP with immediate effect, but would continue to deal with administrative matters with the vice chair. A set of accounts would be produced at the end of February and a report of work undertaken including any outstanding issues.

The Chairman thanked Rich Pitts for his update and his work with MaVCAP.

**Marlborough Area Development Trust’s**

Chairman Martin Cook gave an update which highlighted the new MADT website and an invitation to everyone to get involved in the consultation process for the new Marlborough community area plan.

**Marlborough Area Parish Forum’s** inaugural meeting had taken place and its first chairman James Keith said that it had agreed its objectives and would meet again. It had been authorised by the parish councils to enter into detailed discussions with the area board on meeting these agreed objectives.

**Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group (CAYPIG)**’s representative Mary Spanswick said that the CAYPIG had been visiting young people throughout the Marlborough community area to map out what and where young people were meeting and the facilities that they had or used. The CAYPIG were keen to make and expand links with the parishes and were looking at ways to bring young people in from the villages to Marlborough for youth projects and events.
North Wessex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Henry Oliver gave an overview of the organisation and its work in the Marlborough area. He described how the North Wessex Downs were protected in 1972 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. The area is the third largest in England. The organisation aimed to foster socio-economic well-being of communities within AONBs and to provide for quiet informal recreation.

Sustrans and the Chiseldon Railway Path

Alistair Millington of Sustrans and Nick Stedman, the volunteer group co-ordinator, gave an overview of the path’s history and relevance to local people and also briefed the meeting on recent and proposed work to the path. The path is about eight miles long and was created during the 1980s. Better publicity is required to promote this local asset and local money is needed to fund the path’s upkeep and help make it better for both cyclists and horse riders. Sustrans was struggling to manage the path on their own and a volunteer network had been established to carry out routine maintenance.

Library review outcomes

Joan Davis talked about the results of the review and how it would affect the Marlborough community area. She made the following points:

- All mobile library stops will continue to operate.
- Marlborough library opening hours are to be reduced from 42.5 to 33 hours a week.
- Ramsbury, which is amongst Wiltshire’s 10 smallest libraries accounting for 3% of visits overall, would be operated in partnership with volunteers, and supported by the library service.
- Aldbourne Library is currently under discussion with possible precept-raising by its parish council to fund it.
- New self service technology will be introduced to all libraries.
- The Contactpoint service at Marlborough Library will cease.

Community Services Contract

Helen Bourner from Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation about the Great Western Hospital contract to run Community Services currently run by the PCT (health clinics, community hospitals, maternity services and neighbourhood teams).

Disabled Young People

Jan Bowra from the Youth Development Service introduced a bridging project that she is running for disabled young people aged 13-19. A DVD presentation was screened prior to the meeting setting out the project’s aims. The young people were encouraged to come to the Marlborough youth centre on a Monday evening where they would be buddied up with another youth club member who would then help to involve them in the youth club activities.

Grants awarded!

The 2011/12 Community Area Grant funding criteria have been changed with the emphasis on funding projects from community and voluntary groups. Further details can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards or click here.

Two community area grants were awarded to Avebury Community Shop to purchase and an electronic point of sale till to streamline the ordering, weighing and sales of goods and Ramsbury and Aldbourne Bowls Club to purchase junior sized sets of bowls to encourage young people into the sport.

Next meeting – all welcome

Tuesday 21 June 2011
St Michael’s C of E Primary School
Back Lane, Aldbourne, SN8 2BP
6.30pm for 7.00pm start

The agenda will include:

Speeding in the Marlborough area
Progress of the community area plan
Commissioning strategy for youth services

What do you want to discuss?
Let me know and we’ll do our best to get it onto the agenda