

# Just a Minute

Broad Hinton, Winterbourne Bassett, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Monkton, Avebury, East Kennett, West Overton, Fyfield, Preshute, Savernake, Mildenhall, Rambury, Froxfield, Chilton Foliat, Baydon, Aldbourne, Ogbourne St George, Ogbourne St Andrew, Marlborough

Marlborough Area Board

13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Just a Minute is a summary of the official minutes for the Marlborough Area Board. Copies of the full set of formal minutes are available from Marie Todd the Committee Clerk – Marie.Todd@Wiltshire.gov.uk

## Area Boards are GO!

In June and July Wiltshire Council launched 18 area boards across the county. Over 1500 people attended this first round of meetings and overall they were very well received scoring a 77% satisfaction rating from those who came along. In the Marlborough Community Area 56 people attended the meeting held at Kennet Valley Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Each of the area boards is made up of the councillors that local people have elected to represent them, together with one member of the council's top decision making committee, the Cabinet. Key organisations like the police and the local NHS also play an active part in area boards together with town and parish councils and members of the local community area

Key organisations like the police and the local NHS also play an active part in area boards together with town and parish councils and members of the local community area partnership, MAVCAP (Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership). MAVCAP is an independent, voluntary and non-political organisation which brings together public bodies, businesses and voluntary and community groups. The Marlborough Area Board will meet every six to eight weeks at various locations within the area

to make decisions about issues affecting the community. Those decisions will be taken by your elected Wiltshire councillors who represent the towns and villages in the area.

The chairman, Councillor Chris Humphries welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Marlborough Area Board and explained his hope that decisions of the area board would be reached by consensus and the full co-operation of all.

Chris Humphries points out: "We want to encourage local people to come along and discuss issues with their local councillors. We can then take those views into account when making



Chair of Marlborough Area Board, Councillor Chris Humphries with Julia Densham from the council.

final decisions. Wiltshire Council, the police, fire and the NHS deliver services across the whole county – but it is the job of the area boards to ensure those services are carefully tailored to meet local needs in your area. Area boards will also provide a way for local people to shape the policies and services of the new Wiltshire Council, the police, NHS and other partners. So, do please come along to a meeting and find out more - the dates are set out in this newsletter.

## Grants for community projects

Are you a community or voluntary group, a town or parish council who is looking to fund a community project in Wiltshire, before the end of March 2010? If the answer is yes, then Community Area Grants are for you.

- Marlborough Area Board has £34,121 available to support grants applications in 2009/10
- £5000 available for your community project.
- Funding linked to local priorities
- Simple application process
- Up to and including £1,000 may be available for small projects, where there will be no need for you to find matched funding
- Up to 50% of the total cost of a project, where the total cost is more than £1,000
- Support for organisations making applications
- Signposting to other sources of funding

Funding is available to help provide facilities, equipment and activities that are important to the local community. These awards can really make a big difference in helping communities get schemes and projects started. Applications are now invited - to find out more about the funding criteria please visit

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard). Applications will be considered at future meetings of the board.

Email: [alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07917721371

## Getting things done

The Marlborough Area Board exists to make things better in the area. This means working to sort out issues raised by local people and local groups.



Young people at the Marlborough Area Board

The council has developed a new way of dealing with these issues which enables local people to submit issues, track the progress of the issue and see the outcome. There is a simple form available to enable people to submit issues or this can be done online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard).

Once an issue has been raised it will be logged and progress can be tracked against that issue on the website. The first step will be for the community area manager to check if the issue is one for the area board to consider. Not all issues will need to be dealt with by an area board, but might be directly referred to the relevant service provider or community area partnership. At any stage in the process, the issue may be solved, dealt with or deferred for good reason.

If the issue is to be considered by the area board, the community area manager will discuss it further with the person raising the issue and other appropriate people, including the councillor who represents the area in which the issue is being

raised. The community area manager will gather further details to scope out the issue and any other information which may be required. For example, further information from the community might be required, some consultation, or a balanced view of the issue.

A report will be prepared for the area board and it will be put on the agenda. If the issue is not resolved at the area board, the chair of the area board will host round table discussions with the relevant officers, councillors, town or parish council etc. The outcomes of discussions and any resolution, or if the issue cannot be resolved, will be fed back to the person who has raised the issue.



Sergeant Andy Peach at the Marlborough Area Board, Wiltshire Police are supporting area boards across the county

Service professionals, interested parties and those likely to be affected by the decision (including groups who might be hard to include or need to be approached in a special way) will be able to have a say before consideration of an issue by the area board. Area boards will set up task and finish groups to examine and report back on complex issues. They will also be free to organise research to clarify issues, assess impact of decisions or to identify available options. So, if you have an issue affecting you and your community we want to hear about it. Why not go online and log your issue today.

## Keep in touch

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A community area network (CAN) will be established in the Marlborough area. This will be open to anyone who wants to sign-up for email alerts and information about the work of the Board and its partners. You can sign up for the CAN by sending an email with your details to [alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk).

Web-based information - using email to direct people to online information held on a local website - is the preferred method of communicating with the public and partners. The needs of those who cannot access electronic sources of information should also be kept in mind

The e-based network will have agenda, reports, minutes, diary of events, forward work programme, links to local organisations, contacts, feedback mechanisms and provide a medium for communication between groups. The web site and e-based communication network will comply with the Data Protection Act, be easily navigable and user-friendly and kept up to date. And, don't worry, the community area network database will afford individuals with an opportunity to opt-out at any time - although we are sure you will not want to do that!

Email: [alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.sullivan@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07917 721371

## Alison is here to help

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Alison Sullivan has been appointed to support the area board and to work in the community areas covered by the board. The role of the community area manager is



Community Area Manager,  
Alison Sullivan

another important feature of the way Wiltshire Council will work with communities. Alison will work very closely with the area board and local councillors, but she will also work with many other organisations in the locality. It will be important for community area managers to work across traditional organisation and agency boundaries, developing networks, partnerships and relationships at the local level. Alison will also help promote the area, help make things happen and act as a go-between in disputes.

Wherever possible, the community area manager will provide early warning to service managers (and partner agencies) of issues that crop up in the community before they go to the area board. This will allow service teams to give early advice that may resolve the issue before it gets any bigger. The community area managers will help frontline services and partners to recruit volunteers and to identify those individuals and organisations that may be able to assist in providing services – flood wardens, first responders, traffic census staff, polling and canvass staff, sports coaches, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators etc.

To promote working between different agencies at a local level, the community area managers will be provided with training about frontline services and key partner agencies and afterwards will keep in close touch with them.

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## CAP News

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MAVCAP are in the process of updating the local area plan, the Chair of MACVAP is Rich Pitts and he is coordinating the consultation with groups, interested parties, parishes and all local people to bring together the local priorities for the area, to get involved contact Rich.

Contact Rich Pitts  
Email: [rp447973513360@googlemail.com](mailto:rp447973513360@googlemail.com)

## Health Update

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Following an update from local Community Engagement Officer, Jo Howes and the outcome of the recent judicial review, a decision was taken to prepare a presentation for the next Area Board on the facilities at Savernake Hospital.

Councillor Chris Humphries and members of the Board have decided that an additional meeting should be held on 23rd September 6.30 – 7pm at Marlborough Town Hall so why not come along to the next area board meeting on:

## Next Meeting

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Come along and find out more about the Marlborough Area Board.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
at 6.30 for 7pm  
Marlborough Town Hall  
Followed by  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at  
Mildenhall Village Hall, 6.30  
for 7pm**