

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **TROWBRIDGE AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **27 February 2008**

Held in: **The Atrium, West Wiltshire District Council,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire**

Present:

West Wiltshire District Council
Representatives: Cllrs J Osborn (Chairman), Carbin (part), Fortescue,
Fuller, Hedley

County Council
Representatives

Trowbridge Town Council
Representative

Parish Council
Representatives Cllrs Robert Bowyer & Robert Oglesby - Semington
Cllr Kath Noble – Southwick
Cllrs Peter Westbrook & Geoff Watkins - West Ashton

Parish Liaison Group
Representative Cllr Gaynor Polglase

Community Area Partnership
Representative Doug Ross

Officers: Adam Nardell – Regeneration Project Manager
Peter Dunford – Wiltshire County Council
Jacky Nicholas – Community Development Officer
Kevin Fielding – Democratic Support Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blakemore, Clark, Coop, H.Osborn, Phillips OBE, Seager and Sexstone.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Fuller – anything FPI related – Board Member Jepson Housing Association.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

None.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. OUTCOME OF ITEMS REFERRED TO CABINET

None.

6. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST TROWBRIDGE AREA SEMINAR

The Chairman advised the Committee that a written update would be forwarded to all Members with an update covering Southwick allotments and future provision of public toilets within Trowbridge town centre.

7. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

Trowbridge Community Area Futures - Cllr Headley updated the Seminar on the following:

- Economy and Transport.
- Pressure Groups to improve public transport.
- Wildlife conservation issues.
- Education and lifelong learning.
- Community Safety.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Headley for his informative update.

8. MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS ON COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP THEME GROUPS

Housing and Built Environment - Cllr Fortescue advised the Seminar that the final West Wilts District Council PFI planning application would go before the Planning Committee on 14 February, Cllr Fortescue was pleased that all parties had worked together in a positive manner to make the PFI applications a reality within West Wiltshire.

That a lot of good work was ongoing within the Housing Departments of West Wilts District Council.

Crime and Community Safety - Jacky Nicholas (Community Development Officer) advised the Seminar that the Police Neighbourhood Tasking Groups had been very successful in and around Trowbridge and that the Parish Liaison Group Partnership had proved to be very successful.

9. MATTERS THAT TROWBRIDGE COMMUNITY AREA FUTURE WISH TO RAISE

Doug Ross advised the Seminar that he had attended a forum of the Wiltshire Area Partnerships where it had become apparent that not all Partnerships were as well funded as others, this he felt is why it was important that Partnerships worked closely with both District and County Councils to be effective.

10. SMALL GRANTS AWARDED

The Community Development Officer gave the Seminar an overview of how small grants were awarded to local groups within the Trowbridge area, she made the point that the West Wilts District Council were looking to help more local groups who were looking for small grants.

See attached sheet – Trowbridge Area Small Grants 2007-08

11. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS UPDATE

The Community Development Officer updated Members on the work that she had been undertaking, she outlined her main role which is to support WWDC Members in their community leadership role, Members were informed that she would be happy to meet with any Member to discuss this.

12. TRANSFORMING TROWBRIDGE & UPDATE ON THE BOWYERS FACTORY

Adam Nardell (Regeneration Project Manager) updated the Seminar on the ongoing regeneration projects within Trowbridge, areas included:

- The Waterside Project.
- The former Wincanton site.
- Ushers Bottling Plant site.
- The Former Peter Black site
- Pork Farm (Bowyers).
- The River Biss Project.
- St Stephens Place.

The Chairman thanked Adam Nardell for attending the Seminar and for giving such an informative update.

13. TRANSITION TO NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN TROWBRIDGE AREA

Peter Dunford (Wiltshire County Council) gave a powerpoint presentation to the Seminar, (see attached).

After the presentation Peter Dunford canvassed Members for their views on the proposed Community Area Boards.

Points raised by Members included:

- Who will stand in the new Unitary Council.
- Will Community Area Boards all have the same structure.
- What sort of balance will there be.
- That the democratic process should be open and transparent.
- That all Board Members, whether Parish, Town etc should be able to vote and influence the debate.
- That meetings should be held on a quarterly basis.

Peter Dunford advised the Seminar that the Unitary Council would like to use the Trowbridge Area Seminar as a pilot Community Area Board, but if this were the case it would have to meet on a more regular basis.

It was therefore agreed that a working group would be set up comprising of:

Cllrs Fuller, Knight, J.Osborn, Oglesby, Gaynor Polglase, Doug Ross and Jacky Nicholas.

This group would meet on a regular basis.

14. REPORT ON REVIEW OF AREA SEMINARS

The Community Development Officer advised the Seminar that some interesting points had come through from the returned questionnaires, but that events had been largely overtaken now with the Unitary Council proposal looking likely to become reality and with the introduction of Community Area Boards.

15. ITEMS THAT REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET

Future Provision of public toilet within Trowbridge Town centre.

16. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged.

(7.00pm – 8.40pm)

These minutes were prepared by Kevin Fielding, Democratic Support Officer
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