

- **New Community Strategy for South Wiltshire**
- **Six community plans launched**
- **New Assistant Partnership Manager for Alliance**
- **New Vice-Chairman for Board**
- **Consultation on way forward for community planning**
- **Date of Alliance conference**

The Alliance is a partnership of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in Salisbury and South Wiltshire who have adopted the following vision for the district:

“That we work together to create a safe and caring place, where it is easy to get about and where value for money services contribute to a high quality of life and environment, with equality of opportunity for all.”

www.southwilts.com/site/swsa

New Community Strategy for South Wiltshire

Leading organisations in South Wiltshire have joined forces to help improve the lives of the whole community.

The South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance (SWSA) has unveiled its four-year vision for the local community. It includes an action plan to target SWSA's four main priorities:

- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Affordable housing
- Improving access to public services
- SWSA members leading by example in the key areas of health, skills, environment and social inclusion.

This is the first time the Alliance has produced such a far-reaching strategy that will see all of the organisations working together to achieve key objectives. The strategy is inclusive for all sections of the community. Here are just a few examples of the actions the Alliance intends to implement over the next four years:

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

- To reduce crime by 12.5% in 10 crime categories
- Reduce by 40% the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wiltshire's roads by 2010
- Identify children and young people most at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime to

- give them and their family support.
- Reduce volume of alcohol-related crime and disorder

Affordable housing

- Increase the number of affordable homes for key workers and local people
- Identify the housing needs of the area and current supply of housing
- Undertake an audit of current land in ownership of the statutory bodies, which has the potential for affordable housing developments.
- Identify key rural communities, which would benefit from affordable housing.

Improving access to local services

- Hold a rural transport symposium to identify who provides public transport, where there are gaps in the service and how it can be better delivered.

- A joint district and county council A-Z guide to local services.
- Undertake study to identify villages most deprived of local services.
- Produce special A-Z guide of services for young people.

Leading by example

- Educating school children about the dangers of smoking and support public sector staff to stop smoking.
- Increase the number of school children eating five or more portions of fruit and veg a day.
- Encourage more school children to take an active part in some form of exercise.
- Each SWSA member will reduce the amount of waste it produces and increase the amount of waste recycled.

You can view the full community strategy at www.southwilts.co.uk/site/South-Wiltshire-Strategic-Alliance. It is also available at local libraries and council offices.

New Vice-Chairman for Alliance Board

The Chairmanship of the Alliance Executive and Board were reviewed in May and June 2005 in line with the terms of reference which stipulate that the role will be reviewed annually.

Barbara Carter, who represents the Patient and Public Involvement Healthcare Forum on the Board, was elected as Vice-Chairman following the resignation of Peter

Ellis (Council for Voluntary Service). Kevin Wren (Salisbury District Council) remains as Chairman of the Board. Thank you to Peter for his input in the past year.

Linda Cantillon (South Wiltshire Action Against Poverty) continues to chair the Executive for a further year and Jeremy Wickham (Wiltshire Constabulary) remains as Vice-chairman.

New Assistant Partnership Manager for Alliance

Additional support to the Alliance is now available following the appointment of Claire Westlake as Assistant Partnership Manager. The Alliance now has two part-time employees providing support,

following the creation of this post funded from existing budgets. Claire will be working closely with Ariane Crampton on all Alliance business.

Six Community Plans launched

All six community plans have now been unveiled by the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance.

At the beginning of 2005, four of the plans were launched – Salisbury City Area, Mere and District, Stonehenge Area and Four Rivers Area. Now the remaining two plans have now been adopted: Nadder Valley Area and Southern Area.

The community plans were drafted following extensive consultation with people throughout South Wiltshire. All 49,000 households were sent a questionnaire asking them to set out their priorities for their areas – and a fantastic 37% responded. A special panel of local residents called the People's Voice were also asked their views. That feedback has now formed the community plans which will help frame the work of all the Alliance partners until 2009.

Each community plan sets out the priorities of that particular local community, covering issues that affect health, education, transport, the local economy, community safety, housing, culture and the environment. They also set out what is already being done to address those priorities and what can be done in the future.

The plans will be monitored to see how far people's priorities are being met, and this will be fed back through the relevant district council area committee on a six monthly basis.

Each community area has a community planner who will help oversee the plans. Local people can also become involved in helping

to reach these goals by getting in touch with their local community planner.

Chairman of the SWSA board, Cllr Kevin Wren, said: "A lot of work has gone into producing these plans but the real work starts now. The plans include many aspirations for each area and for those aspirations to be met it is essential that every single member of SWSA and the local community join forces to help make this happen. I would urge every single resident to look at their community plan and find out how they can get involved in helping to improve the areas they live in."

How can I obtain a copy of the plan?

The plans have been distributed through local libraries and shops. Copies can be downloaded from the Alliance website (www.southwilts.com/site/swsa) or obtained by calling 01722 434641.

Vice chairman of the SWSA board, Barbara Carter of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum, said: "Every single member of the local community is urged to get involved in the community planning process so we can, together, help to improve the areas we live and work in. Each area has its own community planner who can help local people find out more how they can become involved."

Community planners can be contacted by email on swsa@salisbury.gov.uk or by calling 01722 434641.

The first progress report on the community plans will be presented to the Alliance Board on 25 October and available on the website thereafter.

Consultation on way forward for community planning

Following adoption of the community plans, the Alliance Board requested that a formal review of the community planning process should take place, with an emphasis on agreeing a way forward. This would enable future community plans to be developed with the benefit of the lessons learned from this process. It would also give stakeholders an opportunity to feed back formally and air any frustrations with the process.

A stakeholder meeting was therefore arranged for 25 May 2005 in the City Hall. Invitations were sent to all Board members, parish councils, district and county councillors.

Feedback from the meeting

A total of 32 parish, district and county councillors attended the meeting which was facilitated by Linda Cantillon, Chair of the Alliance Executive. The meeting opened with a presentation by Richard Sheard (SDC) and Cllr Nancy Bryant (WCC) setting out the current situation.

Participants then took part in three workshops to discuss

- A definition of community planning
- The strengths and weaknesses of the community planning process to date.
- What they saw as the way forward for community planning.

A joint presentation by SDC, WCC and the Alliance also set out current thinking about community planning, using parish plans and community leadership as the building block for the future.

The feedback from the event has been discussed by the Executive and a proposal will be developed which addresses the ideas and concerns of participants. This proposal would then be considered by the Board, before being subjected to fuller consultation with a wider range of stakeholders, including those parish councils who were not represented at the meeting on 25 May.

Date of Next Alliance Conference

Following the success of the conference held in September 2004, the Alliance will be holding a follow-up conference **on 8 February 2006** at Sarum College, The Close, Salisbury 5.00-7.30 pm. The aim of the conference will be to report progress to a wide range of stakeholders on the

community strategy and community plans. The event will be open to all district and county councillors as well as a representative from each parish or town council. Other key stakeholders who have been involved in community planning will also be invited.

This newsletter gives an overview of items discussed at the meetings of the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance held between January and July 2005.

If you require any further information or have found this newsletter useful please contact Ariane Crampton, South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance Partnership Team Manager with your comments on 01722 434 641 or at swsa@salisbury.gov.uk
www.southwilts.com/site/swsa