Communication

Good communication

Good communication is crucial to the effective relationships between the Council, the Area Boards and the local communities of Wiltshire.

A number of methods are used to involve the widest range of local people, partners and service providers, and this has been a priority from the beginning. Web and email communications are increasingly favoured by many and are also most cost effective.

Area Board meetings take place about once every 8 weeks and provide an opportunity for people to come along and have their say on local issues that are important to them. However, it is recognised that it's not always convenient for some people to attend these meetings, but it's still important to ensure that these people have an opportunity for their voices to be heard. That's where the Community Area Network comes in.

The Community Area Network (CAN)

Each Area Board operates its own Community Area Network, which provides an opportunity for everybody to be kept informed about what's going on in their local community and across the county.

The CAN - what is that?

The Community Area Network is a convenient way of communicating local news via email.

Simply by signing-up to the Community Area Network via email, you will receive regular updates direct to your inbox on local news and initiatives, events, surveys and opportunities for getting involved in things that are happening in your community.

The Amesbury CAN Newsletter

The Community Area Network also provides an opportunity to keep up-to-date with the work of your local Area Board, so whether you regularly attend your local Area Board meetings or not, the Community Area Network allows you to keep in touch and have your say on things that are important to you.

We would really like to see as many people as possible getting involved in their local Area Board and local decisions. If you live, work or go to school in Wiltshire, the Area Board in your area also includes you. Your views and ideas are important in assessing problems and potential solutions and in deciding how council services should be delivered.

It's easy to sign-up to your local Community Area Network. You can either contact your Community Area Manager, or you can use the online contact form on the Wiltshire Council website.

Community blog sites: 'Our Community Matters'

 The 'Our Community Matters' blog sites are a set of websites that aim to strengthen local communities in Wiltshire by making it easier for local people and groups to talk to one another online and share valuable information.

People can use these virtual noticeboards to find out about local news, grants, projects, debates, events, jobs, and volunteering opportunities in their area.

These blog sites are interactive and local people can post stories and have their say on what other people are talking about and start their own conversations. They are also a free channel for local organisations to publicise community events and have discussions.

Wiltshire Council has developed these sites with the support of NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and Salisbury

City Council, as part of its commitment to help strengthen local communities.

These blog sites are part of the council's online and social media presence to find additional ways to talk with local people about what matters to them.

How can I get involved?

These sites are designed for the community and are simple to use. Anyone can use the sites to post details of upcoming events, and to post ideas or comments. There is also a quick and easy registration process which allows users to post local news stories and jobs/volunteering opportunities in their areas.

Community Reporters

If you are interested in what is happening in your local area and would like to become more involved in your local community blog site, you could also consider becoming a Community Reporter.

Community Reporters are volunteers who will be trained and equipped to post stories, photos and videos directly onto the blog sites, featuring anything from concerts and events to oral histories and vox pops.

For more information on becoming a community reporter, just contact your Community Area Manager, or the Our Community Matters team on socialmedia@wiltshire.gov.uk.   Remember; it's your community, so have your say!

Further information:

The Area Board pages
Find out more about blogging
Find your local blogsite