

**9. Update on the Work of the Area West Community Safety Action Panel**

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**Purpose of the Report**

To update members on the work of the Area West Community Safety Action Panel (AWCSAP) since April this year.

**Recommendation**

That members note the contents of the report.

**Background**

Following the restructure of the Safer South Somerset Partnership, the AWCSAP was initiated in 2004. The Panel links upwards to the Community Safety Steering Group, which itself links to the Mendip and South Somerset Community Safety Partnership Executive. The panel is intended to be easily accessible to all grass roots staff, parish and town councils and the community in general. The panel is made up of representatives from the Parish, District and County councils as well as other relevant bodies. Dan Shortland is the Area West Committee representative.

The AWCSAP considers area issues and key themes and puts them into an action plan. In addition it is able to fund both revenue and capital schemes, which support the objectives of the Plan.

**Report**

AWCSAP continues to meet on a monthly basis and is well supported by its constituent agencies. The panel was successful in receiving government funding for 2007/08 to run its grant programme. The funding allocation it received was the same as that for 2006/07 namely £7,448 Revenue and £7,570 Capital.

**Arrangements**

At its AGM the Panel has elected a new chair, Dan Shortland and vice chair, Cathy Morrison, for the coming year.

The panel has recently created a new finance sub group to oversee funding decisions and make recommendations to the main group. The first meeting of this group has already been convened and a number of proposals are under consideration for 2007/08

The panel has also revised its terms of reference to reflect changes in priorities and membership.

**Funding Priorities 2007/08**

Funding for 2007/08 has been confirmed and the following funding proposals have been submitted for 2007/08:

- Rogue Traders – leaflets and ‘no cold calling’ signs.
- A similar proposal to the yellow card scheme to highlight inappropriate parking in school areas or on zigzags. The Panel suggested a red card. To be distributed by PCSOs. (These cards have now been delivered)
- Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch Events for each LAG area.
- Ilminster – Support Shopwatch by purchasing units for Radiolink
- Ilminster – The Tiling Project
- Support for parishes wanting to establish Youth Parish Councils.
- Proposals for enhancements to the Chard skate park.

The Panel is still seeking additional applications. The proposals, which the panel have so far agreed to support, are as follows;

Organisation	Project	Funding Allocation
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Distraction Burglary – poster and leaflet campaign	Up to £600 revenue
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Red Card Parking Scheme around schools.	Up to £151 revenue
Ilminster LAG	Community Safety Event	Next years spend
Crewkerne LAG	Community Safety Event	£100
Chard LAG	Community Safety Event	£300
Ilminster LAG	Tiling project	£1,055 revenue

### Local Action Groups

Local Action Groups in Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster continue to meet regularly and report back on their activities to the panel. An update on their most recent activities is detailed below;

- **Chard**

The representatives from Tatworth and Forton are experiencing problems in finding a location for a youth club. The Chard Community Safety Day will be on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at the Guildhall. There has been a recurrence of the young people racing in Tesco car park. The group suggested that there are motor enthusiast groups that meet in Chard, which might interest these young people.

- **Ilminster**

The Chair reported that there are now 11 Community Speed Watch sites. Shopwatch is being upgraded and a Chamber of Commerce rep now sits on the LAG. The Chair is working with PC Louise Wright to bring Radiolink to Ilminster. A bid will be submitted to the panel to support the link up between this new Radio Link and the existing scheme in Chard. At the beginning of September a young people’s project started on the recreation ground. A very successful drug and alcohol awareness event was held in September and the Ilminster Community Safety Day is set for May 2008.

- **Crewkerne**

The Community Safety Day has successfully taken place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. They are looking at using volunteers to monitor the CCTV with a trial evening to be held shortly. They are enhancing Pubwatch and linking in with Chard and Ilminster. A new 'Drug Proof your Kids' course is due to start at the end of the year.

In addition, all local action groups have been asked to provide information to the Somerset Market Towns Investments Group to inform decision-making on a CCTV programme.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for Area West Committee.

### **Implications for Corporate Priorities**

- Maintain above 90 per cent the people who generally feel safe in their communities
- Maintain above 80 per cent the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live

**Background Papers:** None.

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