

## ‘Influence for the Sector’

Tuesday 2nd March 2010 ~ Warminster Assembly Halls

The Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium (WIC) are very pleased to bring you feedback from the Assembly and share with you some of our achievements and activities from the day.

94 people from across the voluntary and community sector attended the Assembly including our partners and colleagues from Wiltshire Council, NHS and the Police. We were also delighted to welcome our Lord Lieutenant Mr. John Bush to the Assembly and were very pleased to have his support on the day.



### Message from the Chair

*I am hopeful that our third WIC Wiltshire VCS Assembly will prove to be a decisive moment in terms of becoming an effective voice on behalf of the voluntary and community sector. Unfortunately much of our efforts to date have been focused on the rather introspective task of “forming” – constitutions, structures and all the dull, albeit necessary, stuff. Now we are “fit for purpose” and “open” for the real business of actually being relevant and responsive to the needs of our constituents throughout Wiltshire. With our Development Manager now in post we have the capacity to make some excellent progress on all areas.*

*The Assembly is a great way of sharing experiences for our mutual benefit and we are determined to maintain the momentum until we meet again. Accordingly please keep in touch; after all we all need to work together to help make the difference that we all want.*

**Terry Deegan, Chair of WIC**

### Items included:

**Communities of Interest, Key Speaker - Peter Couchman, The Compact, Responses to Feedback, The Role of WIC, Future Assemblies**

# Looking Back on the Day...



## Terry Deegan

As Chair, Terry set out what he hoped to achieve from the day and was keen to ensure that the outcomes were met with actions following the Assembly.

## Peter Couchman

Peter Couchman was the key speaker for the day, setting the scene on the theme of Influence for the Sector. He gave a very encouraging and inspiring talk and referred to examples of where influence had achieved objectives for the sector. Peter also led table discussions on the subject of influence.



## Discussion and Communities of Interest

The Assembly spent the afternoon discussing common issues and needs within Communities of Interest. These groups produced some excellent feedback which is to be used to determine priorities for WIC on behalf of the sector. Common areas across the communities included the need to redefine and clarify the role of WIC.

## VOICE 'Axis of Influence'

The Axis of Influence is a current project being developed and delivered by WIC. It aims to support the sector to have an effective and respected VOICE into decision making and shaping policy for Wiltshire. There are currently 12 trained facilitators who are ready to roll out a number of pilots across Wiltshire and WIC is looking forward to offering it out wider later this year.

## The Compact

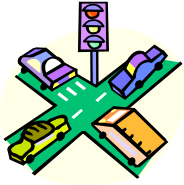
Rex Webb, Chair of the Compact Board presented an introduction to this document. The Compact sets out key principles of partnership working and aims to provide support for community groups in Wiltshire to be involved with the development of healthy and vibrant communities in the County.

## Displays and Networking

The WIC organisations brought along a number of displays to give a taste of the support on offer to voluntary and community sector organisations in Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council also brought along a display and joined in with the Assembly throughout the day.

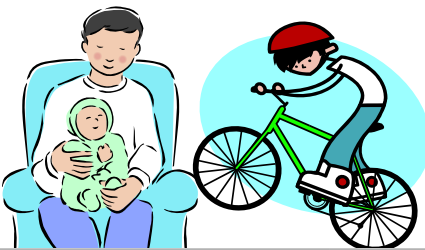


# Communities of Interest - Your feedback



**Transport** — It was highlighted that there is a need to develop a tool that will enable people to find out more information, add comments, ask questions and find out latest developments on transport matters.

**Interfaith** — The group are keen to establish a strong and respected voice. They would like to build upon current mechanisms that will enable their voice to be heard and raise the profile on the commonalities of their communities irrelevant of their faith or religion.



**Children, Young People & Families** — Lots of existing good practice for this area but would be good to link it all together, to build an even stronger voice, to ensure there is representation, sustainability and opportunities to network and work collaboratively in partnership.

**Health , Social Care & Older People** — A need for a directory of services, listing statutory and voluntary services in health and Social Care. It would be good to clarify how we link national policies to Wiltshire and opportunities to share good practice across the sectors. Clarify Out of Hours GP services.



**Information and Advice** — Much of the feedback related to how accurate information can be collected, clarifying legal responsibilities, running issue focussed events to support commissioning processes and issues that affect Wiltshire

**Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport** — This group felt that WIC could undertake a mapping exercise to ensure that everyone is informed as to how many groups and providers are working across, Arts, Sport, Heritage and Culture in Wiltshire.



**Equality & Diversity** — WIC needs to be clear about their role in supporting and promoting equalities and inclusion. There was also a view that WIC could support the development of a toolkit that enables organisations to look at equality and inclusion.

**Environment** — There was a general view that WIC could support the environment of Wiltshire by embedding sustainability into its work and take a role in lobbying for action.



To read all feedback notes visit...

[www.wiltshireinfrastructureconsortium.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireinfrastructureconsortium.org.uk)

# The Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium

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Feedback received from the Assembly asked for further clarification on the role of the Consortium in Wiltshire. As a result of this feedback, the WIC have held an 'Away Day' to ensure its role focuses on the needs and wishes of the Assembly. The outcomes from the day included a revised Vision and we are pleased to share both the role of WIC and its revised Vision.

## What will WIC actually do?

Bring to you the Wiltshire VCS Assembly twice a year.

The members of the WIC Board (see logos on front of this paper) will come together to look at what the needs of the sector are both now and in the future and discuss, explore and make decisions on how we can address common issues in Wiltshire.

WIC will also work to ensure that there is a strategic VOICE for the sector and work to support this crucial area of work to ensure decision making takes into account the needs and culture of the voluntary and community sector.

WIC will lobby and represent your views and challenge decision making that has an impact on the sector.

WIC will be able to respond to the sector with feedback on many issues, topics and feedback relating to matters raised by you as an Assembly.

WIC will develop a mechanism for two way communication to ensure everybody remains up to date and informed on emerging developments, locally, regionally and nationally.

WIC will support you through the COMPACT and act as a 'interface' for groups wishing to liaise with partners.

***Come and ask us anything!***

**WIC VISION**  
*"Working together WIC will be the recognised strategic champion, influencing policy, action and providing support to create a thriving voluntary and community sector in Wiltshire through voice and Influence, consultation, providing Leadership and undertaking research and analysis at a strategic level"*

## Contact details:

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Volunteer Centre Swindon	01793 420557
WREC	01225 766439
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***The Assembly was brought to you by the Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium and funded by Capacity Builders.***

