

Community Empowerment Champion

How Wiltshire is increasing public participation

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**South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre road show
at the Steam Museum, Swindon**

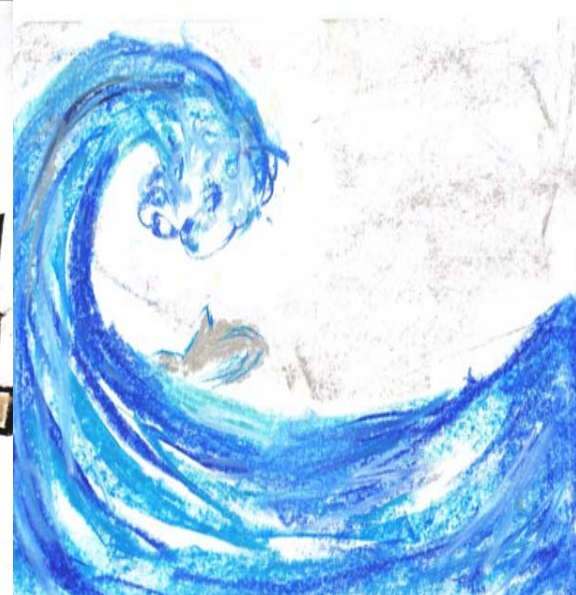
AMESBURY BRADFORD ON AVON CALNE CHIPPENHAM CORSHAM DEVIZES DOWNTON MALMESBURY
MARLBOROUGH MELKSHAM MERE PEWSEY SALISBURY TIDWORTH TISBURY TROWBRIDGE WARMINSTER
WESTBURY WILTON WOOTTON BASSETT WILTSHIRE'S COMMUNITY AREAS

Wiltshire Model

- What we mean by public participation and community empowerment
- Reconciling tensions between representative and participative styles of democracy
- Empowering councillors and service providers to empower communities
- Opening up more direct local influence over service provision
- Local executive boards with real influence and decision-making powers for their communities

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Moving from different examples of engagement...



...towards a coherent governance system

- Changing cultures
- Realigning frontline services
- Being creative and responsive
- Redesigning the top down and bottom up meeting place
- Collaborative evaluation of partnerships
- Being more open and inclusive
- Supporting councillors and town and parishes
- Transparency of spending and use of resources
- Making a difference and having fun

Lowering the barriers...



Culture Clash Quiz

How much does Cllr Jane Scott,
Leader of the Council
know about youth
issues in Wiltshire?

Some examples of areas local people are interested in having more influence over

- Community safety including intergenerational relationships, anti social behaviour, perceptions etc
- All aspects of street scene
- Schools, children's services and youth services
- Social care, including inclusion and support
- Opening hours eg libraries, leisure centres
- Community grants
- Many town councils interested in transfer of open spaces, play areas, sports facilities and allotments; also car parks, public toilets, recycling, litter, markets
- Extension of the parish steward model

Proving it makes a difference

- Importance of quick wins and visibility
- Bringing all of our stakeholders with us
- Visibility and confidence-building through quick wins and building sustainable ways of working
- Measuring and evaluating participation
- Serving people lives not just providing services
- Building resilient communities
- Why do people choose to participate?