

Client: Salisbury District Council – Parishing Salisbury

Issues: With the creation of the unitary Wiltshire Council, the city of Salisbury was in danger of being the only un-parished area in the county.

However, Salisbury District Council planned to create a new parish council serving the City and wanted feedback from local people and stakeholders before any final decisions were taken.

Strategy: PPS was asked to arrange and facilitate five focus groups to get a greater understanding of what sort of council local people wanted in terms of services and costs. These focus groups supported the statutory consultation carried out by Salisbury District Council and additional quantitative work carried out by the Council's team.

Each focus group began with a comprehensive presentation about the workings of local government and then explored a series of options covering issues such as the number of councillors, costs and service levels.

The results, fed back directly to senior councillors, were clear. There was strong support for a new parish council in principal and one option in particular was preferred. Clear guidance was given on the number of councillors, the type of service and the way the council should represent Salisbury's residents.

As a follow up, PPS was asked to design and facilitate a stakeholder workshop in 2009 to try and identify priorities, vision and governance matters for the new councillors.

Outcome: The workshop was able to present a series of key actions for the new parish council in the lead up to Vesting Day and a clear steer on what it needed to achieve and how over the next three years.

Images:



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