

MINUTES

Meeting: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Place: Lyneham Primary School, Preston Lane, Lyneham, Chippenham,
SN15 4QJ
Date: 13 March 2024
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 9.16 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Allison Bucknell (Chairman), Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Steve Bucknell and
Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Nic Puntis (Portfolio Holder for Flooding) and Cllr Caroline Thomas (Cabinet
Member for Transport, Street Scene, and Flooding)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Sam Howell (Director Highways and Transport),
Jason Salter (Head of Service for Passenger Transport)
Chris Clark (Head of Local Highways)
Jack Francis (Highway Project Engineer)
Mary Noyce (Technical Team Manager, Highway Operations)
Andrew Jack (Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager)
Dom Argar (Assistant Multimedia Officer)
Matt Hitch (Democratic Services Officer)

Total in attendance: 55

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
21	<p data-bbox="336 376 683 414"><u>Welcome and Overview</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 443 1487 517">The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave an overview of the procedure.</p>
22	<p data-bbox="336 548 880 586"><u>Highway and Transport Presentations</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 616 1487 689">The Area Board received a presentation from the following officers and councillors:</p> <ul data-bbox="384 728 1487 996" style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Howell (Director Highways and Transport), • Jason Salter (Head of Service for Passenger Transport) • Chris Clark (Head of Local Highways) • Jack Francis (Highway Project Engineer) • Cllr Caroline Thomas (Cabinet Member for Transport, Street Scene, and Flooding) • Cllr Nic Puntis (Portfolio Holder for Flooding) <p data-bbox="336 1034 1343 1072">The presentation covered, but was not limited to, the following matters:</p> <p data-bbox="336 1178 536 1216">Introduction:</p> <p data-bbox="336 1254 1487 1435">An overview of the Wiltshire transport context was provided, including how the highway network represented the Council's largest and most valuable public asset with a replacement value of over £5billion including over 2,800 miles of road. There were 346 miles of A roads, 199 miles of B roads, 1,037 miles of C roads and 1,247 miles of unclassified road.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1473 1487 1547">The relation of Highways and Transport to the Wiltshire Council Business Plan was outlined.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1585 1487 1659">Statistics were provided about the number of assets that needed to be maintained, including 50,000 streetlights.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1765 751 1803">Investment in the Network:</p> <ul data-bbox="384 1841 1487 1991" style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the funding available to Highways Maintenance was outlined, including that there was a Highways Maintenance fund of £21million, which was topped up by additional funds, such as a £3.6 million pothole fund.

- Other sources of funding top ups were covered, including additional investment from Wiltshire Council of £10 million for preventative maintenance and further Government funding to span a two-year period. By the end of financial year 2024/25 Wiltshire would have received an additional £5.228 million from the curtailment of the HS2 rail project.
- It was noted that as a local authority, Wiltshire was robust and had a preventative eye. The importance of prioritising issues was outlined.

The Local Transport Plan:

- The importance of having a Local Transport Plan was outlined, with it setting a framework for maintaining and improving transport in Wiltshire.
- The importance of the Local Transport Plan aligning with the Local Plan Review to help deliver Wiltshire Council's Business Plan priorities was stated, with key themes identified including decarbonisation, freight, road safety and active travel.
- It was noted that there would be plenty of opportunities to be involved in the consultation for the Local Transport Plan.

Public Transport Review:

- An overview was provided about the public transport review, which would aim to shape the future bus policy as well as priorities for support.
- There had been over 1,000 responses to the consultation, which ended on 10 November 2023.
- The aim was for a new policy and network to be implemented from April 2024.

Highways Maintenance:

It was explained that the Council had three different approaches to maintenance:

- Reactive Maintenance - Responding to issues as they arise, such as repairing potholes or replacing damaged signs.

- Planned Maintenance - Scheduling regular maintenance tasks to prevent issues from arising in the first place or getting worse.
- Asset Maintenance - Taking a long-term view of highways maintenance and involves evaluating the condition of roads and infrastructure and prioritising maintenance tasks based on factors like condition, safety, cost, and rate of deterioration.
- An overview of benchmarking for Highways was provided following a 2022 South West Road condition scanner survey. Furthermore, it was noted that this data was used to prioritise investment.
- An explanation of why so many potholes have occurred was provided as well as detail regarding interim and permanent repairs. It was noted that there had been a particularly hot summer in 2022 followed by a very wet autumn. Interim repairs were required to make roads safe in the short term whilst programming in more extensive repairs.
- Greater automation was being bought in including a Bobcat machine to speed up road repairs by cutting out damaged sections of road.
- It was noted that officers had a defect dashboard which enables them to monitor real time data relating to reported and completed defects by area.
- Flood prevention work was outlined, with it noted that the gullies of A and B roads were emptied annually with 5,500 gullies classed as high risk.

Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

- The role and makeup of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade LHFIG was outlined as well as areas which they could fund.
- It was stated that currently the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade LHFIG had 17 live projects with a budget of £91,431.

Parish Stewards:

- The role of Parish Stewards was outlined, with it noted that there were 18 Parish Stewards, one for each Area Board, who work with representatives in their parishes to ensure all work requests are clear and are logged for review before they start the work.
- Parish Stewards worked on small-scale discretionary highway works and also worked alongside a support gang on larger scale projects when demand and capacity allowed.

Public Transport

- It was explained that bus services fell into two categories, commercial and the supported network.
- Wiltshire Council invested well in public transport compared to the national average with £5.5 million spent on the supported network each year.
- There were plans to increase demand responsive transport. A trial in Pewsey Vale had been successful and had seen a 50 percent increase in users compared to a fixed timetabled service. The service had been funded using a £1.2 million grant from the Government's Rural Mobility Fund. 85 percent of those using the service in Pewsey Vale had booked using an app. It was noted that there used to be a service called the Bassett Boomerang and that options for a replacement service could be considered.
- The local number 55 and 53 bus would get more evening and Sunday services.

Verge and Litter Clearance:

- It was outlined that grounds maintenance and street cleaning in the Royal Wootton Bassett boundary was the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.
- Litter collection of main routes and trunk roads had received an extra investment of £0.3m in 2023/24.
- Enforcement resources were being increased to tackle the issues of fly tipping and rural littering.
- The following Wiltshire Council campaigns were outlined 'We're Targeting Fly-Tippers' and 'Don't Mess with Wiltshire'.

Lyneham Banks:

- The B4069 was closed following a landslide in February 2022.
- Once the ground had settled, ground investigations were carried out in late 2022 and early 2023.
- Multiple options for reinstating the road had been investigated and funding had been approved for the works.
- A tender had gone out for the work and a number of bids had been received from potential contractors.
- Details of how the project would be delivered would be shared in due course and the public would be kept updated [online](#) and through a quarterly newsletter.

Wiltshire Road Safety Partnership

The Area Board received a presentation from Perry Payne (Wiltshire Road Safety Partnership Manager). The presentation covered, but was not limited to, the following matters:

Partnership Work and Community Road Safety Team:

- The composition and role of Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership working was outlined. The group was made up of a number of partners including, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, the Ministry of Defence, the South West Ambulance Service and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
- The role of education was emphasised, including an awareness of the 'Fatal 5' causes of road traffic accidents.
- An overview of the work conducted by the Community Road Safety Team was provided.

Community Speed Watch in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area:

- The role of the Community Speed Watch Teams in the area was discussed, with data from July 2020 to February 2024 provided, including that a total of 324 speed watches had been carried out with 5,109 letters provided to offenders.
- The role of Traffic Surveys was discussed, 42 of which were undertaken in the Area Board's area between October 2020 and January 2024. 12 areas were recognised as needing speed education.

Roads Policing Unit:

- The role of the Roads Policing Unit was discussed, with previous examples of their enforcement work cited. 2,071 tickets were issued to motorists for road related offences between October and December 2023.

Forensic Collision Investigation Unit (FCUI):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the FCUI was outlined with it noted that approximately 90 road traffic collision deployments (25-30 fatalities) were attended each year. <p>Community Speed Enforcement Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of Community Speed Enforcement Officers was outlined, with it noted that though these were not police officers they did have enforcement powers. County-wide statistics from January 2023 to March 2024 were provided, with 8,433 speed awareness courses issued, 1,114 fines and points issued and 101 people having to attend court for their speeding offences. In the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area, 367 speed awareness courses had been issued with 34 fines and points. No individuals had been sent to court for speeding offences.
23	<p><u>Question and Answer Session</u></p> <p>Thanks were given by the Area Board for the presentation. The Chairman asked for further information on a couple of issues that she felt were important for local residents:</p> <p>Question – Chairman: Was there any further information available about the progress towards the Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon Cycleway, such as a timeline for the works?</p> <p>Answer: A design had been completed by National Highways following detailed survey work on third party land. A contractor had been appointed by National Highways, who would be providing most of the funding for the scheme. The scheme was ready to enter the planning permission stage and details about the timeline would be provided in due course. The Director of Highways at Wiltshire Council noted that she was meeting with the Regional Director at National Highways so would receive further information at that meeting.</p> <p>Question – Chairman: Please could we have information about Wiltshire Council’s verge cutting policy on rural roads?</p> <p>Answer: Wiltshire Council had moved from a policy of cutting through May and June on all rural roads, to a policy of just cutting the areas of poor visibility. This approach helped to improve the biodiversity of the highway verge by enabling wildflower pollinators. The full network was cut in September. Parish councils were welcome to comment on the policy in their areas.</p> <p>An open question and answer session took place co-ordinated by the Area Board’s Chairman. Questions raised included:</p> <p>Question - Jason Cook (Royal Wootton Bassett Environment Trust): Why</p>

were over 50 mature trees removed from the A3102 and what is the plan to replace these trees?

Answer: Unfortunately, it had been necessary to remove a number of mature trees due to ash dieback and to improve visibility at junctions. A number of self-seeded trees on the road had had to be removed. Work was being undertaken to improve safety along the A3102 using funding from the Department for Transport's Safer Roads Fund. Efforts were made to plant replacement trees where possible. Wiltshire Council had recently recruited more officers to Grant Application and Planting Support (GAPS) Team.

The Chairman noted that she would have welcomed improved communication of the tree felling in advance of the project.

Mark Hopkins, Clerk at Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council, noted that they had a gift a tree scheme. He stated that he would welcome a more efficient process for planting trees on Wiltshire Council owned land.

Question - Jason Cook (Royal Wootton Bassett Environment Trust): What is Wiltshire Council's policy on collecting the cuttings after verge clearance?

Answer: Trials for 'cut and collect' were being run along the A350 corridor in areas wide enough and where the risings could be composted down. Wiltshire Council had been monitoring 'cut and collect' trails undertaken in Dorset and were keen to adopt the policy more widely. However, there were often constraints in implementing this policy on narrower verges.

Question – Stephen Kelleher: What is being done about speeding on the junction next to Purton Stoke towards Hayes Knoll?

Answer: The Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) had agreed improved signage and road markings.

Question – Mike Floyd: What gully maintenance was being carried out along the cycle path between Lyneham and Goatacre and why did grass cutting stop halfway along the route?

Answer: Cycleways were a key priority for Wiltshire Council and they were working with Active Travel England to review the network. When a gully was excavated the cleared material was piled neatly on the verge to allow invertebrates to escape. The Parish Steward Support Gang could help with gully clearance along main roads.

The Chairman noted that the grass was cut by the Ministry of Defence which was why it stopped part way along the route. She reported that the possibility of adding a cycleway to the A3102 had been investigated but the road was found to be too narrow.

Question – Tony Clements (Cricklade Town Council): Could the B4040 between Old Sodbury and the A419 be redesignated to prohibit freight traffic?

Answer: Wiltshire Council was working on revising its Freight Strategy from 2026. There was a key push to get heavy goods vehicles on the right roads and to avoid rat runs.

Question - Derek Williams: Given that the closure of the B4069 at Lyneham Banks had pushed a greater volume of traffic on to other local roads, causing damage to verges, were there any plans to repair the verges?

Answer: Localised repairs were undertaken but often sustained further damage shortly after due to the temporary increase in traffic. Once the B4069 was reopened a large programme of works would be undertaken to repair the verges damaged during the traffic diversion. Works were due to take place in the next few days to repair damage to Clack Hill caused by the increased volume of traffic.

Statement - David Arnold: Repairs had been made to Restrop Road in Purton and they had got recourse for the works as the top dressing was disappearing.

Question – public: Would replacing rumble strips really slow down traffic? What was being done in relation to road safety around schools?

Answer: Safety was at the heart of Wiltshire Council's work and many studies had demonstrated that rumble strips did influence driver behaviour. The LHFIFG was able to provide localised interventions in relation to road safety.

Question – Robert Collis: Is Clack Hill closed all night tonight?

Answer: 9:30pm – 3:30am.

Question – Ann Kingdon: The road sweeping and gully clearing along the A3102 near Lyneham was welcomed. What was being done to tackle grass overgrowing kerbs and blocking drains on roads between villages?

Answer: Road sweeping was primarily carried out on main roads where there was an overgrowth of material. The Highways Team had a special verge plough to remove vegetation and help prevent adverse impacts on drainage.

Question - Geoff Greenaway (Purton Parish Council): When will damaged chevrons, signage and potholes in Purton be repaired? A pothole was reported on 7 November and had interim repairs after Christmas but is in need of a permanent solution.

Answer: Wiltshire Council aimed to replace signs within six months and there had recently been increases in funding to help deal with signage issues. A Bobcat machine was being used to speed up road patching. Although interim

repairs were used to resolve safety issues, the recent wet weather had impacted the durability of some repairs. It was noted that safety defects did need to be repaired within specific time frame. Once potholes were reported they were given a priority rating by engineers. Priority 1 repairs needed to be fixed by the end of the following day, Priority 2 were required to be repaired within 14 days and Priority 3 potholes within 30 days.

Question - Geoff Greenaway (Purton Parish Council): If a broadband provider digs up the road and causes damage, who is responsible for repairs?

Answer: It is for utility companies to cause any defects caused by them in the first instance. Wiltshire Council would carry out inspections on a proportion of the work to ensure it has been completed correctly. If it has to step in to undertake repairs, costs can be recharged to the utility provider.

Question - Mark Hopkins (Clerk at Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council): When will the parking machines in Borough Fields car park be fixed? If Wiltshire Council was unable to resolve the issues, could the town council be given responsibility for running the car park?

Answer: Wiltshire Council had started a procurement exercise for new parking machines in 2023, but the process had had to be delayed to a legal challenge from a company that had been unsuccessful in the tender process. However, a contract had now been issued and replacement machines were expected within the next three months. Although cash machines were more expensive to operate, Wiltshire Council was committed to maintaining the option of cash payments. Connectivity issues were being resolved for card payments, Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Question – Nev Surtees (Savills): Given the local housing allocations in Wiltshire’s emerging Local Plan, were there any plans to improve the road between Royal Wootton Bassett and Junction 16 of the M4?

Answer: The Local Plan review did include a transport assessment, as well as consideration of other infrastructure such as schooling and healthcare needs. National Highways would be consulted on new housing in the local area given the potential impact on the motorway junction. There were no plans to implement a bus lane on the road between Royal Wootton Bassett and the M4. A detailed assessment of each proposed development would be undertaken as applications came forward.

Question – Cllr Steve Bucknell: Are parish councils consulted with directly about Wiltshire Council’s freight strategy?

Answer: Parish councils would be consulted about the Freight Strategy.

Question – Cllr Steve Bucknell: Is there any data about the quality and response times for pothole repairs and has there been an impact since the

	<p>change of contractor for the highway maintenance contract to Milestone?</p> <p>Answer: It was acknowledged that it had been a challenging winter for potholes, but this was primary due to the weather conditions rather than a change in contractor. It was noted that Wiltshire Council had key performance indicators with its contractors, including a performance defect dashboard. Regular inspections of the work carried out were undertaken. Feedback from residents was welcomed to help monitor the quality of work.</p>
24	<p><u>Session Summary and Next Steps</u></p> <p>The Director of Highways noted that answers would be provided to pre-submitted questions in addition to the queries answered on the night.</p> <p>Cllr Jacqui Lay noted that she would pass on queries she received from residents and asked that answers could be attached to the minutes along with the other written questions submitted in advance.</p>
25	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mary Champion • Phil Heads - Chair, Royal Wootton Bassett Volleyball Club • Bridget Long – Headteacher at Broad Town Primary School • Andy Bunn – Cricklade Leisure Centre
26	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Steve Bucknell declared an Other Registerable Interest in relation to Item 11, that he was a member of Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club. He would remain in the room and participate as a member of the public but not vote on their application.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Bucknell declared a further Other Registerable Interest in relation to Item 11, that he was a member of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council. It was noted that under Wiltshire Council’s Code of Conduct it was possible to participate fully in the debate and vote without a need for a dispensation in respect of membership of a town or parish council.</p>
27	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Steve Bucknell, seconded by Cllr David Bowler, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p><u>Decision</u> To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 as a true and correct record.</p>

28	<p><u>Chairman's Updates and Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman then referred the Area Board to the following updates available in the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, pg. 13-14 • Local Nature Recovery Strategy, pg. 15-16 • Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition, pg. 17 • Wiltshire Cultural Strategy 2024-30, pg. 19 • Community Safety Forum Notes, pg. 21 • Community Care Group Notes, pg. 23-25 • Youth Forum Notes, pg. 27-28 • FUEL Programme (for eligible children) – Easter Holiday Activities, pg. 29 <p>She highlighted that the Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was an interesting bit of research and would be used to help inform the Area Board's priorities.</p> <p>Cllr Jacqui Lay reported that the Royal Wootton Bassett Banking Hub was now open and the official ribbon cutting ceremony would be held the following week. She noted that lots of work had gone on behind the scenes and wanted to publicly thank the Postmaster, the participating banks and Cllr Steve Bucknell for their efforts. The Chairman explained that there were named bank days with a community banker for a particular bank visiting on one day per week. The cash desk was not affiliated with a single bank. Cllr Steve Bucknell observed that it was the responsibility of each individual bank to send a representative to the hub, so if a member of the public found that their bank was not participating and wanted them to attend, they should raise this with their bank directly.</p> <p>Jason Cook from Royal Wootton Bassett Environment Trust stated that he would have welcomed greater publicity ahead of the consultation on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy drop-in session on 5 March. The Chairman said she would provide feedback to officers.</p> <p>An online survey was available for those that had been unable to attend the Local Nature Recovery Strategy drop-in session. More public sessions to discuss the mapping of priorities would be held in the summer, by which time a communications database would have been established.</p> <p>Cllr Lay encouraged people to volunteer to be a judge in the forthcoming Best Kept Village competition.</p>
29	<p><u>Spotlight on Parishes and Partners</u></p> <p>Written updates were available in the agenda pack from:</p> <p>Wiltshire Police, pg. 31-37</p>

	<p>Wiltshire Police Road Safety Update, pg. 39-49 Community First, pg. 51-53 Healthwatch Wiltshire, pg. 55 BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, pg. 57 Cricklade Town Council, pg. 59</p> <p>Mark Clarke, Chairman of Cricklade Town Council, reported that the unitary by-election for the Cricklade and Latton division would be held the following day.</p>
30	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Chairman noted that the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) had agreed to invest as much of its outstanding funding as possible to ensure that it was allocated.</p> <p>The Area Board then considered the recommendations arising from the LHFIG meeting of 10 January 2024. On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jacqui Lay, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community dropped kerbs (18 sites) Increase overall funding to £59,351.00 (3rd Party contributions = £18,790.50) • 11-23-08 Common Platt Lydiard Millicent. Progress alternative scheme for Common Platt. Allocate funding of £10,000 including Topo survey costs of £1800.00. (Combined 25% contribution from Lydiard Millicent PC / Purton PC – TBC) • 11-23-17 Lydiard Millicent – Greatfield – Allocate funding of £1,900.00 for topo survey (25% contribution from Lydiard Millicent PC) • 11-23-18 Tockenham new passing bay. - Allocate funding of £1,800.00 for topo survey (25% contribution from Tockenham PC) • 11-23-19 Tockenham passing bay signs - Allocate funding of £922.00 for new signs/posts (25% contribution from Tockenham PC) • 11-22-14 Broad Hinton Junction with B4041 Advance GW sign / SLOW – Allocate funding of £750.00 (25% contribution from Broad • Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett PC)
31	<p><u>Funding Applications</u></p> <p>The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager explained that there was insufficient funding remaining in both the Community Area Grant and Older and Vulnerable People’s Grant budgets to award all of the applications to those pots in full.</p> <p>There was £2,239.26 of Community Area Grant Funding available, £13,750 of Youth Grant funding and £950 of Older and Vulnerable People’s funding remaining. It was noted that it might be possible for applications to one pot to draw upon funding from a different pot, but only if they met the relevant criteria.</p>

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager also reported that the following two applications had been withdrawn since the publication of the agenda:

- Broad Town School Association requesting £1,475 towards an interactive whiteboard for Broad Town Primary School (Community Area Grant).
- Purton Community Fridge and Larder requesting £500 Purton Community Fridge Free Meal (Older and Vulnerable People's Grant).

Area Board Initiative

The Area Board considered the following Area Board Initiative:

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Youth Forum Requesting £500 Towards the Royal Wootton Bassett Youth Festival Showcase 2024

On the proposal of Cllr Steve Bucknell, seconded by Cllr David Bowler, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Youth Forum £500 towards the Royal Wootton Bassett Youth Festival Showcase 2024.

Reason: The application met the Youth Grant Criteria 2023/24.

Community Area Grants

The Area Board considered the following applications to the Community Area Grant Scheme 2023/24. As there was insufficient funding remaining in the Community Area Grant budget to award all of the applications in full, the Chairman invited each of the applicants to introduce their projects before the Area Board voted on any of the applications.

Wootton Bassett Infants School Parent Teacher Association requesting £4,150 Towards Vale View Gardens Community Park

Andy Carr and Nicki Harris spoke in favour of their application. They confirmed that young people between the age of 13 and 19 (or 25 with Special Educational needs) would benefit. It was noted that Horizons College, a specialist facility for Young People between the ages of 16 and 25 with additional needs, was a stakeholder in the project.

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships manager clarified that the project would be eligible for Youth Grant funding. It would not be possible to draw on funding from the 2024/25 financial year. It was also highlighted that there was a separate application to the Older and Vulnerable People's budget of £500 to support Vale View Gardens, so it was a multi-generational project.

As the Wootton Bassett Infants School Parent Teacher Association had also requested £500 from the Older and Vulnerable People's budget and there was limited funding available in the Community Area Grant Budget, this application was voted on alongside their other application. The Area Board indicated that they were happy in principle to support the application for £4,150 but waited to consider the other applications first.

Please see their application in the Older and Vulnerable People's Grant applications section for details of the vote.

Royal Wootton Bassett Arts Festival Requesting £500 Towards a Laptop for Registration/Admin

Jackie Lawrence from the Arts Festival explained that the laptop would speed up registration and allow them to publicise the event online.

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager clarified that the project would be eligible for Youth funding, as well as Community Area Grant funding, as a large proportion of Young People were taking part.

On the proposal of Cllr Jacqui Lay, seconded by Cllr Bowler, it was resolved:

Decision

To award Royal Wootton Bassett Arts Festival £500 towards a laptop for registration/admin.

Reason: The funding would come from the Youth Grant budget. There was limited funding available in the Community Area Grant budget and the application met the Youth Grant Criteria 2023/24.

Royal Wootton Bassett Carnival Requesting £1,500

It was explained that the police had raised concerns about the poor radio signal for staff to communicate with each other at the event the previous year. The organisers were looking for funding for new radios for this year's event. In response to questions, the organisers confirmed that they would be happy to loan out the radios to other community groups planning to hold large scale events in the Area Board's area.

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager confirmed that the application would be eligible for Youth Grant funding given the high proportion of 13–19-year-olds (or 25 with SEND) attending the event.

Cllr Steve Bucknell, seconded by Cllr Lay, proposed that Royal Wotton Bassett Carnival be awarded £1,500 towards radios.

During the debate, an amendment was proposed by the Chairman, that the

awarding of the grant be subject to the radios being publicly available to lend out for other events held in the Area Board's area. This amendment was accepted by the proposer and seconder, so added to the substantive motion. At the conclusion of the debate, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Royal Wootton Bassett Carnival £1,500 towards new radios on the condition that they be made publicly available for other events in the Area Board's area.

Reason: The application met the Youth Grant Criteria 2023/24. There was limited Community Area Grant funding available. The microphones would be available to loan to ensure that a range of local community groups could benefit.

Older and Vulnerable People's Grants

The Area Board considered the following applications to the Older and Vulnerable People's Grant Scheme 2023/24.

Parkinson's UK Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett Requesting £500 Towards Parkinson's Carers and Cared for Café 2024

Vincent Mobey explained that they held quarterly meetings and that their sessions were well attended with between 40 and 60 people. They supported people with Parkinson's as well as the people caring for them. The sessions cost around £100 to put on each and £100 would be used to help with transport for people with mobility issues.

Cllr Lay noted that there was a bookable bus with disabled access in the Marlborough and Pewsey areas called Connet2.

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager confirmed that it would not be possible to draw upon funds from the 2024/25 financial year. He noted that it was possible to award grants between meetings of up to £1,000 in cases of urgency.

On the proposal of Cllr Lay, seconded by Cllr Steve Bucknell, it was resolved:

Decision

To award Parkinson's UK Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett £500 towards Parkinson's Carers and Cared for Café 2024

Reason: The application met the Older and Vulnerable People's Grant Criteria 2023/24.

Wootton Bassett Infants School Parent Teacher Association Requesting £500 Towards Vale View Gardens Community Park

As a result of the budgetary constraints facing the Area Board they debated and voted on this application after first voting on all of the other applications. The Area Board had received information about the Vale View Gardens Community Park as part of the Community Area Grant application. Having voted on the other applications, there was £2,239.26 of funding remaining in the Community Area Grant fund and £2,438 remaining in the Youth Grant budget. The Older and Vulnerable People's budget had been fully spent.

It was noted that the combined value of the two applications being requested to go towards the Vale View Gardens Community Park was £4,650. The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager confirmed that given that the project would support Young People, and was a capital project, there was funding available to support both applications in full.

On the proposal of Cllr Steve Bucknell, seconded by Cllr Bowler, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Wootton Bassett Infants School Parent Teacher Association £4,650 towards Vale View Gardens Community Park.

Reason: *The application met the Community Area Grant Criteria and Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24. There was no Older and Vulnerable People's Grant funding remaining for 2023/24.*

Wiltshire Music Centre requesting £500 Towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire Creative Mini Project in Royal Wootton Bassett Library

Rebecca Seymour from Wiltshire Music Centre explained that the funding would be used to support Older and Vulnerable People by running four sessions of a shared reading library group. Given the limited funding available in the Older and Vulnerable People's Grant budget, it was asked whether it would be possible to postpone the project until the next financial year. The applicant noted that they were also planning to apply for a grant application in the forthcoming financial year, so sought assurance that it would be possible to apply for two projects in 2024/25. It was confirmed that it would be possible to apply for two applications in the same financial year. After receiving this assurance, the applicant confirmed that they would be content to postpone consideration of their application given that the funding was not required imminently.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Lay, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To defer the application from Wiltshire Music Centre requesting £500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire Creative Mini Project in Royal Wootton Bassett Library.

Reason: *There was insufficient funding in the Older and Vulnerable People's budget to support all of the applications in full during 2023/24.*

The funding was not required before the end of the current financial year and the applicant would be able to reapply for funding in 2024/25.

Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club Requesting £450 Towards Walking Rugby

Mr Steve Bucknell spoke as a member of the public in support of the application. He explained that the games would help people unable to play running rugby, to participate. He noted that the club had players in their 70s that were able to take part in these activities.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Bowler, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club £450 towards Walking Rugby.

Reason: The application met Older and Vulnerable People's Grant criteria for 2023/24.

Youth Grants

Cricklade and District Community Association requesting £1,500 Towards a Teen Gym at Cricklade Leisure Centre

Angela Jensen from Cricklade Town Council spoke in favour of their application. It was confirmed that staff would be able to offer an induction as part of the town's youth festival.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Bowler, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Cricklade and District Community Association £1,500 towards a teen gym at Cricklade Leisure Centre.

Reason: The application met the Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.

The Rise Trust Youth Requesting £720 Towards Lyneham Detached Youth Work

A representative from the Rise Trust spoke in support of their application, explaining that there would be a six-week pilot to engage with, and get the views of, Young People. The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager noted that the project would be in partnership with Lyneham Parish Council and the Army Welfare Service.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Steve Bucknell, it was

resolved to make the:

Decision

To award The Rise Trust Youth £720 towards Lyneham detached youth work.

Reason: *The application met the Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.*

Broad Hinton Youth Club Requesting £950

Lou Mahanty, a treasurer and member of the club's executive committee, spoke in favour of their application, explaining that it would go towards buying new equipment.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Steve Bucknell, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Broad Hinton Youth Club £950 towards new equipment.

Reason: *The application met the Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.*

Royal Wootton Bassett Volleyball Club Requesting £642 Towards a Development Pathway

The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager explained that the funding would be used to create a second court with specialist volleyball equipment.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Bowler, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Royal Wootton Bassett Volleyball Club £642 towards a development pathway.

Reason: *The application met the Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.*

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council Requesting £5,000 Towards the Youth Festival and Ongoing Provision

Mark Hopkins, Clerk at Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council, spoke in favour of their application, explaining that they commissioned over £13,000 of services through the Rise Trust. The money would go towards the festival including a skateboarding demonstration. Money would also be used to fund outreach sessions including a LGBTQ+ group.

On the proposal of the Cllr Lay, seconded by Cllr Bowler, it was resolved to make the:

	<p><u>Decision</u> To award Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council £5,000 towards the youth festival and ongoing provision. <i>Reason: The application met the Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.</i></p>
32	<p><u>Get it Off Your Chest</u></p> <p>The public had the opportunity to ask questions of the Area Board.</p>
33	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
34	<p><u>Close and Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 26 June 2024, at 6:30pm in Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Village Hall.</p>