

# CHIPPENHAM COMMUNITY AREA PARISH FORUM

## Chippenham Community Area Board Update June 2016

The Parish Forum held their last meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in The Union Chapel, Kington Langley and if you are looking for a local meeting place, full of historic ambience, then look no further as those attending were welcomed and met in delightful surroundings.

Forum Members noted that the Chippenham Area Board Meeting scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 had been cancelled through lack of business to transact and that notification had now been received that a Meeting was to take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in the Council Chamber, Monkton Park at 3.00pm. This appeared to be a hastily arranged replacement Meeting planned for a start time that would be inconvenient for the majority of Parish Councillors and Community Volunteers, a situation that was deplored.

**Guest Speaker for the evening** was Inspector David Hobman, Sector Head of Neighbourhood Police Teams throughout northern Wiltshire, who updated the Forum on his role and duties. His latest news was that the operational neighbourhood policing delivery structure was being discussed but that this had been delayed because of the Election period for the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon. Consequently, David was unable to confirm details in case of changes to the Police and Crime Plan following the appointment of a new PCC. However, the structure was likely to include a Sergeant in each sector with attendance at Area Boards. Inspector Hobman indicated his willingness to attend the next meeting of the Forum to confirm final decisions.

Forum Members heard that it was likely that one named Constable and a PSO would service rural parishes with a visible community presence and focus as with modern communications there was no need to be Chippenham office based as the roles required could be effectively carried out within the rural villages and areas, which could allow attendance at Parish Council meetings as work could still continue. This was well demonstrated by Inspector Hobman who remained in attendance for the whole Forum meeting and could still continue working.

Forum Members stressed the need for continuity, particularly praising the work carried out by the existing Community Policing Officer. However, David made it clear that although there can be no disagreement with this the reality is that Officers seek promotion and move on. The Forum acknowledged this but stressed the importance of adequate briefing for replacement Officers who needed to know local issues and contacts prior to hand over.

Inspector Hobman advised that although under severe financial pressure the fundamental front line policing model would be retained with required savings being made in back office staffing and costs, which can be achieved by sharing costs such as the Monkton Park example.

**Other discussions at the May meeting** related to issues raised and information received by Parish Councils from Wiltshire Council since the previous Forum meeting and included the invitation to the Wiltshire Council Parish and Town Council Involvement Evening held at Monkton Park, Briefing Note No 285 in regards to Highways Service, Briefing Note No 293 in regards to Adult Health Care in the Home Policy and the request from the Public Protection Team for Community Resilience/Emergency Plans. Cllr Mr Whitehead's latest Local Highways Newsletter had also been received.

**Members raised issues relating to** fly tipping, where concern was expressed on the increase in fly tipping as a result of Recycling Centre closures and potential cost increases for picking up against the suggested savings being made. It was understood that a Defra consultation with Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency was taking place to ascertain a true picture. Concerns in regards to highway impact on local roads potentially being used as rat runs to avoid road works and future large-scale development proposals lacking highway infrastructure. Also the redrafting of the Local Youth Network Chippenham Area (LYN) Questionnaire to be more suitable for the rural areas.

The Community Area Parish Forum meets again on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm in The Kington St Michael Club, 12 Kington St Michael SN14 6JB