

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD  
**Place:** Pitton Village Hall, Whitehill, Pitton, Salisbury, SP5 1DJ  
**Date:** 27 September 2012  
**Start Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 9.05 pm

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Cllr Ian McLennan and Cllr Christopher Devine

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Tom Bray, Southern Wiltshire Community Area Manager  
Janet O'Brien, Head of New Housing  
James Hazlewood, Senior Democratic Services Officer

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Aldbury Parish Council – Amanda Newbery, Dennis Watson, Barbara Watson

Clarendon Park Parish Council – Keith Rodger

Coombe Bissett Parish Council – Derrick Rattue

Downton Parish Council – Julie Whitmarsh, Sally Lacey, Susan Barnhurst-Davies,  
Nikki Wilson, Roger Yeates, Bev Cornish

Firsdon Parish Council – Brian Edgeley, M Bishop, Peter Horton

Laverstock and Ford Parish Council – Ron Champion, Sarah Champion, Virginia  
McLennan

Pitton and Farley Parish Council – C Purves, G Lowndes

West Dean Parish Council – H Urquhart

Winterslow Parish Council – Pam Robinson

**Partners**

Wiltshire Police – Andy Noble

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – David Dunford

Salisbury MP – John Glen

**Total in attendance: 36**

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<b><u>Agenda Item No.</u></b>	<b><u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u></b>
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Southern Wiltshire Area Board, including John Glen, MP for Salisbury.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Leo Randall and Councillor Julian Johnson.</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
4	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
5	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>There were no Chairman's Announcements.</p>
6	<p><u>Current Consultations</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred to the on-going consultations as set out in the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Ian McLennan also referred to the forthcoming consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which would begin on 1 October, for six weeks.</p>
7	<p><u>Wiltshire Council Items for Information</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred to the information items listed at item 7 of the agenda, details of which were set out at pages 17-26.</p> <p>In relation to the Wiltshire &amp; Swindon Local Nature Partnership, the Chairman asked the meeting whether there was specific interest in having this as an agenda item at a future meeting. There was a little interest in this.</p>

## Our Community Area

### Fire and Rescue Service

The Chairman welcomed David Dunford of the Fire and Rescue Service. Responding to a question regarding call-outs due to false alarms and failed equipment, Dave commented that the service actively monitored the number of false alarms, with staff visiting any repeat offenders to look at how these incidents could be reduced.

### NHS

Noted the written report at page 29 of the agenda. The Chairman asked the meeting if there was interest in hearing more about the health care reforms and the new GP commissioning Groups. There was interest in this item.

**Action: To be pursued by Community Area Manager for a future agenda.**

### Southern Wiltshire Issues System

Tom Bray, Southern Wiltshire Community Area Manager, encouraged everyone to keep using the Issues System.

In relation to the Rights of Way issue in Firsdow, it was noted that the views of residents were being sought.

Responding to a point about the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which had not been working, the Chairman noted that this had been raised with the Cabinet Member. He apologised on behalf of the Council and explained that there was a generic fault with the batteries which was being looked into and a full review of the SID deployment process was underway and the SID deployment issues would be dealt with. It was acknowledged that the lack of response from the Council had been unacceptable.

### Feedback on Community Area Grants

Tom Bray also referred to some positive feedback on previous Community Area Grants, including some coverage on the front page of the Salisbury Journal and in the Cathedral. It was noted that feedback was obtained from all groups who received a grant from the Area Board and it may be possible to fit this into future Area Board meetings.

### Urgent Late Item

The Chairman referred to the late report which had been tabled, and which sought permission to proceed with a project to switch off selected lights between 00:00 and 05:30.

	<p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>The Southern Wiltshire Area Board approved the assessed proposals as set out in the report, totalling 20 streetlights on Church Road, Laverstock.</b>  <b><u>Reason</u></b> – <i>As set out in the report.</i></p>
9	<p><u>Community Safety - Area Board Theme for 2012/13</u></p> <p><u>Police and Crime Commissioner</u></p> <p>The Chairman spoke in his capacity as a member of the Wiltshire Police Authority, to explain the background of the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner Elections on 15 November 2012.</p> <p>This fundamental change to the governance of policing would see directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) replacing the existing Police Authorities. The PCC would hire and fire the Chief Constable, set the budget and precept, set the Policing Plan, and hold the Chief Constable to account. They would not, however, be responsible for operational matters.</p> <p>In the Wiltshire and Swindon Constabulary a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) had been set up jointly between Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council, to hold the PCC to account. The PCP had powers to veto the precept and the appointment of the Chief Constable.</p> <p><u>Rural Crime Team</u></p> <p>Tony Miles from the Rural Crime Team, gave a presentation on the work of the team, which consisted of two Police Officers and one Police Community Support Officer, and which covered the whole of the county.</p> <p>The team had been set up to respond to Hare Coursing and now had a number of areas of responsibilities, including Farmwatch, Horsewatch, poaching, wildlife crime and cross border collaboration with neighbouring constabularies.</p> <p>In response to questions, Tony advised that Hare Coursing was seasonal, and that there were around 6 reported incidents per month. Convictions carried a Level 2 fine, of around £400-700.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)</u></p> <p>Inspector Andy Noble reported that his officers had caught a team of burglars red-handed in Laverstock. This was the result of some proactive work from identifying a spike in incidents, following a route, and waiting for the culprits. One prosecution had already come out of this and a possible drugs link had been identified.</p>

	<p>Referring to coverage in the Salisbury Journal, Andy confirmed that there were currently no plans to reduce police numbers. It was not certain whether the Wilton Road building would remain operational, with the NPT officers being relocated to the forthcoming Salisbury Campus. It was also hoped that further savings could be made through more back office functions being shared with partner organisations, including Wiltshire Council. The Chairman added that the collocation of NPT staff at the campus was not just about savings, but about efficiency of joined-up services.</p> <p>Responding to a question regarding electric scooters and cyclists on shared surfaces with pedestrians, Andy noted that this could be a danger to visually impaired people. Some work was being done on this, especially kids on bikes without bells and brakes.</p> <p><u>Community Safety Pilot project in Downton</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave an update on the above project which sought to run a pilot event in Downton on 17 November to raise awareness on community safety issues. This would be run jointly between the Area Board and the Parish Council, and if successful could lead to further projects in other areas.</p>
10	<p><u>Housing Need and Review of Wiltshire's Housing Allocations system</u></p> <p>Janet O'Brien, Head of New Housing, gave a presentation on the review of the current Housing Allocations system.</p> <p>Commenting on the stock profile of the Community Area, Councillor McLennan noted that there would be a large increase in affordable Housing due to the Old Sarum development. Janet added that all new developments of 5 or more dwellings would be required to provide 40% of the units as affordable housing.</p> <p>There was a query over the figure provided that 17 affordable homes had been delivered in the Community Area during 2010-12. Janet undertook to check this. <i>(Note – Following the meeting it was clarified that there had actually been 89 new affordable homes delivered in 2010-12. The discrepancy was due to a misunderstanding over the Community Area Boundaries).</i></p> <p>Janet referred to the new arrangements regarding under-occupation, whereby tenants would only receive the rent for the size of property they needed, as an encouragement to prevent under-occupation. This would affect 52 households in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area. It was noted that there was an appeals mechanism for under-occupation.</p> <p>In response to question regarding the provision of affordable housing, Janet explained that the 40% rule was a basis for negotiation as it was also important to ensure the developments remained viable. Another consideration was the mix of tenure and type of properties, to ensure balanced demographics</p>

	<p>depending on the suitability of locations.</p> <p>The meeting took part in an interactive voting exercise as part of the consultation on the Housing Allocations review. The results are attached at Appendix 1.</p>															
11	<p><u>Footpaths - Area Board Theme for 2012/13</u></p> <p>Tom Bray, Community Area Manager, gave an update on the project to upgrade gates on Rights of Way, referring to the written update at pages 41-42 of the agenda.</p>															
12	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group (CATG)</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred to the report set out at pages 43-44 of the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor MacLennan advised that, following the recent meeting of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council, it was confirmed that the parish would not be contributing the extra £500 towards extra works on the Milford Mill Road scheme.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>The Area Board approved the allocation of CATG funding as set out in the report and listed in the table below, noting that the Milford Mill Road project would not receive the additional £500 from the Parish Council, and so the total cost of the project would be revised to £1000.</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Footpath from Whaddon to Grimstead</td> <td><b>Alderbury/Grimstead</b></td> <td><b>£3,176</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red surfacing at entrance to Whitparish on A27</td> <td><b>Whiteparish</b></td> <td><b>£2,500</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gateway improvements at entrance to village at A30 end of Firsdwn</td> <td><b>Firsdwn</b></td> <td><b>£3,000</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gateway improvements and treatments to improve safety at junction at Homington (part of larger request to be added to list next year)</td> <td><b>Coombe Bissett &amp; Homington PC</b></td> <td><b>£2,000</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signage to improve safety on Gunville Hill at Church</td> <td><b>Winterslow</b></td> <td><b>£250</b></td> </tr> </table>	Footpath from Whaddon to Grimstead	<b>Alderbury/Grimstead</b>	<b>£3,176</b>	Red surfacing at entrance to Whitparish on A27	<b>Whiteparish</b>	<b>£2,500</b>	Gateway improvements at entrance to village at A30 end of Firsdwn	<b>Firsdwn</b>	<b>£3,000</b>	Gateway improvements and treatments to improve safety at junction at Homington (part of larger request to be added to list next year)	<b>Coombe Bissett &amp; Homington PC</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	Signage to improve safety on Gunville Hill at Church	<b>Winterslow</b>	<b>£250</b>
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13	<p><u>Youth Initiatives Funding Proposals</u></p> <p>Tom Bray, Community Area Manager, introduced the report which sought to allocate the Area Board's youth budget to a Participatory Budgeting event.</p>															

	<p>It was confirmed that the Community Area Manager would retain an overview of the bids to ensure that the money was spent on genuine and effective projects.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>The Area Board agreed to allocate its youth budget of £4,109 as outlined in the report.</b></p>
14	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Grant application from Woodfalls Band had been withdrawn.</p> <p>The Area Board considered an application for funding from the Downton Memorial Hall. The applicant was invited to speak in support of the application. After discussion, Area Board members voted on the application.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>Downton Memorial Hall was awarded £998.40 towards a Hearing Loop system for the hall.</b></p> <p><b>Reason</b>  <b><i>The application met the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2012/13, and demonstrates a direct link to the Community Plan 2010-15 as detailed in the officer's report.</i></b></p>
15	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>Before closing the meeting, the Chairman invited John Glen, MP for Salisbury, to say a few words and respond to a few questions.</p> <p>John reported that he was holding surgeries twice a week, at which around 30% of the issues raised related to Housing. He also welcomed the news that the government would be giving Councils more flexibility over the so-called "Bedroom tax". John announced that he was now Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.</p> <p>John replied to a question regarding Localism, commenting that there was a need for strategic overview of promoting and allowing the development of housing, jobs and infrastructure where there was no genuine reason for local opposition.</p> <p>In response to a question on the sustainability of homes being provided without jobs to go with them, John commented that Salisbury had extremely low unemployment at 2.1%. However, it was important to look at improving the quality of jobs and to consider wider infrastructure, when considering the viability of new developments.</p>



	The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.
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<u>Appendix 1 - Results of voting on Housing Allocations Review</u>
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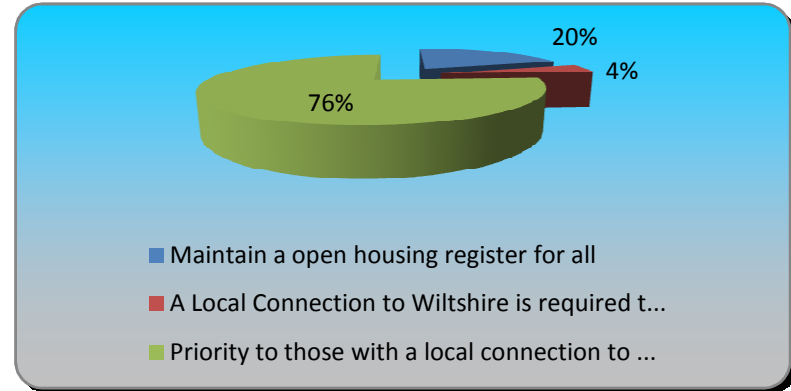
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Turning Graphical Results by Question

Session Name: Current Session  
 Created: 01/10/2012 09:10

1.) 1. How should Wiltshire Council consider Local Connection? (multiple choice)

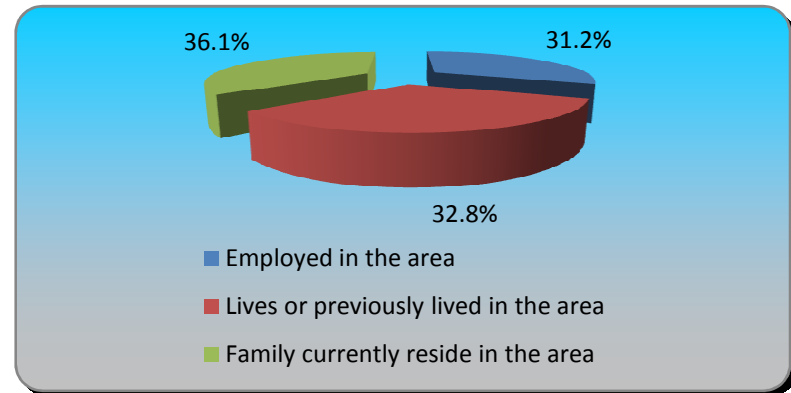
	Responses	
Maintain a open housing register for all	5	20%
A Local Connection to Wiltshire is required t...	1	4%
Priority to those with a local connection to ...	19	76%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>



Page 11

2.) 2. What is a Local Connection to an area? (multiple choice)

	Responses	
Employed in the area	19	31.15%
Lives or previously lived in the area	20	32.79%
Family currently reside in the area	22	36.07%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100%</b>



**3.) 3. Should additional priorities be given to the following?  
(multiple choice)**

	Responses	
Under Occupation	9	20%
Employment	22	48.89%
Training	6	13.33%
Those who volunteer in the community	8	17.78%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>



**4.) 4. Should we include any exclusions within the policy?  
(multiple choice)**

	Responses	
Those with no identified housing need	15	31.25%
Those evicted or caused severe Anti Social Be...	22	45.83%
Those with significant rent arrears	11	22.92%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>

