

# **MINUTES**

Meeting: CALNE AREA BOARD

Place: Calne Library and Hub, The Strand, Calne, SN11 0RD

**Date:** 12 March 2019

**Start Time:** 6.30pm **Finish Time:** 8.45pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Craig Player (Democratic Services Officer), on 01255 713191 or craig.player@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

#### **In Attendance:**

#### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Christine Crisp (Chairman), Cllr Alan Hill (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Tom Rounds and Cllr Tony Trotman

#### Wiltshire Council Officers

Craig Player (Democratic Services Officer) and Jane Vaughan (Community Engagement Manager)

#### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Calne Town Council – Mark Edwards Bremhill Parish Council – Isabel McCord Cherhill Parish Council – David Evans Hilmarton Parish Council – Mel Wilkins

#### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police - PCSO Mark Cook

Total in attendance: 24

Agenda Item No.	Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision
14	Chairman's Welcome and Introductions
	The Chairman welcomed everyone to Calne Area Board and introduced the Councillors and Officers present.
15	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies were received from Diane Gooch and Glenis Ansell.
16	<u>Minutes</u>
	The minutes of the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.
17	Declarations of Interest
	There were no declerations of interest.
18	Chairman's Announcements
	The Chairman drew attention to the written announcements included in the agenda pack:
	<ul> <li>Children's Centres</li> <li>Electoral Review</li> <li>Calne's official Fairtrade status</li> <li>Calne Pocket Park</li> </ul>
19	Partner Updates
	<ol> <li>Wiltshire Police – the following points were noted and the written update is attached to the minutes document:</li> <li>That there had been a few shoplifting incidents in Calne and progress was being made in stopping offenders.</li> <li>That there had been robberies in Calne but an arrest was swiftly made. The offender was not a local resident.</li> <li>That a tradesman's van had been broken into on London Road and tradesmen were encouraged to stay vigilant.</li> <li>That there was no proposed closure date for Calne Police Station and so it would remain open as usual for the foreseeable future.</li> <li>NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group – the written report was received and noted.</li> </ol>

- 3. **HealthWatch Wiltshire** the written report was received and noted.
- 4. **Bremhill Parish Council** the following points were noted:
  - That the Area Board pass on their condolences to the friends and family of the Parish Clerk, Elsbeth Norman who recently passed away.
  - That there had been a successful neighbourhood clean up on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.
  - That vehicles had been travelling too close to people on horses and residents were encouraged to report any similar incidents.
  - Residents were encouraged to report any road condition issues on the MyWiltshire app
- 5. **Cherhill Parish Council** the following points were noted:
  - That there was a referendum on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 about accepting planning permission on village hall and that residents were encouraged to take part.
- 6. **Hilmarton Parish Council** the following points were noted:
  - That membership for the Hilmarton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had been agreed.
  - That the February litter pick had been successful and 57 bags of rubbish were collected.
- 7. **Calne Town Council** the following points were noted:
  - That residents were encouraged to promote the Chippenham to Calne Cycle Route consultation and support the campaign to keep it open.

#### 20 Community Presentations

Damien Haasjes gave a presentation on the Plastic Free Calne initiative.

Matters highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: the Recycle for Wiltshire Joint Venture; working with preschools and youth groups; the work of the River Warriors; the Wiltshire Real Nappy Network; working with primary and secondary schools; family and community events; Calne Plastic Free Community and what residents can do on an individual basis.

Catherine Crofts gave an update on the Calne Clean Up Crew.

Matters highlighted in the course of the update and discussion included: the 15 areas of town that the Crew operate in; working with local schools to create litter picking teams; cleaning bus stops on a monthly basis; that the Crew had collected over 1500 bags of rubbish last year; that there was scope for the Crew to work with local parishes and plans for an initiative for school holidays.

#### 21 <u>Chippenham to Calne Cycle Route</u>

The Chairman added Chippenham to Calne Cycle Route to the agenda as an urgent item.

The Chairman gave an update on the possible threat of closure to the Chippenham to Calne Cycle Route. The written statement is attached to the minutes document.

Matters highlighted in the course of the update and discussion included: the "Keep the Calne - Chippenham Cycle Path open!" which can be found via the following link: <a href="https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/174/602/091/keep-the-calne-chippenham-cycle-path-open/?taf\_id=61773265&cid=fb\_na;">https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/174/602/091/keep-the-calne-chippenham-cycle-path-open/?taf\_id=61773265&cid=fb\_na;</a> the leasing agreement between Wiltshire Council and eight different private landowners; the desire for a full and thorough consultation process; the desire for the Area Board and town and parish councils to work together to find solutions to the situation; that the cycle route is enjoyed by walkers, runners, cyclists, families and dog walkers.

#### Resolved

To write to Wiltshire Council expressing the Area Board's desire for a thorough, timely and full consultation on the future of the Chippenham to Calne Cycle Route.

#### 22 Our Community Matters

Stan Wood and Roy Bhatia gave an update on the Blue Bus project.

Matters highlighted in the course of the update and discussion included that an application for funding was expected, and the Blue Bus might start to deliver youth activities in Calne before the summer. All members expressed support for this project.

Councillors then provided an update on community issues and progress on Calne Area Board working groups as follows:

WWI Project (Ed Jones/Cllr Rounds)

It was noted that:

- The project members would be meeting next week to move the project forward.
- Community groups that might feel they can contribute to the project were encouraged to come forward.
- Older People/Carer's Champion (Diane Gooch) the written update was noted.

Health and Wellbeing Group (Alison Ingham)

It was noted that:

- Calne Health and Social Care Forum next meet on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 10.00 am at James House, Calne.
- Dementia Action Alliance Steering Group (Cllr Crisp)

It was noted that:

- The Steering Group had had an offer from the Beversbrook Surgery in regard to its administration.
- The Steering Group was now turning its focus towards Dementia Action week in May.
- Air Quality Working Group (Cllr Hill)

It was noted that:

- Nitrogen Dioxide levels in all but one of the exceedance areas have been reduced below Government levels.
- The one remaining exceedance point is in New Road adjacent to the junction with Silver Street, but The Group are hopeful that the reduction in HGVs due when Hills bring in the Traffic Management Plan will bring that one down too.
- Hills have informed the Group that they expect to invoke their Traffic Management Plan at the end of July.
- Calne Our Place (Naomi Beale) the written report was noted.
- Calne Community Safety Forum (Glenis Ansell) the written report was noted.
- Calne S106 Working Group (Cllr Trotman)

The written report and following points were noted:

- That the Oxford Road traffic calming system was due to go out to consultation.
- That the next meeting would be postponed and confirmation of the new date and time would follow.

• Calne Community Area Transport Group (Cllr Crisp)

#### Resolved

To note the recommendations of the CATG as below:

To close issue numbers: 6092, 6468, 6655, 6857, 6859, 6861.

To move the following issues to the priority list:

- 6749 Dropped Kerbs at the bus stop, Stockley Lane
- 6856 Stockley request for White Gateway Features / Coloured surfacing
- **6862** Stockley The Knapp request for warning signs
- Calne High Penn request for footway extension on Oxford Road

**Issue 6459:** move this issue forward onto the priority list and ask officers to start developing a scheme:

- The location be considered for a 20 mph speed limit, with lighter touch engineering measures such as painted carriageway roundels.
- To include a review of parking controls from the roundabout at New Road, along Station Road and Bowood View.
- To include 'no through road' signage.

#### 23 Highways Schemes 2019-20

Consideration was given to the highways recommendations of schemes for the forthcoming year as highlighted in the report.

#### Resolved

To note the recommendations of the Road Surfacing Programme 2019/20 as outlined in the report.

#### 24 Area Board Funding

Consideration was given to 3 applications made to the Community Area Grants Scheme. It was also noted that an award of £457.39 was made to the Calne Community Fairtrade group re. equipment for the Calne Fairtrade Fortnight 2019. This was approved by the Community Engagement Manager under delegated decision with the support of the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr John Thomson and was paid on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

	Resolved
	To award Calne Town FC £5000 for its CTCFC ground maintenance equipment.
	2. To award Calne Wordfest £5000 for the Learn to Read Course for 18 years and over.
	3. To award Olive Branch Counselling £2000 for the Olive Branch Premises Refurbishment and Improvements.
25	<u>Urgent items</u>
	There were no urgent items.
26	Close
	The next Area Board meeting would be held at 6.30 pm on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 6.30pm at the Calne Library and Hub, with refreshments available from 6.00 pm.





### **Calne Community policing update**



#### Hello and welcome to the Area Board report for March 2019.

This report gives a summary of Key Impact Crimes in your area such as Burglaries, the interactive element will allow you to see the statistics of the reports for your area and your local Police contacts. The website

address remains unchanged and the interactive map can be found by following the below link.

#### http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/832/Your-Area

Our CPT priority: Persistent offenders and ongoing issues affecting the Community in line with our Force Control Strategy. Priority Offenders are established at a weekly Sector meeting; as a result priorities and tasking's are raised as a way to effectively manage live intelligence and priorities that are developing in the northern hub.

"I have been asked at some recent Town Council and Area Board meetings to provide a breakdown of incidents and crime that is reported within a specific town or area. In these days of reduced resource and trying to work smarter I am going to decline this request. All of the information that has been requested can be found through the links that are provided below. The information is that detailed that you are able to search on date, crime type and locality down to street level. Given this, I do not want our community coordinators to spend their valuable time updating data sheets and researching what has already happened, I would rather they focus their efforts in partnership working and problem solving to make our communities safer.

Thank you for your continued support – Insp Mark Luffman"

#### Police dogs Tyke and Max retire after successful careers at Wiltshire Police





Two of our most popular police dogs bid a fond farewell to Wiltshire Police last month and are now settling into retirement having devoted years to fighting criminals and protecting our communities.

Having clocked up almost 15 years of service between them, police dogs Tyke and Max have now stepped aside for the new pups in town. PD Tyke has worked alongside PC Cindy Hargreave since he was licenced back in 2013. Now he has retired, he will continue living with PC Hargreave, who has just started training with a new puppy called Betty.

"My first shift with Tyke was an evening shift, and you always worry if the dogs will perform for real, like they do in training," she said.
"We were lucky to get an early result as we attended a report of a burglary in progress at a pub in Swindon, where two men had been seen leaving the back of the pub and into woodland. I deployed Tyke for a straight chase and he secured one man some distance away.

The man was arrested by officers and while we headed back to the pub for a search, Tyke dragged me into the undergrowth and started growling. He'd found the second offender."

Not only has he had positive results when it comes to locating offenders, PC Hargreave describes Tyke as her life saver, after he protected her when a man charged at her with a petrol barrel while she was dealing with another man armed with an iron bar during an illegal rave.

"Tyke had seen the danger before I did, and he deployed onto the man's arm, bringing him to the ground and holding him there until a support team arrived," said PC Hargreave.

"He really did prevent me from receiving a very serious injury.

"Tyke is full of character. He's goofy as well as being tenacious; he has the ability to be sociable but always switched nicely to being a Police Dog when required. He was a driven, determined and strong willed police dog, but most of all just wanted to please and work. Something which, now he's retired, is not sitting well with him, especially when he has to stay at home when I go to work, but the welcome I get when I return home is the best.

"Tyke was the best team mate and partner I could ever have wished for."

Also hanging up his harness for a well-earned rest is Police Dog Max, who worked alongside PC Tracy Doughty. She became his handler when he reached the age of four.

PC Doughty said: "During my first shift with Max we had a report of two men decamping from a car in Swindon. We attended and Max got on the scent straight away. Both men ran and Max chased one who sensibly gave up! The second man evaded us for a while but we found all the property he had dumped and then eventually found him."

One of Max's proudest moments as a police dog was locating offenders involved in a series of burglaries in Swindon, as well as receiving two awards where Max's skills were pivotal to locating a suspect.

"Max has a very strong presence," said PC Doughty.

"He's a big boy with a few battle scars and a very big mouth. His bark is felt deep in your stomach. He has been challenging to work with but he's a big softy really, and I'll miss his 'verbal opinion'.

"He will remain living with me, and he is already loving being inside on the sofa. He's looked after me, so it's up to me now to do the same for him."

Tyke's replacement is PPD Betty, while Max will be replaced by PPD Rudi.

They are currently in training with PC Hargreave and PC Doughty and once they gain their licences, they will be out and about protecting the people of Wiltshire.

#### Clamping down on rogue traders - partnership operation a success

A week-long operation to clamp down on rogue traders in Wiltshire took place this week, to prevent Wiltshire residents, particularly those who are vulnerable, from becoming victims of crime.

Wiltshire Council officers from trading standards and environmental services launched national campaign Operation Rogue Trader locally, a national campaign, with Wiltshire Police and other partner agencies.

Activities included roadside stop checks and conducting intelligence-led patrols in areas where older or vulnerable people live.

During the operation enforcement officers carried out checks on 64 businesses, who were stopped by Wiltshire Police. Trading standards issued advice to 22 businesses, environmental enforcement officers identified 10 businesses carrying waste without a waste carrier's licence or waste transfer documentation. These offences will be followed up by officers which could result in fixed penalty notices being issued to offenders if documentation cannot be provided. In addition, officers were looking at all manner of businesses who deal with commercial waste, garden/tree works and construction vehicles. These checks were conducted to reduce the amount of illegal deposits or fly-tipping of waste throughout Wiltshire.

Rogue traders often offer gardening, roofing or driveway work or maintenance services at initially cheap rates but the quality of work is substandard or unnecessary and the final price extortionate. They regularly use aggressive sales techniques to pressurise often vulnerable consumers into making hasty decisions

Jerry Wickham, cabinet member for public protection, said: "A rogue trader on TV or in movies is often portrayed as a cheeky wheeler-dealer type, but the reality couldn't be further away from that. These doorstep criminals target often vulnerable members of our communities to part with their hard earned money for unnecessary, overpriced and low-quality work - and the effects can be devastating.

"The vast majority of businesses in Wiltshire are good, honest and hardworking, and it's a real shame that there are criminals out there that can damage their reputation.

"I am pleased with the action we've seen this week and I hope it sends out a clear message that this type of activity will not be tolerated, and we'll do everything in our power to stop it from happening."

Detective Sergeant Anthony King from the Wiltshire Police Community Tasking Team said: "Operation Rogue Trader is an important reminder to us all that there are people out there who are trying to take advantage of those most vulnerable in our county.

"We all need to be vigilant to this type of crime, which can have a long lasting financial and emotional impact for its victims.

"As a Force we want to send a clear message out to the perpetrators of this crime, it will not be tolerated in Wiltshire. Together with our partners we will work to educate the public and prosecute those who carry out this crime.

"We ask that the community follow advice from Trading Standards, look out for any vulnerable or elderly friends and relatives who might be particularly at risk and do your homework before engaging anyone to carryout work on your property."

Householders are advised:

'If in doubt, keep them out!'

Never work with cold-callers and don't be rushed into home repairs

Consumers are legally entitled to a 14-day cooling off period in most home improvement contracts formed at their home

Check the identity of the caller by phoning the company they claim to be from. Use the telephone numbers listed in your local directory or provided independently by your service provider

Check whether traders are members of the Consumer Codes Approval Scheme, the local Authority Assured Trader Schemes or the Government Trust Mark scheme.

Ask a neighbour or friend nearby to check out the caller before you open the door to them or agree to have work done. Some areas in the country have 'nominated neighbour schemes' you can sign up to. Check with your local police to find out if there is one in your area

Never pay cash up front

Always get at least three quotes before agreeing to have work done

Use the Trading Standards approved "Buy with Confidence" traders. These businesses are vetted and audited by Trading Standards Officers. To find a Buy with Confidence trader visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or alternately a list of approved traders can be obtained from Wiltshire Council's Trading Standards service.

If anyone suspects a rogue trader is at the door, they should contact the police by dialling 101. In an emergency, call 999. People can also report rogue traders to local trading standards by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506.

## Crimes that have impacted the community

#### LOCAL CRIMES

#### Criminal Damage.

This happened between 30/01/2019 12:40hrs and 30/01/2019 15:10hrs in Nightingale Way, Calne.

Unknown suspect(s) have caused a long deep scratch along all panels of a black Kia Rio.

On 05/02/2019 at 12:38hrs we received a report of a male detained at the Tesco's store on Beversbrook Road after he had left the store without paying for good to the value of £400.

Officers were quickly on the scene where the male was arrested. A 25-year-old from Bristol was conveyed to Melksham custody and later charged with the offence of theft.

Male attended Court on 06/02/2019 and received an £80 fine, courts cost of £85 and ordered to pay £30 to the victim services.

#### Robbery.

We are investigating a robbery and theft which happened in Calne on Friday evening (08/02/2019).

At around 8.50pm a man was withdrawing money from the cashpoint outside Sainsbury's, when he was approached by an unknown man, who pulled him over from behind and stole the £20 note he had withdrawn.

The victim was not seriously hurt, so stood up and followed the suspect into the nearby Co-op to confront him and try to get his money back.

The suspect then took a bottle of alcohol from a shelf inside the Co-op and left the store without paying.

Suspect arrested for 2 robberies on the 26/02/19 and charged with robbery, two attempted robberies and possession of a bladed article.

#### Theft.

This happened at 09/02/2019 10:00hrs 09/02/2019 16:00hrs to Braemor Road Calne.

Unknown suspects have stolen a gas cooker valued between £60 and £80 from the driveway property.

#### Attempted Burglary.

This happened between 10/02/2019 01:35hrs and 10/02/2019 01:35hrs, Braemor Road Calne.

2 x unknown male suspects have rolled car down the drive and tried to gain access to garage. No entry gained and nothing has been stolen.

#### Attempted Theft of a vehicle.

This happened at 10/02/2019 01:35hrs Braemor Road Calne.

2 x unknown male suspects have entered a vehicle and tried to steal it.

#### Criminal Damage.

This happened between 11/02/2019 15:00hrs and 13/02/2019 08:00hrs in Peregrine Court, Calne.

Unknown suspect(s) have scratched a deep scratch from the passenger side handle all the way to the front wing of a red Kia Picanto. The scratch was described as an upside down letter "J" across the driver side door. A Large scratch around 3-4cm's long has also been scratch in the windscreen.

Enquiries on going.

On 12/02/2019 at 12:33hrs, a local 40 year old male was issued a Cannabis street after being stopped in Wyvern Avenue in Calne and found to be in possession of Cannabis.

Enquiries on going.

This happened between 15/02/2019 07:00hrs and 15/02/2019 17:10hrs in Forman Street, Calne.

Unknown person(s) have caused damage to a balcony window of a third floor flat.

No suspects identified.

#### Burglary.

This happened at 17/02/2019 07:11hrs in Woodhill Rise, Calne.

Unknown suspect(s) have entered a property, and stolen cigarettes and an Ipad.

No suspects have been identified and the case will be closed.

#### Burglary

This happened at 17/02/2019 15:53hrs in Isis close, Calne

Unknown suspect(s) have climbed over a school gates in order to get onto school grounds, they have then entered some sheds that that are situated on the play-ground and have made a messy search. Unknown at this time if anything has been stolen.

#### Criminal Damage.

This happened at 17/02/2019 00:00hrs and 24/02/2019 19:30hrs in Horsebrook Park, Calne.

Unknown suspect(s) have caused damage to two flood lights in a garden.

### **Your Local PCSO's**

Below area list of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) that cover Calne and their specific area's of responsibility. If you need to make contact then you can use the email address,

northwiltshirecpt@wiltshire.police.uk

This is monitored by a number of officers who may be able to answer your query if your local PCSO isn't on duty.



**PCSO Mark COOK** 



**PCSO NICOLE SHEPPARD** 



**PCSO Abbie OBORNE** 

The Community Policing Teams continue to be busy attending Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) especially due to the snow recently. The demand on resources increase and we have therefore encouraged drivers using social media to drive in accordance to the current weather conditions.



<u>Warrants</u> – We continue to develop intelligence to assist with the preparation of further warrants in the future, so they may be executed in line with the Force Control Strategy.

In addition to the Wiltshire Police website, Please join us either on Facebook or Community Messaging.

**Police Cadets** who are aged 13-16 years of age can attend local events and assisted with community engagement, they are very keen to get involved in future events, please e-mail <a href="mailto:CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk">CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk</a>

<u>Events</u> - If you are planning any event and require assistance from the Police to assist, please e-mail <u>CPTNorthWilt-shire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk</u> in advance as you may be required to complete an 'Events Form' and there may also be a cost incurred to ensure that you have dedicated officers throughout. If you would like the Cadets to assist with community engagement at events please <u>E-mail the address above, there is no charge for this.</u>

EVENTS... Don't forget that a toolkit is available from Wiltshire Council which gives fantastic guidance and advice for organizing most types of events, including topics ranging from traffic management to toilets, and gives contact details for which agencies and departments need to be contacted when applying for various license's or road closures. It can be found at <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-events-toolkit.pdf">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-events-toolkit.pdf</a>, In essence, all organisers must be responsible for identifying any risks and putting in measures to remove or reduce them.

The e-mail address for the Wiltshire North Community Policing Team is <a href="mailto:cptnorthwiltshire@wiltshire@wiltshire.police.uk">cptnorthwiltshire@wiltshire.police.uk</a>

Please phone 101 (non emergency) or 999 (emergency) to report any incidents or crimes, reports cannot be taken via the above e-mail address.

Prepared by PC 1952 Steve CARROLL

Community Co-coordinator Royal Wootton Bassett/Cricklade/Malmesbury, Calne

Sector Head Insp 364 Mark Luffman: mark.luffman@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Deputy Sector Head Ps 1577 Donald Pocock: <a href="mailto:donald.pocock@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk">donald.pocock@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk</a>



The link below is for Community Messaging. The Community Coordinator for this area sends out a daily message, if there has been any crime that will benefit the community to be aware of. This includes thefts, scams and burglaries, the aim is to inform you of what is happening in your area, help you take any actions to avoid becoming a victim of crime and to alert you as a potential witness to any crime. Its easy to sign up and only messages, relevant to your area, are sent to your email inbox.

## https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/

The email address for the Wiltshire North Community Policing team is northwiltshirecpt@wiltshire.police.uk

Please phone 101, or 999 in an emergency to report any incidents or crimes

We hope you find these updates useful, for the latest news, crime prevention advice and appeals please follow us on:

Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice">https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice</a>

Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/">https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/</a>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <a href="https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/">https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/</a>

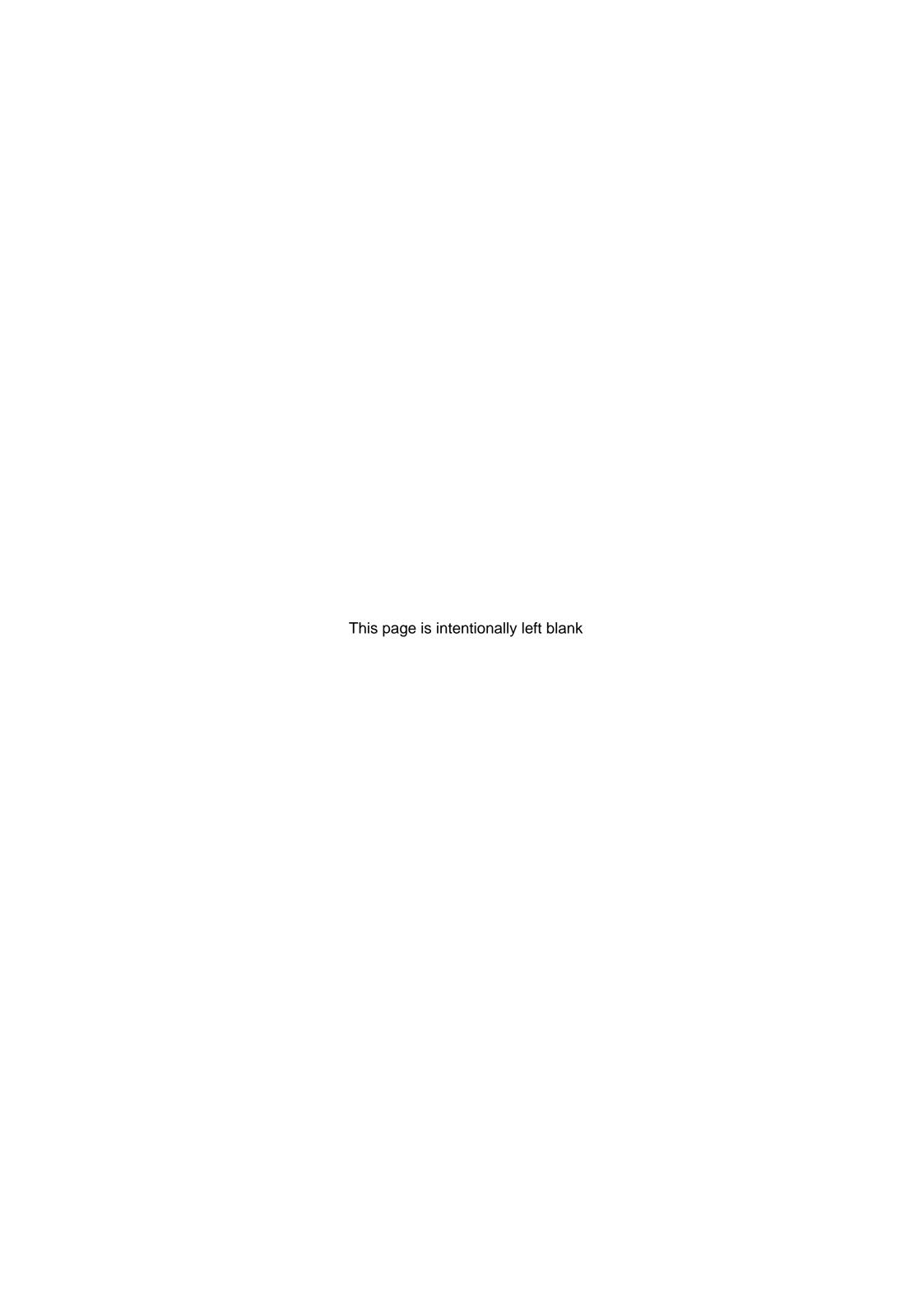
This report has been prepared by PC 1952 Steve Carroll

Whilst the report below gives a summary of Key Impact Crimes in your area such as Burglaries, the interactive element will allow you to see the statistics of the reports for your area and your local Police contacts. The website address remains unchanged and the interactive map can be found by following the below link.

http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/832/Your-Area

Thank you for your continued support to Wiltshire Police

This report has been prepared by PC 1952 Steve Carroll



# STATEMENT TO CALNE AREA BOARD 12 MARCH 2019 CHIPPENHAM TO CALNE CYCLEWAY

My statement to the Area Board is as follows:

The creation of the permissive cycle route and erection of the bridge was a project promoted by the former North Wiltshire District Council in 1999/2000.

The cyclepath is known as the North Wilts Rivers Route. It is a 16km shared use cycle and pedestrian path. Part of the route is owned by Wiltshire Council, Chippenham Borough Lands Trust or is within the control of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, all of whom provide access free of charge. The remainder, around 7km, is owned by eight different private landowners and leased to Wiltshire Council. These landowners have historically been unwilling to commit to any long term arrangement and the land is let on individual leases of 5 yearly terms without any security of tenure (ie no automatic right to renew) and with rents that are usually increased at each renewal. The leases are all due for renewal on 1 April 2019. The non-renewal of the leases and consequent closure of the cyclepath was approved by the Corporate Leadership Team as part of the revenue savings plan for 2019/20 but has been postponed by Members subject to an appropriate consultation programme being undertaken. To date seven of the eight landowners have confirmed willingness to renew and we expect the eighth to confirm shortly and the cyclepath should remain open until at least the end of March 2020.

The bridge was built as a landmark structure and as one of a dozen Millennium Bridges in the Country. Following creation of the Unitary Authority, the bridge has been inspected as part of the Highways asset stock although not strictly a highway structure. So far only periodic inspections have been carried out and the costs borne by the highways budget. It is now apparent that the bridge needs extensive maintenance works to preserve it and quotes have been obtained for this work.

At last night's Calne Without Parish Council the sum of £70,000+ was mentioned so, as this figure has entered the public domain, I will confirm that the figures quoted to me by the Highways Department are in excess of £70,000.

That is the information I have.

**Christine Crisp** 

12 March 2019

