

Tidworth Area Board

May 2022

Annual Review of Local Priorities

1. Purpose of the Report

- I. To report on progress made in addressing the area board priorities selected for 2021/22
- II. To consider any new evidence or information that will help inform the area board in selecting its priorities for 2022/23
- III. To highlight potential priorities for the area board to consider for 2022/23
- IV. To inform the area board of the broad mechanism for delivering these priorities including where appropriate leads, working groups and allocating funding.

2. Introduction

This report has been written by the Community Engagement Manager in consultation with the area board Councillors. It is provided to help celebrate the success so far and support the area board in setting their priorities for the coming year.

In early 2021, the Community Engagement Manager combined data from the community area “Joint Strategic Needs Assessment” (JSNA) with other sources of data and additional local intelligence. This was used to produce a community area status report that highlighted where further local improvements may be required. In May 2021, this report was shared with the area boards to help inform which priorities it should focus its energy and resources upon.

Given the challenging financial environment both nationally and locally, area boards are encouraged to continue to develop this evidence led approach to its work, so that they can have the greatest impact on those living in our communities. This includes:

- ✓ Selecting priorities and directing resources to where there is the greatest need and where the area board can make a tangible contribution
- ✓ Being clear on what the area board is trying to achieve and the mechanism for doing so
- ✓ Regularly reviewing and communicating progress against the chosen priorities.

3. Progress on 2021/22 area board priorities

The area board working with its partners and the wider community has focussed its attention over the past year on the priority areas below. Appendix A summarises the progress that has been made so far but some of the key achievements include:

- i. *Positive activities for young people:* The rural youth project led by Community First has been established and is working to support activities throughout the area including the establishment of a new youth offer in Ludgershall. As well as some one-off events run by Wiltshire Creative, we are also working young people who need extra support through the Youth Adventure Trust and with Wellington Academy / Tedworth Equestrian. The Tidworth Youth Club started in September 2021 and has proved to be successful.
- ii. *Climate Change:* There has been engagement locally with the “Wiltshire Climate Change Strategy” and “Green and Blue Infrastructural Strategy”, both of which have now been adopted. Through local engagement with the community via a survey and climate change meeting, a new group has been established to focus upon local initiatives and sharing information.
- iii. *Health and wellbeing:* Several projects have been supported including a Nepalese older women’s Mosaic group, arts group and cookery classes for carers. We have assisted with the challenges of 2021/22 including COVID-19, changes in provision for older people as well as supporting those coming from Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- iv. *Community Resilience:* Funding provided to support projects aimed at older and vulnerable people in addition to 6 local events for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with an emphasis upon increasing the confidence of people to socialise again. Work has continued to strengthen military / Civilian integration and the Paths for All walking project has continued in partnership with Stonehenge Area Board

4. **The context for agreeing new area board priorities.**

The selection of area board priorities should be undertaken using both the evidence available to us, as well as the context within which we are operating. Both are continually changing, and the following is provided to help inform the area board’s decision.

- i. The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis was collated 2 years ago in 2020 and although it used the latest information available at the time, some of it is now out of date. This is partly due the significant impact COVID-19 has had on issues such as debt, the economy and mental health as well as the release of more up to date data that was not previously available. Two news sources of data for Wiltshire that have analysed data during COVID and subsequent start of the recovery are available. These are
 - [Wiltshire Citizens Advice Annual Report](#)
 - [Wiltshire Intelligence Bringing Evidence Together \(JSNA Update\)](#)

For the Tidworth Community Area, this includes

- The [Wiltshire Climate Strategy](#) and [Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy](#) have both now been adopted and Wiltshire Council have committed themselves to being carbon neutral by 2030. The challenge is to consider what local actions we can undertake
 - Inflation is very high with fuel costs doubling or more in price. This is hitting the poorer families and the elderly / vulnerable the most.
 - Research carried out by Community First who spoke to over 100 young people and their families identified a need to improve youth provision
- ii. The 2021/22 area board priorities were selected whilst in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demands of this public health crisis demonstrated the importance of partnership working with some services struggling to cope and many of our community groups and organisations unable to operate. The focus of our time and resources has been upon coming together and supporting the vulnerable within our communities. As we now emerge from the pandemic, the focus is shifting away from this reactive response and onto the rebuilding of our communities. In particular, the evidence suggests that
- Some organisations are finding it difficult to find volunteers with some not returning due to anxiety over COVID-19
 - The demand upon our health services including the number of COVID related cases continues to be high
 - Many people, especially the older and more vulnerable have lost confidence and are reluctant to socialise again.
 - There has been an increase in poor mental health and depression resulting from the pandemic. Some young people have been particularly affected
- iii. The last 2 years has seen a change in the way that people communicate, especially with the shift to more permanent home and remote working. This has allowed a new approach that includes the ability to be more inclusive and a reduction in the need to travel. The area board is encouraged to embrace these opportunities but also mitigate against any local impact upon our communities, especially as it is very rural and there are many who do not have access to transport or/and do not use digital forms of communication
- iv. Wiltshire Council has released its new [business plan](#), outlining its strategy for 2022-2032. It focusses upon the 4 themes of “Empowering People”, “a Resilient Society”, “a Thriving Economy” and “a Sustainable Environment”. In addition, Wiltshire Council on the 1st February 2022, approved both the [Wiltshire Climate Strategy](#) and [Wiltshire’s Natural Environment Plan](#). The area board should be aware of these plans and seek to help deliver them at a local level

- v. There have been some important changes locally that offer both challenges and opportunities. These include:
- LtCol Nick Turner retired at the end of March 2022 as the local community officer linking together the military and civilian work at the local level. There are no immediate plans to replace him
 - Tidworth Town Council have begun work on their new Civic Centre
 - Ludgershall Town Council have moved to larger offices
 - The former Londis Shop is being upgraded and repurposed which will include a dedicated youth space as well as a place for worship

5. **Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2022/23**

The Community Engagement Manager in consultation with the chairman of the area board has provided a list of possible priorities for consideration. These can be found in appendix B. The area board should carefully consider how many priorities it can work on at any one time and ensure that they are meaningful for their local area. As a guide, it is recommended that where an area board has 4 or less councillors, no more than 4 priorities are selected at any one time. Larger boards can select up to 5 if they believe that they have the capacity to deliver on them. Area Boards can at any time select, review or amend their priorities in order that they remain relevant and linked to current needs

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the area board believes that it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Community Engagement Manager will support the area board councillors including in the creation and management of an action plan. This plan will include clearly defined, manageable and measurable outcomes so that what is trying to be achieved is fully understood and will in turn facilitate the annual review of delivery on local priorities.

The key mechanism for delivery is to support the local community to use their own experiences, abilities and passions so that they are empowered to shape and deliver positive change. To achieve this the area board may wish to consider allocating funding where money is required to help deliver the required aims. The area board may also look to set up a local working group to lead on the delivery of a priority, especially where no suitable group already exists.

It is recommended that for each priority selected, an area board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the area board on progress. The Community Engagement Manager will support the area board councillors in undertaking this work.

It is also acknowledged that as priorities were selected less than a year ago, progress on some will be limited and the area board may decide it wishes to continue to focus upon them rather than select new ones.

6. Area Board Lead Councillor Role Description

Area Boards are invited to appoint lead Councillor(s) representatives for each of the priority themes that they have selected. The following guiding principles are in place for Councillors who take a role as an Area Board lead for a priority theme:

- To be the main Area Board point of contact for local officers, councillors and residents within their respective lead area
- To attend (and usually take the role as chair) relevant working groups of the area board
- To work collaboratively and cooperatively with relevant local partners, community groups, volunteers and outside bodies
- To provide regular updates back to the area board in relation to their lead area, including providing feedback on the success or limitations of previously funded Area Board grants
- To consider any funding applications diligently and democratically, ensuring due process is undertaken.
- To in consultation with the local Councillor, monitor feedback for those grant applications that relate to the local priority the lead Councillor has responsibility for, ensuring that relevant feedback on progress and outcomes is provided to the Area Board

7. Recommendations

- I. The area board is asked to acknowledge the progress update from the 2021/22 local priorities work.
- II. The area board is asked to consider this report along with its appendices and decide upon the priorities it wishes to focus on in the coming year.
- III. The area board is asked to appoint a councillor lead for each of the selected priorities.
- IV. The area board is asked to appoint any required working groups in relation to each priority where a suitable existing externally operated groups is not already in place.

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APPENDIX A - Summary of progress made against priorities for 2021/22

1. Positive Activities for Young People

Actions:

- I. The AWS have been supported financially to provide activities for young people that are open to military and civilians alike.
- II. Tidworth Youth Club started in September 21 and has a good weekly turnout of about 25 young people
- III. The AWS using area board funding have run pop up events including in Tidworth in summer 2021. Further funding has been provided allowing them to develop this offer further. Equipment provided including silent disco, barbecue, sound and tents are available for all community groups in the area to borrow.
- IV. Wellington Academy have become part of the Wiltshire Youth Council allowing them to share local need and influence where local resources are targeted.
- V. The Rural Youth Project has been established and phase 1 completed in conjunction with 4 other area boards. This included talking to over 120 young people and families, referring young people to activities such as SPLASH and providing support for youth projects. A particular emphasis has been upon re-establishing a youth offer in Ludgershall and an open event was held in April for young people and their parents.
- VI. Rural Youth Project engagement event held in March which helped inform stakeholders of the project and encourage support for further years.
- VII. The Area Board has helped fund the extension of Ludgershall skate park and the building of Tidworth skate park.
- VIII. The Area Board has worked with Tedworth Equestrian and Wellington Academy to provide equine experience for young people who need additional support
- IX. Youth Adventure Trust has been financed by the Area Board to provide support over 3 years for young people identified as needing additional help
- X. Creative Wiltshire were funded to run arts events for young people during summer 2021 in Tidworth
- XI. The photographic project that worked with young people identified by the youth offending team and gave them both confidence and skills was successfully completed

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much
TCAP	Ludgershall Boys and Youth Centre improvements	£900 + £1,745
Ludgershall Town Council	Skatepark extension	£9,439
Tidworth Town Council	Skatepark	£11,439
Area Board Initiative	Develop Ludgershall Youth Offer	£5,000
AWS	Zouch Youth Group	£5,000
Area Board Initiative	Rural Youth Project year 2	£5,000
AWS	Extension of Pop-Ups	£2,000
Youth Adventure Trust	Support disadvantaged young people	£2,192
AWS	Kitting out of new youth hall	£5,000

2. Climate Change

Actions:

- I. The Area Board promoted the draft Climate Change Strategy and Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy and encouraged local involvement and feedback
- II. Assistance has been given in running Wiltshire Climate Change meetings including those for Parish Councils and other stakeholders to raise awareness of what the issues are and how we can work in co-production together.
- III. The Area Board carried out a survey to identify local people interested in addressing climate change locally. About 30 people said they were very keen to get involved.
- IV. Hosted special event to discuss climate change and local action resulting in a new community environmental group being formed
- V. Paths for All project has been restarted in conjunction with Stonehenge area and funding put aside to support small projects.

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much
Friends of Chute	Restoring pond	£700
Area Board initiative	To support improvements to rights of way and promote the use of them	£5,000

3. Health and Wellbeing

Actions:

- I. Groups that had been stopped due to COVID such as the Ludgershall memory café and friends of Ludgershall have restarted
- II. Creative Wiltshire was funded to run one off events for older people including one held in Ludgershall Church in summer 21.
- III. ABC cookery classes have been held for carers and the social prescribers at the surgery were supported to start other offers including allotments.
- IV. The Army Welfare Service were supported to establish a mosaic group for older Nepalese women as well as an arts and mindfulness group for all adults
- V. All schools in the community area have been taking part in the Healthy Schools project supported by the Area Board. They will complete in May 2022.

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much
Area Board Initiative	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	£2,000
Community Support Tidworth	Art & Mindfulness sessions	£5,000
Carers Support	ABC cookery classes for carers	£2,554
Alzheimer's Support	Movement for the Mind	£1,381
AWS	Elderly Nepalese Women Mosaic project	£995

Men's Shed	Health and safety work	£797
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4. Community Resilience

Actions:

- I. The Area Board has worked with the MOD to strengthen relationships and maximise opportunities to work together including rationalising meetings and establishing a new MCI mechanism now that LtCol Nick Turner has left.
- II. Funding for community groups was promoted with all the 2021/22 budgets allocated locally
- III. 5 events have been supported throughout the whole area to put on activities for local platinum jubilee community celebrations aimed especially at including the older people and those who are isolated, lonely or vulnerable.
- IV. Promoted the need for more link drivers due to increase in demand and fewer returning after COVID. They provide a crucial service in transporting people to hospital and other important appointments
- V. Re-established the health and wellbeing group for the community area
- VI. Assistance provided to support those affected by COVID-19, refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine as well as the changes in funding for older people.

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much
Ludgershall Sports Club	New mower	£1,250
Collingbourne Ducis PC	Bus shelter	£3,444

Total grant funding allocated to all projects during 2021/22 is £57,200

APPENDIX B – Suggested priorities for 2022/23

The following are some possible priorities for the area board to consider for the coming year

Potential Priority	Key objectives	Additional comments, proposed lead Councillor and delivery working group
Support the provision of positive activities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a youth offer in Ludgershall • Ensure equal access to positive activities 	<p>This will include working closely with the AWS and helping promote their offers</p> <p>Lead – Cllr Anthony Pickernell</p>
Protect the environment and reduce carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build on the work done locally and Wiltshire wide to promote local initiatives, help link people together and reduce the local carbon footprint. • To promote and encourage greener forms of transport including walking 	<p>Work closely with Tidworth Town Council</p> <p>Lead – Cllr Mark Connolly</p> <p>The Area Board has helped set up an environment group that it will support</p>
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support those whose mental or physical health is suffering including those affected by COVID and current economic challenges • To Support minority groups and those who have settled in the area from overseas 	<p>Lead – Cllr Christopher Williams</p> <p>The health and wellbeing group that also encompasses most other community resilience areas will be the working group</p>