

AGENDA

Meeting: Melksham Area Board

Place: Melksham United Church, High Street, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6JU

Date: Wednesday 6 November 2024

Time: 7.00 pm

Including the Parishes of: Broughton Gifford, Melksham, Melksham Without, Steeple Ashton, Keevil, Great Hinton and Semington.

The Area Board welcomes and invites contributions from members of the public. The Chairman will try to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak will have the opportunity to do so.

If you have any requirements that would make your attendance at the meeting easier, please contact your Democratic Services Officer.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Senior Democratic Services Officer - Ben Fielding, direct line 01225 718224 or email benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

All the papers connected with this meeting are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114 / 713115.

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jonathon Seed, Melksham Without West & Rural (Chairman)

Cllr Mike Sankey, Melksham East (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Phil Alford, Melksham Without North and Shurnhold

Cllr Nick Holder, Bowerhill

Cllr Jon Hubbard, Melksham South

Cllr Jack Oatley, Melksham Forest

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of the items for discussion. The Area Boards welcome public participation and the Chairman will try to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate where possible. To discuss matters not on the agenda, please contact the officer named on the front page, ahead of the meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

Our privacy policy is found [here](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

Area Board Officers

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager (SEPM) – Richard Rogers,
richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

Engagement and Partnership Lead – Caroline LeQuesne,
caroline.lequesne@wiltshire.gov.uk

Senior Democratic Services Officer – Ben Fielding, Benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

	Time
<p>1 Apologies for Absence</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	7.00pm
<p>2 Minutes (<i>Pages 1 - 12</i>)</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2024.</p>	
<p>3 Chairman's Announcements and Information Items (<i>Pages 13 - 26</i>)</p> <p>To receive the following briefing notes and announcements through the Chairman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Living Update • Community First Update • BSW Together Update • Spurgeons Update 	
<p>4 Declarations of Interest</p> <p>To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer.</p>	
<p>5 Partner and Community Updates (<i>Pages 27 - 32</i>)</p> <p><u>Verbal Updates</u> To receive any verbal updates from representatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police • Town and Parish Councils • Community Conversations Update <p><u>Written Updates</u> The Board is asked to note the following written and online updates attached to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police • Town and Parish Councils 	7.10pm
<p>6 Canon Square Project</p> <p>To discuss the Canon Square Project.</p>	
<p>7 Supporting the Vulnerable Through Winter</p> <p>To discuss the local support available to people during the winter period.</p>	7.50pm

8 Area Board Priority Updates

8.05pm

To receive updates from Lead Councillors for the local Area Board priorities:

- To improve opportunities for all children and young people (Cllr Hubbard)
- To help tackle deprivation (Cllr Alford)
- To create safer communities and improve transport (Cllr Sankey)
- To support older and vulnerable people (Cllr Oatley)
- To protect and enhance our heritage and environment (Cllr Seed)

9 Area Board Funding (Pages 33 - 36)

8.20pm

To note the remaining budgets and to consider any applications for funding, as detailed in the attached report and summarised below:

Remaining Budgets:

Community Area Grant	Older & Vulnerable	Young People
£19,446.48	£5,866.01	£7,269.00

Community Area Grants:

Ref/Link	Grant Details	Amount Requested
ABG2008	Keevil Community Amenities Trust - Keevil Banfield Recreation Ground In Ground Trampoline.	£2,083
ABG2010	The Parochial Church Council of the Melksham Parish of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Melksham Salisbury - To purchase and refurbish 11 Canon Square for parish and community benefit.	£5,000
ABG2022	Riverside Club - Melksham Riverside Centre toilets.	£5,000

Older & Vulnerable Grants:

Ref/Link	Grant Details	Amount Requested
ABG2026	HELP Counselling Services - Counselling Boxes for our new rooms in Melksham	£265.73

Further information on the Area Board Grant system can be found

[here.](#)

10	Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) To note that the next LHFIG meeting would be held on 7 November 2024. Further information on the LHFIG process can be found here.	8.50pm
11	Urgent items Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.	
12	Close & Future Dates Future Meeting Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 February 2025 – Subject to be changed. For information on applying for a grant or grant application deadlines for these meetings, contact the Engagement and Partnership Lead: Caroline.LeQuesne@wiltshire.gov.uk	9.00pm

MINUTES

Meeting: Melksham Area Board
Place: Semington Village Hall, High St, Semington, Trowbridge BA14 6JR
Date: 4 September 2024
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.50 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Ben Fielding Benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk,
01225 718224,(Tel): 01225 718224 or (e-mail) benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jonathon Seed, Melksham Without West & Rural (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Sankey, Melksham East (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Phil Alford, Melksham Without North and Shurnhold
Cllr Nick Holder, Bowerhill
Cllr Jon Hubbard, Melksham South
Cllr Jack Oatley, Melksham Forest

Wiltshire Council Officers

Caroline LeQuesne, Engagement and Partnership Lead
Dominic Argar, Assistant Multimedia Officer
Ben Fielding, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 32

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
77	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Broughton Gifford Parish Council.</p>
78	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2024 were presented for consideration.</p> <p>Cllr Hubbard noted that during the previous Area Board meeting a motion had been raised regarding that TROs affecting Melksham residents should be advertised within the Melksham Evening News. An amendment was however made that this motion be brought back to the next meeting of the Area Board due to timing reasons. Consequently, Cllr Hubbard requested an update on this motion.</p> <p>As Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene, and Flooding, Cllr Holder stated that he had raised this issue with the Leader of the Council, newly appointed Chief Executive and Director for Place on Monday, with it noted that they had been tasked with reviewing the current process in place with an awareness of the previous issues raised. It was acknowledged that Cllr Hubbard had raised this issue at the October 2023 meeting of Full Council, and that within the written response provided, circulation numbers had been cited, to which work was now being undertaken to ascertain whether such circulation numbers were correct and up to date whilst writing a new policy.</p> <p>Cllr Hubbard suggested that he might take this issue to the October 2024 meeting of Full Council.</p> <p>After which, it was;</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2024.</p>
79	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements and Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements as per the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on FACT Transitional Safeguarding Project • Update on the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Family Help Project • Overview of Wiltshire Youth Council • Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Consultation

80	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>The following dispensations were received regarding Item 11:</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Alford had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee in relation to an ORI by virtue of being a town councillor. The dispensation allowed them to remain in the room and to take part in the discussion and vote on the item.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Hubbard had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee in relation to an ORI by virtue of being a town councillor. The dispensation allowed them to remain in the room and to take part in the discussion and vote on the item.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Oatley had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee in relation to an ORI by virtue of being a town councillor. The dispensation allowed them to remain in the room and to take part in the discussion and vote on the item.</p> <p>Cllr Jon Hubbard declared that he was a Trustee of 4Youth Southwest so would therefore abstain from voting on the grant applications put forth by 4Youth Southwest.</p> <p>Cllr Jack Oatley declared that he was a Trustee of 4Youth so would therefore abstain from voting on the grant applications put forth by 4Youth Southwest.</p>
81	<p><u>Wiltshire Police Chief Constable</u></p> <p><i>The update from the Wiltshire Police Chief Constable was received directly after the update provided by the Wiltshire & Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner.</i></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from Catherine Roper, Wiltshire Police Chief Constable. The update included but was not limited to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding recruitment, Wiltshire Police is a place that people work and there had not been this many staff employed since 2014, there was also a great emphasis on retaining staff with skills within the control room. • It was outlined that in the summer of 2022, Wiltshire Police had been placed into “Engage” by the independent auditor after it had not provided a satisfactory service. Since then, in May, the force had recently been taken out of “Engage”, which demonstrated that it was making progress with investigations, protecting the vulnerable and responding to crime. • Wiltshire police had since had a further PEEL inspection on 15 August, where significant improvements had been made over the ten graded categories, with no areas graded inadequate with all areas showing an increase. • Whilst some areas were recognised as improving, some were recognised

	<p>as not being where they should be, therefore the Chief Constable aimed to improve these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention was drawn to the report and open letters to the PCC, which could be found fortnightly via the following link: News Wiltshire Police <p>After the update, there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police were thanked for the significant improvement that had been made policing speeding in Bowerhill, with residents also noticing improved social media posts from the Police. Further praise was also placed for the arrest made on a local drug dealer in Bowerhill where residents ad felt reassured. • Previously villages had stated that they did not see the Police often, however, there has been a marked change in this recently with the mobile police station having visited two villages, demonstrating greater visibility. • The importance of sharing these positive experiences was stressed and how this would contribute to bridging the gap of trust and confidence between residents and Wiltshire police. • Wiltshire Police were thanked for their work on the CCTV proposal with it cited that being about to speak to the Neighbourhood Policing Team was invaluable. • It was questioned whether work could be done to promote the positivity of Community Speed Watch projects and to encourage residents to participate. The PCC stated that there was well over one hundred Community Speed Watch Groups when he arrived in post which had now been placed into structured groupings with leaders who communicate data for collation. It was agreed that work could be done to consider how more volunteers could be recruited. • The issue of enforcing speed limits, particularly within 20mph speed limits was discussed. • It was suggested that local youth groups would like to do more with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, with it cited that the Chief Constable’s national portfolio was focused on children and young people. Therefore, it was agreed that a lot more could be done regarding engagement, education, and interventions.
82	<p><u>Wiltshire & Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner</u></p> <p><i>The update from Wiltshire & Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner was received directly before the update provided by the Wiltshire Police Chief Constable.</i></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from Phillip Wilkinson, Wiltshire & Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner. The update included but was not limited to the following points:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner provided the Area Board with an overview of his working background as well as that when he arrived into post, Wiltshire Police was not in a positive position and tended to look inwards with committees rather than providing directional support to the frontline. • This had now changed with a new Chief Constable and Chief Officer Group in place as well a defined chain of command with the Chief Constable able to hold staff to account. • The Commissioner outlined that his role is to hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of residents through a set of objectives which are routinely discussed. • Wiltshire Police is no longer in special measures; however, it is not complacent and recognises that there are still steps to be taken. • The Commissioner outlined that he has the responsibility of creating a new Police and Crime Plan, which could be shaped on the concerns and responsibilities of residents. • Looking back on the previous Police and Crime Plan, improvements had been made across all crime types apart from retail crime, however this would be worked on. • The example of County Lines was cited, including Operation Scorpion, where the 5 Southwest Police Forces collaborated to focus on aspects of County Lines. As a result, all five forces were not within the top 10 in the country, with Wiltshire being ranked the first performing force. • It was outlined that in the Commissioner’s first year, 1,324 speeding sanctions had been placed and that in the Melksham area last year 764 sanctions had been placed, representing a huge improvement. <p>After the update, there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity was sought regarding recruitment and retention, with this areas having been an issue in the past. It was noted that this situation had now improved, and the force was fully established due to a positive improvement in morale and retention.
83	<p><u>Wiltshire & Swindon Road Safety Partnership</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from Perry Payne, Wiltshire & Swindon Road Safety Partnership. The update included but was not limited to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was outlined that road safety is not the remit of one organisation, therefore the Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership allows organisations to work together. • The organisations of the Partnership were outlined. • The three main workstreams of the Partnership were identified as Engineering, Education and Enforcement. • Currently education has a focus on the #Fatal5, which it was explained

	<p>are the five main contributors to road traffic collisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The education provisions of Wiltshire Council and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service were outlined. • Gratitude was placed towards the work of Community Speed watch teams, with it stressed that these people were volunteers making a significant contribution. • Community Speed watch data was provided for Melksham from July 2020 to August 2024, with it noted that 379 watches had been conducted with 2,137 letters sent. • Additionally, eleven traffic survey speed assessments had taken place with 7 areas needing Community Speed watch action and 3 requiring speed education. • The enforcement aspect of the Partnership was outlined, including the role of Community Speed Enforcement Officers who between 1 January 2023 and 8 May 2024 had been active in 851 locations, issued 10,667 speed awareness courses, 1,450 fines/points and 144 individuals referred to court. • The work of the Road Policing Unit was outlined. • An emerging trend had been identified of an increase in pedestrians distracted by mobile phones and stepping out into roads. <p>After the update, there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity was sought regarding the use of SIDs as well as the downloading of data, to which it was stated that there are five different types of SID, which download data to Wiltshire Police, which is automatically analysed to allow for data led enforcement. It was suggested that if Speed Watch teams were to interrogate their own data, they could pass it onto the Neighbourhood Policing Team for action.
84	<p><u>Artwork Pilot</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a presentation from Caroline LeQuesne, Engagement and Partnerships Lead regarding the process for requesting and deciding whether artwork is legally allowed to be painted on a wall including a request for the Melksham Underpass to be the first pilot in Wiltshire.</p> <p>The presentation covered, but was not limited to, the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference was drawn to a full report which had been included with in the agenda pack. • It was acknowledged that graffiti and tagging tends to be unsightly, offensive and of cost to the Council to remove. Locally, artists had been paid in Salisbury and Corsham to produce art on walls which might have been tagged. Furthermore, legal walls were also present in other cities, allowing artists to paint and produce art without being prosecuted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal wall in Chippenham was cited as an example, having decreased the amount of graffiti in parts of the town whilst saving money for circa ten years. • The benefits of legal walls were outlined, including increased youth engagement and pride in place, which linked to one of the Area Board priorities, heritage. • An overview of the proposed process was outlined, with input to be sought from Wiltshire Council services, Parish Councils and Police. Additionally, there would need to be a clear communications plan and that the legal wall would be monitored and subject to a code of conduct. The Town Council was also looking to extend the CCTV network to where the underpass is located. • Reference was drawn to an example code of conduct included with the report appendix. <p>After the presentation, there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was stated that there had been a challenge to get the underpass sorted for a number of years and that this established practice could be positive and constructive. • Concerns were voiced that though in theory the pilot could be positive, it could lead to an increase of tagging within the town. Assurance had however been provided that there would be a lot of monitoring and if concerns were detected and tagging was taking place elsewhere the project could be terminated. <p>After which, it was;</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the underpass in Melksham situated along the A350 at Bath Road to be put forward as an initial pilot to trial the process. 2. That ongoing monitoring takes place within the trial period and appropriate action, or changes are taken if required.
85	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Updates were received from the following partners:</p> <p><i>The update from Wiltshire Police was received directly after the update provided by the Wiltshire Police Chief Constable.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police <p>The Area Board noted written updates attached to the agenda. In addition, Inspector Andy Lemon and Sergeant Gemma Rutter provided a verbal update</p>

	<p>which included, but was not limited to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of crime data was provided for the past 6 months, with it noted that there had been a decrease of 9% including reductions in burglary, violence, drug offences, possession of weapons and reported theft. • The team were not complacent and recognised that there had been an increase of keyless vehicle thefts. • Work had been completed by the team to improve community engagement and visibility, including a drop-in surgery in Melksham Park every 3rd Saturday of the month and routine drop ins at the Melksham Chatty Café. • Youth engagement has taken place, with staff visiting youth centres on an ad-hoc basis. • E-scooters was highlighted as a priority for the next month, with work conducted with the road policing unit and a video soon to follow on the Wiltshire Police social media page. • Education work was set to take place to engage and educate people on speed watch. Additionally, officers now had set shifts to visit locations with speed guns. • An overview of the team work streams and priorities was provided as per the update within the agenda pack. • The Neighbourhood Policing Team could be contacted via the following email address: TrowbridgeAreaNPT@wiltshire.police.uk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSW Together (Integrated Care System) The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda. • Healthwatch Wiltshire The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda. • Community First The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda. • Youth Update The Area Board received a verbal update from Councillor Jon Hubbard, who introduced Marie Gondlach as the new charity Director for 4 Youth Southwest; who would be the direct point of contact for all matters relating to the charity.
86	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Cllr Mike Sankey introduced the minutes and recommendations from the LHFIG meeting held on 15 August 2024. After which, it was;</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p>

	<p>The minutes of the Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group meeting held on 15 August 2024 were agreed as a correct record as well as approving the following spending recommendations within:</p> <p>To add the following Issues to the Priority Schemes List with funding (where indicated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09-24-07 Top Lane, Westhill, Whitley & Purlpit – Provision of Whitley ‘please drive carefully’ sign at Gateway and ‘pedestrians in road signs’ x 2. Allocate - £700.00. Melksham without parish council to contribute 50% (£350). • 09-24-09 Great Hinton Village - Request for 20mph limit assessment in Great Hinton.
87	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Chairman informed the Area Board of the opening balances for grant funding.</p> <p>The Area Board considered the following applications for funding:</p> <p><u>Community Area Grants:</u></p> <p>Saxon Group Riding for the Disabled Association - £378 towards Surface Topper.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Saxon Group Riding for the Disabled Association was awarded £378 towards Surface Topper.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Jonathon Seed Seconded – Cllr Jon Hubbard</p> <p><u>Reason</u> – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</p> <p><u>Older & Vulnerable Grants:</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Music Centre - £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire (Melksham).</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Music Centre was awarded £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire (Melksham).</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Jack Oatley Seconded – Cllr Jon Hubbard</p>

Reason – *The application met the Older & Vulnerable Grants Criteria 2023/24.*

Young People Grants:

4Youth Southwest - £5,000 towards Delivery of Seniors Youth Club sessions for young people in Year 9 and above aged 13 to 19.

Decision

4Youth Southwest was awarded £5,000 towards Delivery of Seniors Youth Club sessions for young people in Year 9 and above aged 13 to 19.

**Moved – Cllr Mike Sankey
Seconded – Cllr Jonathon Seed**

Councillors Hubbard and Oatley abstained from voting on this application as per their earlier declarations.

Reason – *The application met the Young People Grants Criteria 2023/24.*

4Youth Southwest - £5,000 towards TeenTalk Young People Counselling.

Decision

4Youth Southwest was awarded £5,000 towards TeenTalk Young People Counselling.

**Moved – Cllr Mike Sankey
Seconded – Cllr Nick Holder**

Councillors Hubbard and Oatley abstained from voting on this application as per their earlier declarations.

Reason – *The application met the Young People Grants Criteria 2023/24.*

Melksham Town Council - £1,080 towards Melksham Youth Council.

Decision

Melksham Town Council was awarded £1,080 towards Melksham Youth Council subject to confirmation that the application had been checked and was within the criteria of the Area Board funding.

**Moved – Cllr Jack Oatley
Seconded – Cllr Mike Sankey**

Reason – *The application met the Young People Grants Criteria 2023/24.*

88	<u>Urgent Items</u> There were no urgent items.
89	<u>Close</u> The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 6 November 2024.

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Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	Cost of Living
Date prepared:	10 September 2024
Further enquiries to:	Will Oulton
Direct contact:	William.oulton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cost of Living

As we prepare for winter, there remain some financial pressures on household budgets, and it is anticipated that there will be continuing demand for support and advice.

Overall inflation is relatively stable at 2.2%¹, which suggests that some cost pressures for the community have reduced. However, for example, under the new energy price cap, gas and electricity prices will rise by 10% in England, Scotland and Wales from October².

The Council, therefore, is continuing to work with partners to deliver interventions that provide advice and support to our communities, including:

- Wiltshire libraries are continuing as warm spaces and as sources of advice.
- We will contact community providers to update our [interactive guide](#) to help people find key support to combat fuel and food poverty. In addition, we are creating a page on the directory that gives an interactive advent calendar view of provision/opportunities over the Christmas period.
- Wiltshire bus users can continue to travel on most routes in the county for just £2 or less for a single fare until the end of December 2024³. The fare price reduction has been funded by the Government and is aimed at getting more people to use buses across the country during the current cost of living challenges.
- Ahead of the Government announcement to extend the Household Support Fund by 6 months from the 1st of October⁴, we are analysing the impact of schemes delivered under the programme so can further develop our approach to ensure that

¹ [CPI ANNUAL RATE 00: ALL ITEMS 2015=100 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

² [What is the energy price cap and who gets winter fuel payments? - BBC News](#)

³ [Get around for £2 - extended to December 2024 - Connecting Wiltshire](#)

⁴ [Government support extended to help struggling households with bills and essential costs over winter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

those households most in need are targeted for support. A full report is expected at Cabinet in October.

- Pending confirmation of funding, Foodbanks and Community Food Providers will be invited to apply for funding to support their work.
- [Our website](#) and media channels offer a range of online support and sign-posting information on topics including council tax/benefits, energy advice and mental health support.
- A dedicated Wiltshire Wellbeing support line to provide advice and guidance, and officers are working with to improve processes to ensure people are directed to right support. Contact details on the phone are: 0300 003 4576, and email is: wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk
- With change to the eligibility of Winter Fuel Payments⁵, the DWP has been encouraging the take up of Pension Credit⁶. The Council has also been promoting the take-up of Pension Credit to those who may be missing out.

FUEL Programme

The Council is pleased to say that, following a successful summer programme that saw more than 1,500 young people make around 2,000 bookings at over 41 locations. , Wiltshire Council's Holiday Activity and Food programme (FUEL) will be back during the Christmas school holidays. It is funded by the Department for Education and provides children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals with free access to activity, food and nutritional education during school holidays. Eligible families will be able to sign up later in the year and details will be promoted through all schools in Wiltshire in due course. More information about FUEL can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuel-programme.

⁵ [Winter Fuel Payment: Eligibility - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁶ ["You could get Pension Credit" – Week of Action to drive take up - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Community First - AGM and Awards Celebration

The Community First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Celebration took place on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at Devizes Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended the event as we celebrated our achievements in 2023-2024. The Community First Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding contribution of groups, organisations, individuals and young people who give so much of their time and enthusiasm to support our charity and its services.

Please join us in congratulating our winners for their well-deserved awards, many thanks also to Community First President and HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton for presenting each of our winners with a trophy and certificate.

Full List of Winners

The Michael Jones Award for Inspirational Link Scheme or Community Minibus Volunteer
Christopher Morgan and Ron Young (Ramsbury Flyer)

Community Project Funded Through the Landfill Communities Fund Programme
Tina Wheeler and Julian Wright - The Re-Roofing Team (All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent)

The Martin Hamer In Special Recognition Award
Hugh de Saram - Marlborough Link

Most Innovative Community Run Project or Service
Lisa Brindley - Pewsey Youth Café

Building Bridges/Inspire Swindon Outstanding Achievement Award
Keelan

Building Bridges Personal Achievement Award
Morgan

Project Inspire Achievement Award
Freddie

Inspire Swindon Personal Progress Award
Leila

Young Carers Achievement Award (Under 12 Years)
Penny

Young Carers Achievement Award (Over 12 Years)
Warren

Splash Achievement Award
Jack

Splash Volunteer Award
Carys

Community First Young Leaders Achievement Award*Mollie***Local Council Community Project Award***Haydon Wick Haven (Haydon Wick Parish Council)***Carers Together Contribution to Caring Award***Amanda***Voice It, Hear It Contribution to Community Engagement Award***Voice It, Hear It Co-production Group***The Arthur Laflin Volunteer Award***Ray White (Warminster & District Link Scheme)***Community First - Annual Review and Celebration Video**

The Community First Annual Review 2023-2024 is now available to view and download on our website. The Annual Review contains a summary of our work with people and communities over the last 12 months. This includes updates from our programmes and services, a general outline of our priorities and a summary of financial information for the year ending 31 March 2024.

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Annual-Review-2023-2024-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

Alongside the Annual Review, we have also produced a Year in Review 23/24 video which you can view using the following link: https://youtu.be/32_vNso8s7c

Get Out Get Active (GOGA) - Free Interactive Training Workshops

Join Community First for a FREE interactive training workshop for Get Out Get Active (GOGA) volunteers. Get Out Get Active (GOGA) brings together disabled and non-disabled people, to be active through fun and inclusive activities. This training workshop is ideal for anyone engaging with members of their community, with the aim of recruiting additional volunteers or participants for their GOGA activities. You will be introduced to the foundations of Community Organising and Listening Training, which we hope will give you the tools to recruit new volunteers or create new ideas for your group. During this course, you will explore:

- What Community Organising is
- The importance of listening to build relationships and uncover barriers
- Getting to know your audience
- Taking the next steps to reach out and engage your community

Course dates and locations:

- 12th February 2025 (Tidworth)
- 24th February 2025 (Westbury)
- 10th March 2025 (Trowbridge)
- 18th March 2025 (Marlborough)
- 24th March 2025 (Salisbury)

To register your interest please email hpinney@communityfirst.org.uk. An information poster is included with this briefing pack.

Carers Together Wiltshire Roadshows

Carers Together Wiltshire is a new support service for unpaid, adult carers in Wiltshire. The service is delivered by Age UK Wiltshire in partnership with Community First, Alzheimer's Support, Wiltshire Service Users' Network, Wessex Community Action and Wiltshire Citizens Advice.

If you would like to find out more about the support available or you would like the opportunity to share your thoughts (and needs) around the type of community events you would like to see for unpaid carers, come along to one of the Carers Together Roadshows this autumn.

Dates and locations:

<https://www.facebook.com/carerstogetherwiltshire/events>

An information poster is included with this briefing pack. If you work with unpaid, adult carers, please share the poster and/or this information with them.

Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service

Community First offers support to young carers in Wiltshire through our Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service. We work with hundreds of young carers and young adult carers every year in Wiltshire. We are proud to support and champion their rights, helping them to feel safer in their caring role and offering opportunities for them to achieve and thrive.

Wiltshire Council's Team carry out assessments of young people who care for someone else. Anyone who thinks a child could be a young carer can refer into Wiltshire Council for a young carers' assessment. Professionals should complete a IFD request for service form (<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/IFD-request-for-service.docx>) and submit this to Integratedfrontdoor@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Children and parents can self-refer on 0300 456 0108 or mash@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Once the referral is received, it will be allocated to a member of the Wiltshire Council Team, who will contact the family and arrange a visit. The Assessment is holistic and will look at what support can be offered to the family. Further information is available on the Wiltshire Council website:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-young-carers>

For more information about Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service, call 01380 720 671, email wiltshireyoungcarers@youthactionwiltshire.org or visit:

www.communityfirst.org.uk/yaw/young-carers.

Voice It, Hear It

Voice It, Hear It, is a new project that unifies the collective strength of its partners to support the voice and engagement of people in Wiltshire. We currently have a number of projects ongoing which offer Wiltshire residents and service users a chance to feedback on the services they use.

New projects and consultations (including surveys) will be shared on social media and our website.

To be involved or find out more visit: www.communityfirst.org.uk/voice

MiDAS - Essential Training for Minibus Drivers

Community First offers Minibus Driver Awareness (MiDAS) training for schools, groups and organisations. MiDAS is a nationally recognised scheme designed to enhance both driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. The Department of Education and Department for Transport highly recommend that all minibus drivers complete this training scheme and MiDAS is a recognised training programme for drivers to comply with Section 19 / 22 permits. The scheme is governed by the Community Transport Association (CTA) with Community First as an approved training provider.

Community First offers two MiDAS programmes:

- Standard: Consisting of a theory and practical assessment.
- Accessible: To follow 'Standard' training, specifically designed for drivers who will be transporting wheelchair users.

Drivers will be provided with access to the CTA website to complete the theory assessment prior to the practical assessment. On successful completion of both theory and practical, drivers will be able to print their individual MiDAS certificate through the CTA website. Certificates are valid for four years.

Our instructors:

Training is delivered by our highly qualified and experienced MiDAS Training Coordinators Martin Carter and Alan Russell. Martin is a retired Police Advanced driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses. Martin completed the MiDAS Driver Assessor Trainers (DAT) course in 2019. Since then, he has trained nearly 400 drivers. Alan is a retired Police Officer with Advanced Driving qualifications. In addition, Alan has an HGV 1 license and extensive experience of driving many different classes of vehicles and testing them. Alan is also a qualified vehicle mechanic and vehicle examiner.

MiDAS Pricing:

- Standard Driver - £165 (+VAT)
- Accessible Driver - £205 (+VAT)

Weekends subject to agreement. Minimum 3 drivers per booking. Prices are per person.

Bookings:

If you would like any further information on MiDAS training, please email:

midas@communityfirst.org.uk

An information leaflet is included with this briefing.

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

ewing@communityfirst.org.uk



Carers Together

Wiltshire



The new support service for unpaid Carers in Wiltshire



Would you like to find out more about the support available for unpaid carers in Wiltshire?

Do you want to know how to apply for the new Carer ID Card?

Would you like the opportunity to share your thoughts, and needs, around the type of community events you'd like to see in your area for unpaid carers?

Come along to our Carers Roadshows being held across Wiltshire.

To find out more please visit our Facebook events page:

www.facebook.com/carerstogetherwiltshire/events



Age UK Wiltshire Registered Charity No.800912, Registered Company No.2121174 (registered in Cardiff)

A FREE Interactive Training Workshop for GOGA Volunteers



Get Out Get Active (GOGA) brings together disabled and non-disabled people, to be active through fun and inclusive activities.

This Training Workshop is ideal for anyone engaging with members of their community, with the aim of recruiting additional volunteers or participants for their GOGA activities.

You will be introduced to the foundations of Community Organising and Listening Training, which we hope will give you the tools to recruit new volunteers or create new ideas for your group.

Community Organisers

- Course Dates and Locations**
- 12th February 2025 -Tidworth
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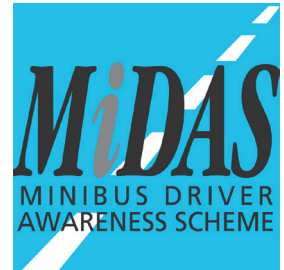
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“Excellent course. Great trainer!”

Training Feedback

MiDAS Pricing

Bookings:

If you would like any further information on MiDAS training, please email: midas@communityfirst.org.uk

Standard Driver – £165 (+VAT)

Accessible Driver – £205 (+VAT)

Weekends subject to agreement.

Minimum 3 drivers per booking. Prices are per person.

ICB updates for Wiltshire Area Board – October 2024

New provider of integrated community-based care

People in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire will receive more health and social care in or near their homes, in a more joined-up and streamlined way.

HCRG Care Group has been appointed to lead an innovative new community-based care partnership with the NHS, local authorities and charities that will transform the care and support that people get to help them with their health and wellbeing at every stage of their lives.

Traditional community services such as nursing, therapy and personal care will be enhanced as they become part of new integrated neighbourhood teams, working across homes, care homes, clinics, schools and community centres to bring more personalised support to local people.

The aim is to build on the services that are valued by patients and their loved ones, as well as giving people more support in living healthier lives.

Among the benefits local people can expect to see will be:

- A single place or front door to get community-based care, help and support. The new front door will be fully accessible to all, and be available in a face-to-face location, as well as online and over the phone.
- At least £7m a year will be invested in partnerships with VCSE providers to build community capacity to provide early help and support within communities from the end of 2027.
- Inappropriately located or outdated buildings will also be refurbished or phased out.
- Transforming the way that people access care will also reduce the pressure on GP practices and hospitals, which are seeing more people with health problems that could be effectively treated closer to home.

Local NHS invests millions to help patients get diagnostic care closer to home

Tens of thousands of patients living in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire requiring diagnostic care can now access the services they need sooner and closer to home thanks to a multimillion pound investment by the local NHS.

A £14 million cash injection has enabled three new community diagnostic centres to open across the region, with each of the sites providing the type of diagnostics that once would have only taken place inside a hospital.

Having services such as ultrasounds, echocardiograms and MRI scans based in the community means people awaiting diagnosis, including those with symptoms that could be cancer, can be seen quicker and begin any required treatment sooner.

The first centre opened at the Sulis Hospital in Bath in March 2023, and was followed in March and April of this year by two new sites, with one based at the West Swindon Health Centre and the other at Salisbury Centre Health Clinic.

Eligible groups encouraged to get vaccinated against flu and Covid-19

The second phase of the winter vaccination programme has begun for those in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Vaccinations against flu and Covid-19 are now available for people aged 65 and over, those with a weakened immune system, carers, care home residents and front-line workers in social care and health care.

Following the initial launch last month, inviting pregnant women and children for their flu vaccinations, from Thursday 3 October anyone eligible for vaccinations can book online at www.nhs.uk, by downloading the NHS App, or by calling 119.

In addition, the NHS will be sending out invitations to those eligible to get their jabs, while GP practices and other local NHS services will also be contacting people to offer the vaccines.

These vaccinations provide vital protection, helping to prevent serious illnesses and reduce hospital admissions during the busy winter months.

ICB Non-Executive Director to join mental health trust

Paul Miller, Non-Executive Director at Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, has been named as the new Chair of Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

Paul will step down from his role at BSW ICB at the end of October 2024 to take up the role of Chair at the mental health, learning disability and autism provider on 1 November 2024.

He has been a non-executive director since the establishment of the integrated care board in July 2022.

Stephanie Elsy, BSW ICB Chair, said: "We are very grateful for Paul's active support in the first two years of our ICB.

"This has been a pivotal time as we have developed the first integrated care plan that outlines the priority areas that we need to tackle to bring the most benefit to local people."

Independent investigation of the NHS published

In July 2024, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP, commissioned Lord Darzi to conduct an immediate and independent investigation of the NHS.

Lord Darzi's report has now been published and provides an expert understanding of the current performance of the NHS across England, as well as the challenges facing the whole health and care system.

Within the report, Lord Darzi used the most recent data and intelligence to assess:

- Patient access to health and care
- The quality of health and care being provided
- The overall performance of the health and care system

People can read the full report online at www.gov.uk, while alternative formats can be requested by sending an email to darzi2024evidence@dhsc.gov.uk.

Busy summer for urgent and emergency care services

Emergency departments in the NHS experienced the busiest summer on record, with around 6.8 million people coming forward for urgent care during June, July and August.

In total, 6,776,150 people attended an emergency department in England during the three-month period, which is an increase of more than 240,000 when compared to the previous year.

Local emergency teams also had a very busy summer, with the region's three hospitals – the Royal United Hospital in Bath, the Great Western Hospital in Swindon and Salisbury District Hospital – seeing a combined attendance of 79,787.

The busiest month of the summer came in July, when the combined attendances for each of the three hospitals totalled more than 27,000.

Professor Sir Stephen Powis, NHS National Medical Director, said: "The NHS has just come out of the busiest summer on record for A&Es across the country, and preparations are already under way for what is expected to be an extremely difficult winter."

WILTSHIRE POLICE



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Melksham Neighbourhood Team

Area Board

November 2024



Agenda Item 5

TEAM FOCUS, ACTION & PRIORITIES:

FOCUS- Melksham has, alongside other towns in Wiltshire and surrounding Forces, suffered a spate of van break ins whereby tools have been stolen. We have focused on the golden hour enquiries to best support any future prosecution once suspects are apprehended. We have carried out crime prevention advice online and in our drop-in surgeries with the handing out of DNA Selecta kits secured through force funding. We have proactively patrolled our areas and are working with a number of teams to pull together evidence and intelligence.



ACTION- We have completed three Operations- Op Scorpion, Safer Business Awareness Week and Rural Crime Awareness Week.

For Op Scorpion we targeted criminal transport links with a variety of traffic stops; speed gun duties and patrolling our transport links. We also visited addresses linked to vulnerable people who are at risk of being cuckooed.



For Safer Businesses we have visited our local businesses and invited them to a meeting for each town in our NPT area. This will launch discussions around their needs and expectations and how we can best meet them. We are also liaising with our Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Team to look at ways in which shops can deter, rather than encourage shoplifters with clearer product displays; clear CCTV observation points and moving high value goods to more secure locations.

For Rural Crime Week, we worked alongside the Rural Crime Team and Wiltshire Council to tackle waste disposal offences; checking the legality of our Scrap Metal sites and engaged with our farms to ensure they feel heard and protected.

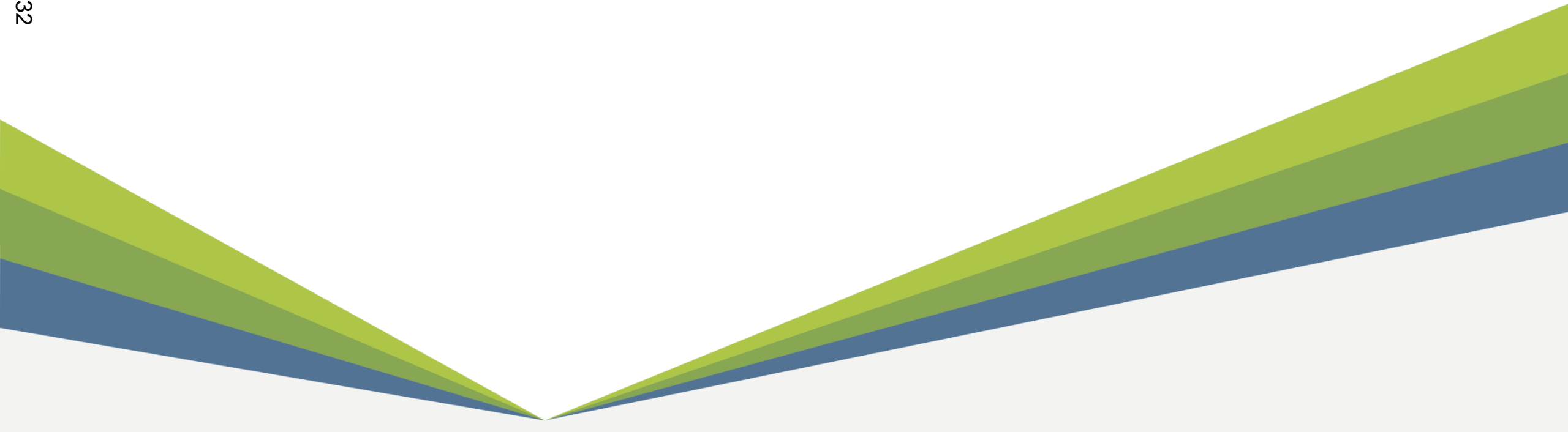


PRIORITIES-

Safer Night Time Economy support by our attendance at Pubwatch and working alongside the Licencing Team.

Retail Crime- We will continue working with our local businesses to increase their feeling of safety whilst working within our town. We will continue to carry out both visibility and plain clothes patrols to enforce, reassure and detect.

Youth Working- We are holding an evening at the Assembly Rooms in Melksham on Friday 29th November between 6pm-8pm where local clubs such as the Swimming Club, Police Cadets, Fear Less, Youth Offending Team, Local gyms and businesses will come together to show any families who want to drop by, what we have to offer to ALL youths and families, not just those who require intervention. Please pop by and say hello!



Melksham Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the grant applications made to the Melksham Area Board. These could include:
 - community area grants
 - youth grants
 - older and vulnerable people grants
 - area board initiatives
2. To document any recommendations provided through sub groups.

Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Youth Grants	Older and Vulnerable People Grants
Opening Balance For 2024/25	£ 22,309.00	£ 18,349.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 2,862.52	£ 11,080.00	£ 1,833.99
Current Balance	£ 19,446.48	£ 7,269.00	£ 5,866.01
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 7,363.48	£ 7,269.00	£ 5,600.28

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG2008	Community Area Grant	Keevil Community Amenities Trust	Keevil Banfield Recreation Ground In Ground Trampoline	£4166.67	£2083.00
Project Summary: Provide a children's in-ground trampoline, to replace an item of play equipment removed due to wear and tear.					
ABG2010	Community Area Grant	The Parochial Church Council of the Melksham Parish of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Melksham Salisbury	To purchase and refurbish 11 Canon Square for parish and community benefit	£27000.00	£5000.00

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary: We are applying to the Area Board for £5000 towards the £89,000 construction costs of a new community meeting space at 11 Canon Square, as part of our overall Building To Serve project. The Building To Serve project will convert and refurbish the ground floor of a derelict grade II listed building in Melksham town centre into a suite of attractive and flexible meeting spaces to be rented out affordably to local charities & community groups. We have had several strong expressions of interest from local charities for private, quiet spaces to offer counselling and support to parents and siblings of children with additional needs, debt counselling, bereavement support, and to help young people into the world of work. We have established partnerships with charities that support local residents, that meet the priorities set out in the town's strategic needs assessment document. The spaces will also be used by the local crafty cafe for older people, bereavement support, and youth groups. The two aspects of our project we feel suit your funding priorities are conservation (it is one of Melksham's oldest buildings, in the centre of town and is currently derelict and the source of great local unrest and has a long history of anti-social behaviour), and community service (the charities and activity we are wanting to offer mid week are unable to meet in other spaces we have as they are not versatile or sufficient enough in terms of space and amenities).</p>					
ABG2022	Community Area Grant	Riverside Club	Melksham Riverside Centre toilets	£37667.00	£5000.00
<p>Project Summary: Riverside Centre toilets facilities have a serious drainage problem in that one of the foul pipes has dropped and is blocking frequently. The project is to redesign both the disabled and gents toilets and provide a unisex/disabled facility which will be connected to one outlet and avoid the blocked foul drain. The current drainage is via two foul pipe systems.</p>					
ABG2026	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	HELP Counselling Services	Counselling Boxes for our new rooms in melksham	£265.73	£265.73
<p>Project Summary: From the 22nd October our new rooms open in Melksham. We will be offering 12 counselling sessions a week from Queensway Community Centre. Of course these rooms are not like our rooms in Trowbridge, where counsellors walk in and everything is ready and waiting. We are using 3 rooms at the community centre, across both buildings and we need 3 boxes. Each plastic box contains several boxes of tissues, 2 clocks, a carafe, drinking glasses, a security alarm, some cleaning wipes and batteries and some spares. Everything a counsellor and client need so a session.</p>					

Background

3. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.
4. Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:
 - Community Area Grants (capital)
 - Youth Grants (revenue)
 - Older and Vulnerable People Grants (revenue)
5. The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

Main Considerations

6. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young persons funding guidelines have been adhered to.
7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
8. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub groups of the Area Boards.

Safeguarding Implications

9. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Public Health Implications

10. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

11. Grant funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

Financial Implications

12. Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

Legal Implications

13. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

Workforce Implications

14. There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

Equalities Implications

15. Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.
16. Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

Proposals

17. To consider and determine the applications for grant funding.

Report Author

- Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

