

AGENDA

Meeting: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Place: Purton Village Hall, Station Road, Purton, SN5 4AJ
Date: Wednesday 18 January 2023
Time: 6.00 pm

Including the Parishes of: Broad Hinton, Winterbourne Bassett, Braydon, Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard, Cricklade, Latton, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Marston Meysey, Purton, Tockenham and Royal Wootton Bassett.

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.

Networking opportunity from 6:00pm.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Matt Hitch (Democratic Services Officer), direct line 01225 718059 or email matthew.hitch@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 Allison Bucknell, Lyneham (Chairman)
CLlr Bob Jones MBE, Cricklade and Latton (Vice-Chairman)
CLlr David Bowler, Royal Wootton Bassett South & West
CLlr Steve Bucknell, Royal Wootton Bassett East
CLlr Mary Champion, Royal Wootton Bassett North
CLlr Jacqui Lay, Purton

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this 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](#).

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

	Time
<p>1 Networking</p>	<p>6:00pm</p>
<p>2 Chairman's Welcome, Introductions and Announcements <i>(Pages 1 - 10)</i></p> <p>To welcome attendees to the meeting and receive announcements through the Chairman, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Delivery Officer • EV Charging • Cost of Living • Families and Children's Transformation • Coronation of King Charles III 	<p>6:30pm</p>
<p>3 Apologies for Absence</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>4 Minutes <i>(Pages 11 - 20)</i></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2022 as a true and correct record.</p>	
<p>5 Declarations of Interest</p> <p>To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.</p>	
<p>6 Police and Crime Commissioner <i>(Pages 21 - 22)</i></p> <p>To receive an update from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Swindon and Wiltshire, Philip Wilkinson OBE, MPhil.</p> <p>Wiltshire and Swindon's Strategic Planning and Performance Officer, John Derryman, will also be in attendance to provide further information about efforts to tackle speeding in the local area.</p>	<p>6:40pm</p>
<p>7 Community Food Bank Update</p> <p>To receive an update from local food banks such as, Purton Community Fridge, Malmesbury and District Food Bank, Lyneham Larder and Swindon Food Collective.</p>	<p>7:00pm</p>
<p>8 Emergency Contact Hubs</p> <p>To find out further information from Wiltshire Council's Community Resilience Team about proposals for Emergency Contact Hubs.</p>	<p>7:10pm</p>
<p>9 Spotlight on Parishes and Partners <i>(Pages 23 - 40)</i></p> <p>To receive updates from our key partners, including:</p>	<p>7:20pm</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wiltshire Police b. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – watch their latest video here c. Army Welfare Service d. Community First e. BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Together – Integrated Care System f. Healthwatch Wiltshire g. Parish and Town Councils 	
10	<p>Royal Wootton Bassett Banking Hub (<i>Pages 41 - 44</i>)</p> <p>To find out more about plans for a banking hub in Royal Wootton Bassett. The banking hub will operate in a similar way to bank branches, with banks providing staff on rotation so that trained specialists from different banks are available on different days.</p>	7:35pm
11	<p>Our Community Matters</p> <p>Updates from Area Board Members on the Community Area Action Plan.</p> <p>11a Youth Forum</p> <p>RWB and Cricklade Youth Forum Update – Cllr Allison Bucknell</p> <p>11b RWB and Cricklade Environmental Forum</p> <p>RWB and Cricklade Environmental Forum update – Cllr Steve Bucknell</p> <p>11c Community Care Group (<i>Pages 45 - 46</i>)</p> <p>RWB and Cricklade Community Care Group – Cllr Mary Champion and Cllr David Bowler</p> <p>11d Economy</p> <p>High Street Update – Cllr Bob Jones MBE</p> <p>Household Economy – Cllr Jacqui Lay</p>	7:45pm
12	<p>Community Safety Forum</p> <p>To receive updates from the recent meetings of the RWB and Cricklade Community Safety Forum.</p>	8:05pm
13	<p>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (<i>Pages 47 - 54</i>)</p> <p>To consider the recommendations arising from the LHFIG meeting of 14 December 2022 as follows:</p>	8:10pm

- 1) To note the discussions and updates in the attached report.
- 2) To close the following issues:
 - 5083 - prohibition of entry and exit at C70 Hayes Knoll Road made permanent.
 - 11-19-08 – Lydiard Tregoze signing and road markings.
- 3) To move the following issues to the Priority A list:
 - 11-22-16 Chelworth Crossroads improvements, Cricklade
 - 11-22-10 The Barton Signs, Clyffe Pypard and Bushton
 - 11-21-8 Purton, Manor Hill – speed reduction

14 **Funding Applications** (*Pages 55 - 58*)

8:15pm

To note the awarding of the following grant via delegated authority:

- RWB Environment Trust awarded £500 towards an infrared camera to allow local people to identify areas of heat loss in their homes.

To consider applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme, as follows:

- Purton Cricket Club requesting £5,000 towards resurfacing their nets.
- St Bartholomew's Church Croft requesting £1,750 towards a boiler replacement project.

To consider the following application to the Youth Grant Scheme:

- The Stay Safe Community Interest Company requesting £1,450 towards the 2023 Digital Empowerment Programme.

15 **Get It Off Your Chest**

An open, public question and answer session to raise issues with your local representative (please note that if answers cannot be provided on the night, written responses will be provided after the meeting).

16 **Urgent items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

17 **Close**

8:30pm

To confirm the date of the next business meeting as 14 March 2023, at 6:00pm.

Wiltshire Council Grants for Electric Vehicle Chargers

Following the well-attended EV Charging Infrastructure for Town & Parish Councils Webinar on the 14th of September, we are pleased to share this link with you. It contains the materials you need to progress your intentions for EV chargers in your communities:

[Electric vehicles and charging points - Wiltshire Council.](#)

The webpage at the link includes:

1. [Wiltshire EVCPI grant guidance](#)
2. The application form for the grants: [EVCPI Grant Scheme \(wiltshire.gov.uk\)](#)
3. Recordings of the presentations at the webinar – please circulate to colleagues, each presentation is short (around 10m) and shareable:
 - [National and Wiltshire EV strategy](#)
 - [National ORCS grant](#)
 - [Wiltshire EVCPI grant](#)
 - [Wiltshire Council's charge point installer Joju and their provision of free site assessments](#)
4. Link to guidance for the national On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) grants from Government, which can be used in conjunction with the Wiltshire grants.

If you have identified sites, the first step in applying for the Wiltshire EVCPI grant (up to £2500) is to book a free site assessment from Joju, Wiltshire Council's EV Charging Infrastructure provider. Please contact info@joju.co.uk with 'Wiltshire Council EV Charging Project' in the subject line.

If, having reviewed the materials, you have further questions for the Council, please contact fleet.services@wiltshire.gov.uk.

These materials will be shared widely through Local Council channels.

Area Board Briefing Note – Cost of Living Update – November 2022

Cost of Living Update – November 2022

As detailed in the update to Full Council in October, Wiltshire Council is focusing on three principal areas to meet the Cost of Living crisis, namely support for Businesses, Our Staff and the People in our communities.

The Council has provided extensive coordination of resources on a [dedicated Cost of Living page](#). This includes links to information for sources of national and local support.

Officers have worked to pull together to create an interactive directory that allows people to find out what warm spaces and community food providers are in their immediate local area. The directory also includes what other facilities and services are provided at each location.

The directory has been created using information collected by the Council to establish what support is already up and running in the county and will be regularly updated.

Wiltshire Council's friendly library staff will be playing their part too, by working with Warm and Safe Wiltshire and The Rural Communities Energy Support Network, to assist residents seeking basic energy advice and make referrals to experienced energy advisors in all but its smallest libraries. All libraries will be able to signpost people to community partners and agencies that can support people through the rising cost of living. Libraries will also be collection points for Warm Packs, which includes a hot water bottle and blanket, for anyone who would benefit from some free essentials. These will be available for collection soon.

As well as existing customer contact channels, the Council is planning how to use the Wellbeing Hub line to help people find the right support.

Support for Businesses and Schools

The Enterprise Network (set up by the Council) is hosting a series of webinars designed to provide start up and small businesses help, support and advice to guide businesses through the current economic challenges. To find out more about the Take TEN series and to join the webinars or watch videos, people can go to: www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk/support/cost-of-doing-business.

As part of the carbon reduction work, School Leaders are being encouraged to sign up to the Energy Sparks programme which can help them get on top of their energy bills and find ways to reduce costs. We are also supporting Council maintained schools with a grant to access their half hourly smart meter data for a year to give them the data they need to make informed choices.

Support for Staff

As well as ensuring staff have access to wellbeing and support resources, including a new Mental Health Advocate scheme, the Council will review policies and processes as appropriate, and will consider how staff can be flexibly deployed to meet emerging need.

Targeted Support in the Community

The Council has been administering the Government's national Household Support Grant Scheme designed to support those most in need across England, to help with the significantly rising living costs in the period up to the end of March 2023. The money can be used to support households in the most need who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills, particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support that the Government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need.

The council has been awarded £2,728,656 in total and has worked with partner agencies to allocate the money and ensure it gets to those who need it most. Payments began in October and are continuing to be made. People do not need to apply to Wiltshire Council as those eligible will be identified and contacted.

The Council is working with partners in the VCSE sectors to promote their campaign to encourage donations, particularly from those who have surplus fuel rebates, to help fund schemes to support those most in need.

Wiltshire Council has also provided funding to Wiltshire Community Foundation and partners to deliver support under the Surviving Winter campaign which provides practical and financial help for people living in fuel poverty. From 1 November, people who are in receipt of means-tested benefit and are aged over 65 or suffer from a long-term health condition, may be eligible for assistance including fuel vouchers and a range of advice. For more information about eligibility and the help available contact Warm and Safe Wiltshire on 0800 038 5722 email warmandsafe@cse.org.uk.

Funding is also being provided to Age UK Wiltshire for provision and delivery of hot meals to isolated elderly residents who are unable to meet the cost of this service themselves; for further information contact Age UK Community Meals on 01793 279606.

Support during the holidays

Wiltshire Council will be delivering its successful Holiday Activity and Food (FUEL) programme again this winter. The programme provides children eligible for benefits related free school meals, refugees, those currently in the care system and those referred by a professional service with access to free high quality activities, nutritious meals and food education during the school holidays.

The FUEL programme is delivered with funding from the Department for Education and

will run from Monday 19 December – Thursday 22 December. Eligible families will be able to sign up by following the application link listed on [FUEL programme - Wiltshire Council](#). The application window is open now until December 11, please sign up early to avoid disappointment.

The camps provide the opportunity for all participants to take part in a range of enriching activities including structured sports, arts and crafts, STEM activities, laser tag, circus skills, robotics and much more. Participants also will take part in nutritional workshops and be provided with a hot lunch each day.

Two FUEL Christmas camps specifically for young people with special educational needs and/or a disability will also place at Springfield Community Campus in Corsham and at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre in Salisbury and individuals will be able to take part in activities such as dodgeball, dance, new age kurling, cricket and boccia. Further information and sign up details are also available on the FUEL webpage. There is more info here in via youtube: [HAF summer case study 2022 - YouTube](#).

For further information about the Holiday Activity and Food Programme in Wiltshire please email fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk

Promoting Fundraising Campaigns

As part of our on going work with our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise partners, Wiltshire Council is helping to promote the Wiltshire Community Foundation's [Cost of Living Appeal](#) through our networks.

Building on the work of previous appeals where people who can afford to are encouraged to donate any surplus winter fuel allowances, the wider community is being ask to help generate vital funds to help grassroots voluntary groups and charities in Swindon and Wiltshire who are supporting families and individuals in the face of escalating rent, food and energy prices.

The money raised through this joint appeal will fund a new grants programme to support projects which are keeping people fed and warm and provide additional practical support and advice to help people cope throughout this period of great hardship.

You can donate to the appeal [here](#) or call the donation line on 01380 738989 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Area Board Briefing Note – FACT Family Help

Service:	Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Partnership
Date prepared:	November 2022
Further enquiries to:	Simon Thomas FACT Programme Lead
Direct contact:	FACT@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Partnership Family Help Project Background Briefing November 2022

Wiltshire's multi-agency FACT partnership has identified how we work together as a system to provide early intervention and prevention (Family Help) as a priority transformation activity for the next two years.

These new Family Help arrangements will ensure that children, young people and families are able to access the right help at the right time through a co-ordinated approach to prevention and early intervention through:

- a co-ordinated approach at a whole population/universal level to prevent needs from arising and to build resilience across all residents
- a robust multi-agency approach to spotting any additional needs at the earliest point and providing effective joined-up support that prevents the needs from escalating further

There are certain elements that partners have agreed to develop and roll out across the whole of Wiltshire from the New Year whilst other elements are planned to be tested in a locality pilot approach in the Warminster and Westbury area.

Across Wiltshire, the project will deliver:

- A clear unifying brand for Family Help
- Online database of services, community resources & activities
- Co-ordinated whole system workforce development offer
- Consistency of core approaches across the Early Help workforce

The Warminster & Westbury pilot will also develop & test the benefits of:

- Wrapping a dedicated group of identified Early Help services & community groups around a cluster of schools/settings; embedding them in the communities they serve
- Establishing a local contact point for Early Help requests for support & case discussion whereby the responses make best use of local resources including the voluntary & community sector
- More flexible working practice with core workers delivering intervention in the place, way & time that achieves best impact eg home, school, online, group, breakfast time, evening
- A locally led inclusive & welcoming local community of practice for Early Help – responding to local needs, identifying & sharing learning & good practice, engaging in reflective dialogue related to the pilot activity, promoting & delivering agreed culture & practice change activity

- Securing strong transition with a focus on pupils that need it most & joining up where siblings span multiple schools
- Specialist input on key themes including mental health, ASD, parental conflict & challenging behaviour – delivered locally & taking account of the local context
- Local consultation mechanisms to ensure that we understand the needs & lived experience of children, young people & families in Warminster & Westbury

We are at the stage of engaging with the key local stakeholders in the pilot area to further develop our thinking and ensure that the next stage of activity is informed by their views, experience and context.

As such, we will be setting up a range of briefings and consultation meetings to give all services and groups in Warminster and Westbury the chance to hear more about the background thinking and to start to input to the plan for the pilot activity. There will be subsequent meetings that will involve wider stakeholders as we build an inclusive partnership to create and deliver the local model – we want to understand and make the most of the good practice and assets already in place locally as well as creating and testing new arrangements that will subsequently inform the pan-Wiltshire model. To enable the project to achieve its full potential we will be looking to engage with the widest possible network of organisations as well as setting up specific mechanisms to ensure that the voice of children, young people and families is at the heart of the project.

Please email FACT@wiltshire.gov.uk for further information or to get involved.

The King's Coronation – Community Celebrations Briefing Note

Service: Enforcement, Highways and Transport.

Further Enquiries: Kevin Oliver

Date Prepared: 7 November 2022

Direct Line: 01380 826335

The King's Coronation – Community Celebrations

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure that Wiltshire Council has a robust and straightforward system in place to ensure that communities wishing to celebrate the King's Coronation are signposted to the council's web page where they will find the appropriate tools, support and guidance to apply to hold a community party.

2. Background

- 2.1 Although King Charles officially became Sovereign on Thursday 8 September 2022 when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, passed away at Balmoral, Scotland, there will be a ceremonial Coronation to follow. The Coronation is a religious service that requires the King to take an oath before his country.
- 2.2 King Charles III Coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. The service has been carried out here for more than 900 years, and the King will be the 40th Monarch to be crowned in the Abbey.
- 2.3 The Prime Minister has decided to proclaim an additional bank holiday to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III next year. The Bank Holiday will fall on Monday 8 May 2023, following the Coronation on Saturday 6 May. This will be an opportunity for families and communities across the country to come together to celebrate.

2.4 Similar events have taken place in the county on many occasions with communities holding community parties, barbeques, and tea parties. Wiltshire Council have specified previous guidance and relevant officers will follow the same process as used for past celebrations.

3. Procedure and Management of Applications

3.1 The application process will be a combined departmental effort, as with previous events of this nature.

3.2 The council's Traffic Orders and Highways teams will need time to ensure that all road closure notices and provisions are in place to allow for a safe and enjoyable event for all guests, while maintaining and facilitating access for emergency services at all times.

3.3 The council is committed to managing this process utilising a cross departmental approach. Such departments will include the Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Managers, Traffic Orders, Communications, Highways, Streetscene, Wiltshire Police and Waste.

4. Production of Applications and Guidance.

4.1 The departments listed above have met and will continue to meet to discuss and agree responsibilities which will include the production of all relevant application and guidance documents. These will be approved by all relevant internal departments and will be signed off by the Communications Team.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Relevant council departments are aware of the importance that community parties are to the residents of Wiltshire to celebrate the King's Coronation.

5.2 Planning in preparation for these activities is underway and the Licensing Committee can be assured of the successful delivery for the 2023 celebrations.

5.3 The Licensing Committee will be updated by the relevant departments as and when necessary.

Briefing Note produced by Kevin Oliver (Land Use / Events Authorising Officer)

Email: kevin.oliver@wiltshire.gov.uk

MINUTES

Meeting: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Place: Cricklade Town Hall, High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6AE
Date: 28 September 2022
Start Time: 6.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.36 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Matt Hitch (Democratic Services Officer),(Tel): 01225 718059 or (e-mail) matthew.hitch@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Area Board Members

Cllr Allison Bucknell (Chairman), Cllr Bob Jones MBE (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Mary Champion and Cllr Jacqui Lay

Also present:

Cllr Jane Davies (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Inclusion)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Sarah Valdus – Assistant Director Environment
Andrew Jack – Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer
Matthew Hitch – Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 40

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
51	<p><u>Networking</u></p> <p>Guests enjoyed refreshments provided by Cricklade Town Council. Local groups, Cricklade Climate Change Action Group, Cricklade Development Foundation and Bloomers set up stalls for the networking session.</p> <p>The Chairman announced the winners of the Cricklade Scarecrow Raffle.</p>
52	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome, Introductions and Announcements</u></p> <p>Thanks were given to Cricklade Town Hall, the stall holders, and Cricklade Town Council.</p> <p>The Area Board asked the Chairman to write a letter of thanks to Community Engagement Managers Alexa Davies and Jane Vaughan for their work helping the Board in recent years. The Chairman then introduced the new officers supporting the Area Board, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager (SEPM), Andrew Jack, and Assistant Director for Environment, Sarah Valdus.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Inclusion, Cllr Jane Davies, was also introduced.</p> <p>The Chairman then referred the Area Board to the written updates available in the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-16 Skills and Participation (pg. 1) • Building Bridges project (pg. 3) • Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living (pg. 5) • Annual Canvas (pg. 7) • Temporary Event Notices (pgs. 10-11) <p>The Community Engagement Manager of Purton Parish Council reported that a Community Safety Roadshow and Councillor Surgery would take place in Purton Village Hall on 1 October. Attendees would be able to visit a police accident car, speak to the Wiltshire Council Road Safety Team, learn about Neighbourhood Watch and other key schemes.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that she ran a support hub for Ukrainian refugees in Royal Wootton Bassett and that families throughout the Area Board would be welcome to attend. She drew the Area Board's attention to the English language courses being run by Wiltshire Council's Family and Community Learning Service on 10 October in Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist Church.</p>
53	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p>

	<p>Apologies for absence were received from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr David Bowler • Phil Peuple from DW Fire and Rescue • Amy Dallimore – Army Welfare Service • Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council
54	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Lay, it was resolved:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 15 June 2022, as a true and correct record.</p>
55	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
56	<p><u>Spotlight on Parishes and Partners</u></p> <p>Written updates were available in the agenda pack from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police (pgs. 25-31) • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue (Agenda Supplement 1) • BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (pgs. 33-34) • Hills Purton Liaison Committee (pgs. 35-36) • Purton Community Fridge (pgs. 37-40) • Horizons College (pg. 41) • Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett Parish Council (pg.43) • Cricklade Town Council (Agenda Supplement 1) <p>Verbal updates were provided by the following partners:</p> <p><u>Wiltshire Police</u></p> <p>Inspector James Brain and Sergeant Jamie Ball gave an update about recent crime figures across Wiltshire as well as details of incidents in the local area. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police and Crime Commissioner had updated his crime plan to reflect the findings of a recent report by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary. • Crime had increased since the previous year, partly due to the easing of Covid restrictions, although Wiltshire’s crime rate was still below the national average. • Crime in June-August 2022 was lower than the equivalent period in 2021. • Four suspects had admitted responsibility for graffiti in Royal Wootton Bassett. The suspects, all young people, had written letters of apology to the victims. The officers praised the parents of the children involved for supporting the

investigation and noted that the young people had received assistance from their youth offending team. They spoke about the importance of rehabilitation and the impact of criminalising individuals at a young age.

- A weekly meeting was being held to discuss illegal car meets.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- The Area Board thanked the officers for the update and praised the police for the sensitive way in which they had handled the graffiti investigation.
- A contextual safeguarding meeting was due to be held to discuss restorative justice.
- The police praised the work of the Rise Trust in supporting young people, including those that had committed criminal offences.
- The Vice-Chairman of Cricklade Town Council praised the work of police community support officers in the town.
- Inspector Brain noted that there were 27 Speed Watch teams in his area of jurisdiction and spoke about the importance of education and the Road Safety Strategy. He also noted that stopping vehicles for speeding offences often yielded information about other crimes.
- The Area Board's Vice-Chairman thanked the police for stopping 33 vehicles for speeding on Calcutt Street in Cricklade on 27 September. The police noted that seven of the individuals stopped were residents from the town. Cllr Steve Bucknell asked about the age profile of the offenders stopped on the 27th and the police noted that they would be able to confirm that information.

The Chairman informed those present that PCSO Andy Singfield was leaving the police after 16 years of working in our Community Area and the Area Board asked the Chairman to write a letter of thanks to him for his work.

Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett

The Chairman of Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett Parish Council, Cllr Alex LaRoche, thanked the Area Board Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) for its help with a local footpath and for its support in getting signs added to the A4361.

Horizons College

The Chairman noted that the college had relocated from Swindon and that they were looking for opportunities for local engagement.

Community Fridges

Cllr Lay reported that Purton Community Fridge was due to open on 5 October. The Chairman also noted that a community fridge was due to open at Little Ducklings Nursey in Lyneham.

	<p>Wiltshire Councillors gave updates about the progress made towards priority areas identified in the Area Board's action plan.</p>
58	<p><u>Youth Forum</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that she would work with the SEPM to arrange a meeting for local stakeholders.</p>
58a	<p><u>RWB&C Environmental Forum</u></p> <p>Cllr Steve Bucknell explained that background work had been going on and that he looked forward to working with the new SEPM to develop the Environmental Forum. He then provided information about the Queen's Green Canopy, noting that the project had be extended until 31 March 2023. Cllr Steve Bucknell mentioned that the Environmental Forum had also discussed the possibility of procuring a thermal camera to help local people to identify areas of poor energy efficiency within their homes. Local businesses had been approached to see if they would have an interest in supporting the project.</p> <p>The Assistant Director for the Environment highlighted that an online briefing about electric vehicle charging was planned for 4 October and that it would include information about how to access funding. The Vice-Chairman noted that Cricklade was due to receive funding for eight new charge points in the town.</p>
59	<p><u>Community Care Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Champion referred the Area Board to the notes of the previous meeting included in the agenda pack, noting that the meeting planned for 28 September had had to be postponed. She stated that that Community Information Booklet had now been printed and that electronic copies would be available in due course. Cllr Champion also took the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers for their help with the Community Care Group. The Chairman of the group, Stevie Palmer, encouraged parishes not already involved to contact Cllr Champion and Cllr Bowler.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Inclusion welcomed the idea of a local information booklet and requested a copy.</p>
60	<p><u>Economy</u></p> <p>Information about the Vibrant Wiltshire Scheme, a grant scheme to help high streets in towns, was provided by the Vice-Chairman. He reported that the Cricklade High Street Strategy Group had already made enquiries and encouraged Royal Wootton Bassett (RWB) to make an application. Cllr Nic Hughes from RWB Town Council informed attendees that they had installed street furniture behind Sparrow Lane and in Boroughfields.</p> <p>Cllr Lay reported that the last bank in RWB was due to close in December but that a number of sites were under consideration for a possible banking hub to</p>

	<p>retain services in the town. She explained that it was hoped to conduct a six-month trial with a representative from a major bank attending on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Several measures to help with the cost of living were discussed including a scheme to help food banks promoted by the Faith Leaders' group and Wiltshire Council's Engagement and Partnerships Team. The Chairman discussed proposals for a cooking course to make food in batches, to make it more economical. The SEPM also reported that they were working on a warm spaces scheme. Cllr Lay highlighted that a volunteer café in Purton would be running throughout the winter and would give residents a warm place to stay. In order to coordinate and publicise the support on offer, it was suggested that a list of all useful local contacts could be shared with the CCG.</p>
61	<p><u>Area Board Action Plan Update</u></p> <p>The SEPM stated that he had been working with the Area Board for 28 days and looked forward to helping to deliver the Board's priority goals. He then invited the Area Board to add four actions related to its environmental goals as highlighted in the report on pages 47-48 of the agenda pack.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Steve Bucknell, seconded by Cllr Champion, it was resolved:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To add the following actions to the Community Area Action Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action 3.3 – The creation of a repair shop and library of things. 2. Action 3.4 – The provision of a thermal imaging camera to improve household insulation. 3. Action 3.5 – Footpath improvements to promote access for all users onto the extensive footpath network. 4. Action 3.6 – To create a food directory listing local farmers and producers to promote, buy local, and to identify opportunities/gaps.
62	<p><u>Community Safety Forum</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred the Area Board to the information included on pages 49 and 50 of the agenda pack. She encouraged interested parties to attend the next meeting on 14 October via Microsoft Teams.</p>
63	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Chairman of the LHFIG, provided an overview of the projects discussed at their last meeting on 7 September. The SEPM noted that the public could send enquiries to a new email address: LHFIGrequests@wiltshire.gov.uk.</p> <p>It was mentioned that it was planned to hold an additional LHFIG meeting to</p>

	<p>consider the closure of the C70, due to expire in November 2022. However, it was explained that the LHFIG would ultimately not have the authority to make the decision about whether the road should be reopened.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Jones MBE, seconded by Cllr Allison Bucknell it was resolved:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>1) To note the discussions and updates in the attached report.</p> <p>2) To close the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11-21-11 – Broad Hinton, Elm Cross Junction safety measures. • 11-20-02/03 – Cricklade, effectiveness of crossings on High Street and Calcutt Street <p>3) To move the following issues to the priority A list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11-22-1 - Lydiard Millicent, Greenhill Crossroads speed reduction. • 11-21-2 – Bradenstoke, dropped kerbs. <p>4) To move the following issues to the priority B list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11-22-16 – Cricklade – Chelworth Crossroads improvements. • 11-22-2 – Lydiard Millicent, The Elms/Washpool speed reduction
64	<p><u>Funding Applications</u></p> <p>Members considered the applications to the Community Area Grant scheme as outlined in the agenda pack.</p> <p><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club requesting £5,000 towards solar panels</u></p> <p>Th SEPM introduced the grant application, highlighting that the solar panels had already been installed. He explained that, although retrospective grant applications were not normally permitted under grant criteria, this application had received approval from Wiltshire Council’s Grant Assessment Panel to be considered in the same way as other applications. Chris from Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club spoke in favour of their application noting that they had made their application in good faith, but the opportunity had arisen to have the panels installed earlier than originally planned in November. He reported that the project was environmentally friendly and would cover around half of their energy costs during the winter.</p> <p>During the discussion members welcomed the environmental credentials of the project as well as the work of sporting groups in the community in</p>

supporting health and wellbeing. Some members did express concern about the level of funding and that the panels had already been installed, noting that they would have been more comfortable with a smaller grant. On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Steve Bucknell, it was resolved:

Decision

To award Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club £5,000 towards solar panels.

Reason

The application was permitted for consideration by Wiltshire Council's Grant Assessment Panel.

Jubilee Gardens 1978 Ltd. requesting £5,000 towards a new greenhouse

Peter from Jubilee Gardens spoke in favour of their application noting that they provided training to 18 people with additional needs. They had raised £2,500 for a new greenhouse and highlighted that they provided fresh vegetables for the local community. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Inclusion reported that there had been an increase in enquires from people with SEND looking for day opportunities.

During the discussion members welcomed the support provided to vulnerable individuals by Jubilee Gardens, as well as that it had received support from Swindon Borough Council during the pandemic. Some members did note that they would feel more comfortable with a lower grant than £5,000 as only five of the 18 individuals currently benefiting from the scheme were Wiltshire based. However, the applicant did note that historically there had been an even split in those attending between Wiltshire and Swindon and they hoped to increase numbers. He also confirmed that they were open to the idea of using environmentally friendly heating options for the new greenhouse.

It was suggested that the Area Board might consider a future application for environmentally friendly heating options, and offers were made from others in the room to advise on this.

On the proposal of Cllr Lay, seconded by Cllr Steve Bucknell, it was resolved:

Decision

To award Jubilee Gardens 1978 Ltd. £4,000 towards a new greenhouse.

Reason

The application met Community Area grant Criteria for 2022/23. A lower amount was awarded than requested to reflect that the number of Wiltshire residents directly benefiting from the project.

Members considered an application to the Older and Vulnerable People's Grant Scheme as outlined in the agenda pack:

Wiltshire Music Centre requesting £1,500 towards their Celebrating Age Project

Pat Hughes, a volunteer with Celebrating Age Wiltshire explained that they helped older and isolated individuals in the community, recently including 72 individuals in the Area Board's area. The projects that they offered included creative conversations and live music performances. Members welcomed the scheme, and it was noted that the group also received National lottery funding. On the proposal of Cllr Lay, seconded by Cllr Champion, it was resolved:

Decision

To award Wiltshire Music Centre £1,500 towards their Celebrating Age project.

Reason

The application met Older and Vulnerable People's Grant Criteria for 2022/23.

Members considered an application to the Youth Grant Scheme as outlined in the agenda pack:

Cricklade Town Council requesting £2,915 towards Cricklade Local Youth Network

The Vice-Chairman of Cricklade Town Council spoke in favour of their application, which would enable youth workers to attend on a bi-weekly basis. She explained that the town council would pay for 50 percent of the funding, and she felt that the project met Wiltshire Council's grant criteria. It was a popular scheme with 47 children signed up to attend an event with the Rise Trust on Tuesday nights.

	<p>The SEPM confirmed that revenue funding criteria, in place since 2015, allowed Area Boards to help set up innovative projects but cannot support continued year-on-year running costs for groups.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Steve Bucknell, it was resolved to:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To award Cricklade Town Council £2,915 towards Cricklade Local Youth Network.</p> <p>Reason</p> <p>The application met Youth Grant criteria for 2022/23.</p>
65	<p><u>Get It Off Your Chest</u></p> <p>Cllr Steve Bucknell reported that Wiltshire Council was working in partnership with Swindon Borough Council, Sustrans and National Highways to advance plans to install a new cycleway between Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon providing a segregated route for cyclists travelling over the M4. Cllr Steve Bucknell welcomed a recent announcement that the project was found to meet Highways England's cost benefit analysis. However, he expressed frustration about the level of progress that had been made, explaining that issues still needed to be resolved with local landowners before a formal planning application could be submitted. The project was still under the jurisdiction of National Highways, so had not yet formally been handed over to Wiltshire Council.</p>
66	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
67	<p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The date of the next business meeting of the Area Board was confirmed as 18 January 2023, at 6:00pm.</p>

Police and Crime Commissioner asks for public support to increase precept

A survey to gauge public reaction to a proposal which could see the average police precept rise by up to £15 a year has been launched by Wiltshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

Residents from across the county are being encouraged to take part in a short survey where PCC Philip Wilkinson explains the current financial situation being faced.

Mr Wilkinson is responsible for ensuring Wiltshire Police has the necessary resources to fight and prevent crime. He holds the entire budget for policing in the county - made up of a grant from government and from the policing part of the precept contained within council tax.

An early indication of a 1% increase in the Government's grant means that if the police precept stays at the current rate of £241.27 for a Band D property, Wiltshire Police would have to make £5.5m worth of savings.

"As with everyone's finances during this time, Wiltshire Police is facing increased financial pressures too," Mr Wilkinson said. "This comes at a time when we really need to be investing in our policing service to keep people safe and prevent crime but also ensure the necessary changes and improvements to bring the Force out of the HMIC Engage process.

"During the last year, communities have reinforced the need for more frontline police officers – and I agree with them. Using your precept support, we will have more visible policing.

"Working with the Chief Constable, and on his operational advice, we are aiming to deliver 40 additional police officers for neighbourhood and volume crime teams by the annual review of the current workforce mix. This means Wiltshire Police will better meet the needs of our communities.

"These additional officers will bolster the Force's work in the community and in crime investigation and are in addition to the Uplift officers who are also coming through the recruitment and training pipeline into our communities, as well as those assigned to specialist roles and the rural crime team for example."

Yesterday afternoon (12 Dec), the Government increased the cap on police precept, without local referendum, so that PCCs can now potentially increase by up to £15 a year for a Band D household.

Originally, Mr Wilkinson could only increase the precept by 4.1% - through the police part of the council tax - and meant an average Band D household would pay an extra £10 a year, 83p a month or £251.47 annually.

Today's announcement means Mr Wilkinson could now increase by up to 6.2% and an average Band D household would be looking at an extra £1.25 a month, or £15 per year, with the total amount being £256.47 annually.

Mr Wilkinson said implications on finances if an average £15 precept increase per Band D household are now being worked upon and will be communicated to the public as soon as he is able.

"I understand any proposed increase, no matter how small, will be felt keenly," Mr Wilkinson added. "And the decision to ask residents for support for an increase has been difficult and one that I would not make if there was an alternative.

"Wiltshire is currently one of the lowest-funded police forces in the UK and the county's residents pay one of the lowest police precepts out of all the south west police forces - even with the proposed increases, this will remain.

"To ensure Wiltshire Police has the best possible financial position we have to consider utilising the increase in precept cap announced today, up to a maximum £15 a year and I will add this information in to my survey for residents to consider too. My financial team is currently working through this scenario and we have more information to support this in January."

More details on what savings and efficiencies will be made and where any precept increase would be invested will be available in the new year once confirmation of the central grant from government is received.

[Residents can access their survey here which is open until the end of January 2023](#)

Army Welfare Service

Army Welfare Service Community Support have been making strives to support the military community at MOD Lyneham including; delivering a 14 day programme over the summer accessed by over 60 children from across the SW, a 3 day Oct Half Term provision accessed by over 40 children from across the SW. Locally AWS CS have opened and sustained our Bumps to Buggies 0-5 years provision (average 8 parents), both our Junior Youth Club (average 13 young people) and Senior Youth Club (average 16 young people) at MOD Lyneham Community Centre. In addition to the Army Welfare Service are looking to 2023 to improve the offer further with reintroducing Youth Voice for 11+ years to the Lyneham Community, Targeted Interventions by Referral for military young people and a 3 day February half term programme FREE to all military, contractors and civil servants. If anyone would like any further information on the above please contact me on Amy.Dallimore101@mod.gov.uk



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD REPORT

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;
<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

Prevention

We are committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. Our aim is to reduce the level of risk and harm to our communities from fire, targeting those most at risk. We do this primarily through our Safe and Well visits.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts about one hour covering topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support the occupier may need

Are you or anyone you know:-

- Over the age of 65?
- Need a smoke detector?
- Have a long-term health condition?
- Suffer from poor hearing or sight loss?
- Would you struggle to escape in the event of a fire?

If you can answer yes to more than one of these questions, then please call us on 0800 038 2323 or visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

On Call Recruitment

Have you always wondered if you could join the fire service, but haven't had the opportunity to find out more? Have you found yourself seeking your next challenge, keen to give back to the local community or wanting to learn new skills including leadership and teamwork? Then becoming an on-call firefighter is for you.

As a paid position, on-call firefighters commit anywhere between 60 to 120 hours per week, during which time they must be able to respond to the station immediately.

Many have 'normal' jobs during the day, then upon their return home make themselves available overnight or during the weekends. Some of our crew respond from their workplaces during the day, and we are very grateful to their employers for releasing them to perform their vital duties.

Anyone over 18 years old can apply (although you can also apply once you are 17½) you must be able to respond and attend the fire station within 5-8 minutes, you have a good standard of physical fitness (i.e. you are generally active), and you must have the right to work in the UK.

Further information on becoming an On Call Firefighter can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/ or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.



Recent News & Events

DWFRS have seen a substantial increase in calls to assist with burst pipes in both residential and commercial premises. This has mostly been caused by the unusually cold temperatures fracturing the pipes, which then leak when they defrost.

We would like to remind all residents to check their systems and install suitable insulation in order to protect their property from the damage caused by flood water.

New campaigns focus on winter fire safety

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to take simple steps to protect themselves from accidental fires and carbon monoxide poisoning as they look to keep warm and cut energy use this winter.

The National Fire Chiefs Council has launched 'Stay Fire Safe' in response to concerns that people will turn to alternative ways of heating and lighting their homes in a bid to save money.

For further information please visit www.dwfire.org.uk/save-safely

Demand

Total Fire Calls for ...Cricklade & RWB... Fire Station for period December 2022:-

Category	Total Incidents
Deliberate Fires	8
Accidental Dwelling Fires	12
AFA's Domestic	7
AFA's Non-Domestic	26
RTC's	4
Total	57

Phil People Station Manager
Email: ...phil.people@dwfire.org.uk
Tel: ...07787862767

Village Halls Week 2023

Village Halls Week is an annual event organised by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) in celebration of the 10,000+ village halls and community buildings in England. Village Halls Week 2023 will take place between 23rd-29th January and will celebrate how village halls provide warm, welcoming and inclusive spaces for all.

Community First supports 180+ village halls and community buildings in Wiltshire through the Wiltshire Village Halls Association Network (WVHA). We will be promoting Village Halls Week across our channels throughout the week and also encouraging halls and buildings to get involved holding a coffee morning, afternoon tea or soup and roll lunch as a fundraiser or get together. It is hoped that these events will help to showcase events and activities in village halls and community buildings and explain how trustees are working to make their hall warm, welcoming and inclusive. This is especially important as vulnerable members of our communities feel the impact of the current energy crisis.

Warm Spaces (Village Halls)

The following village halls/community buildings have offered their venue as a Warm Space this winter:

- Ashton Keynes Village Hall (Swindon)
- Bradenstoke Village Hall (Chippenham)
- Edington Parish Hall (Westbury)
- Fovant Village Hall (Salisbury)
- Lansdowne Hall (Derry Hill)
- Rushall and Charlton Village Hall (Pewsey)

Impact of Energy Costs on Village Halls

Community First recently surveyed the WVHA network to find out what impact the increase in energy costs is having on halls and buildings locally. 114 member halls and buildings responded to the survey, which represents 61% of membership. Top level findings from the survey suggest that halls and buildings remain resilient despite increased energy costs and wider cost of living pressures. Despite this, there are future challenges ahead with fixed-term energy deals coming to an end and halls who are currently dipping into their reserves to stay afloat.

95% of halls/buildings will stay open throughout the winter, with 5% at risk of full or partial closure. This includes 2 halls who may close completely and 9 halls considering reduced opening hours. The primary motivation behind potential hall closures is the cost of heating the hall, including the cost of oil, electricity costs and other operational costs. 3 halls/buildings in Wiltshire are at permanent risk of closure due to increased costs.

The majority of halls (56%) are unable to offer a Warm Space this winter and whilst the cost of heating is a factor in this decision, many halls said that regular bookings prevent them from offering a warm space for the community. 8 halls/buildings will be offering a warm space (see above) and have been directed to the Wiltshire Council website to register their venue as a warm space. 42 halls/buildings are considering offering a Warm Space but do not yet have definitive plans. Community First will liaise with these halls and buildings should they require any additional advice or support.

The full results from our survey can be found on our website, we have also created an infographic with a summary of the findings which has been shared with ACRE and the WVHA network.

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/news/wiltshire-village-halls-impact-of-energy-costs-survey-2022>

Minibus Driver Awareness Training (MiDAS)

MiDAS is a membership-based scheme designed to enhance both driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. MiDAS is a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. Community First is now taking new bookings for MiDAS minibus training with our Training Coordinator Martin Carter. Martin is a retired Police Advanced Driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses.

The MiDAS training course includes a session on how to operate a minibus safely. This is followed by a 30-minute multiple choice assessment with 20 questions. Trainees will need to answer 16 questions correctly to pass the theory test. Finally, there will be a practical test which incorporates a driving skills training session and an assessment drive which will last just over an hour, with the assessment taking 30 minutes. Upon completion of the theory and practical test, trainees will receive a certificate which is valid for 4 years.

MiDAS training pricing is based on a minimum group size of 3 drivers per booking and starts at £105.00 per person. For more information or to reserve a training slot, please contact Martin Carter:

mcarter@communityfirst.org.uk

Bold – Creative Design & Development Services

Bold is a creative design and marketing agency service from Community First. We offer professional creative services including print and digital design, branding, website design and bespoke campaigns. Bold is a marketing service designed especially for small businesses, charities, community groups and voluntary organisations and our rates are always affordable, at typically half the rate of commercial agencies.

We believe good design shouldn't cost the earth, that's why we're proud to offer quality, affordable creative services to small businesses, charities, voluntary organisations and community groups. We are passionate about helping our clients to harness the power of design to promote their cause and make local communities better places to live and work.

So, whether we're building WordPress websites that look great and are easy to use and keep updated, or designing a brand identity from the ground up, we use the latest technology, tools and techniques you'd expect from a creative design agency.

What's more when you work with Bold you are helping to support vibrant communities and brighter futures for the people who live and work in Wiltshire and Swindon. All of the funds raised through this unique creative design service are used to support the charitable aims of Community First.

For more information email: bold@communityfirst.org.uk

FREE Community Organising Training

Community First is offering FREE Community Organising training as part of a project to recruit new volunteers for Link Schemes and Community Minibus Groups. This course is ideal for anyone who is interested in engaging with members of their community, with the aim of creating or supporting exciting projects. You will be introduced to the foundations of Community Organising and Listening Training, which will give you the tools to recruit new volunteers or develop 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
- How to motivate people to take action
- How to take your next steps to recruit volunteers

The course is free and will take place at the Community First office (Unit C2, Beacon Business Centre, Hopton Park, Devizes, SN10 2EY) on the following dates:

- 18th January 2023
- 22nd February 2023
- 15th March 2023

For more information or to reserve your training place, please contact Samantha Lloyd:
sloyd@communityfirst.org.uk or telephone 01380 732800

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

9th December 2022



Impact of Energy Costs Wiltshire Village Halls

Halls surveyed in Nov 22

185+

Village halls and community buildings supported by Community First through Wiltshire Village Halls Association (WVHA) network

114

Halls or buildings responded



61%

Response rate

5%

CLOSED

At risk of full or partial closure this winter

95%

OPEN

Will remain open throughout winter months

"The crunch time will come in April next year when our current 3-year arrangement expires."

"We hope not to close but may have to increase lettings charges to cover energy costs but this would risk losing hirings."

Factors affecting the ability of halls to remain open and viable

Considering *full closure* (2 halls)

Considering *reduced open hours* (9 halls)

Cost of heating oil

Cost of electricity

Increase in operational costs

Fewer bookings

"Our energy costs have rocketed. We have had to ask users for supplementary payment."

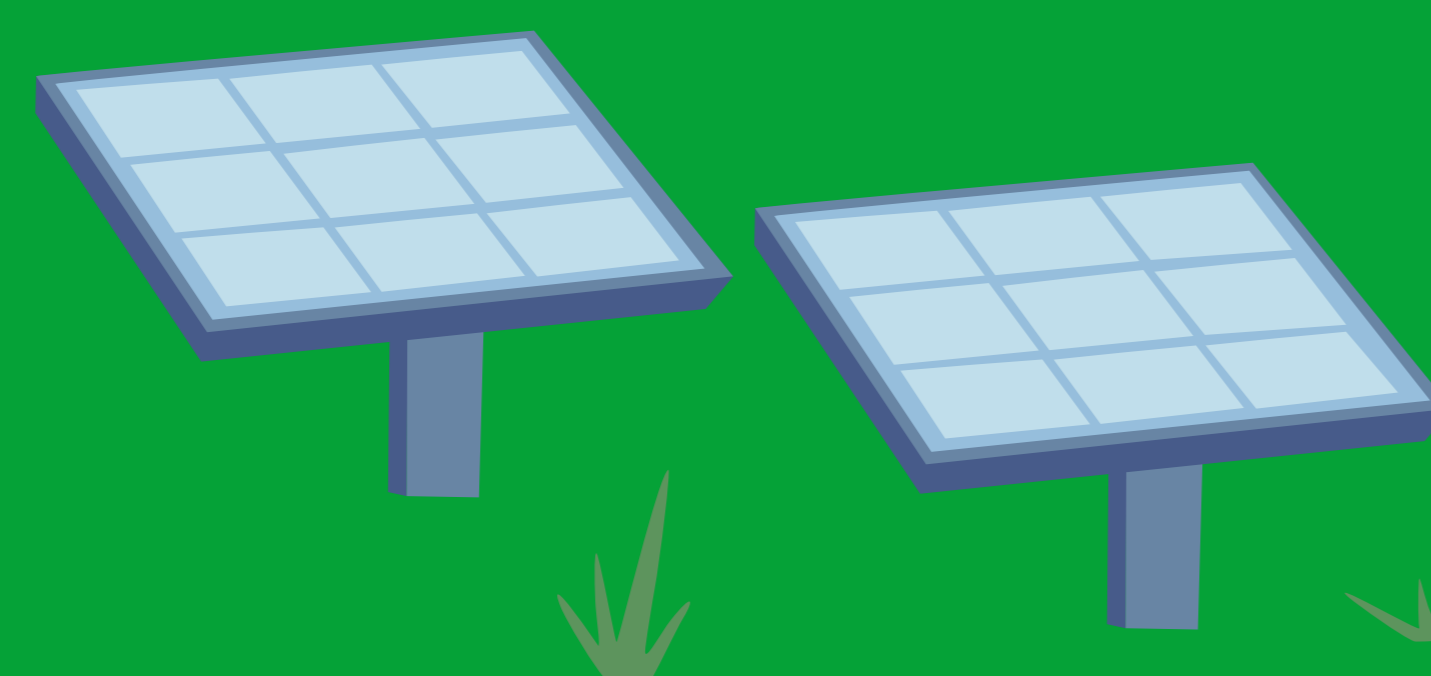
94 years

Average age of halls surveyed in Wiltshire

"The cost of heating has more than doubled, but we are struggling to maintain the current level of income leading to losses and draining of our reserves."

Future Concerns

- Impact of increased costs when fixed-term contracts for halls come to an end in Spring/Summer 2023.
- Lack of information about financial support and local grant funding for energy efficiency improvements.
- Halls using reserves to meet costs and impact on future sustainability.



Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

December 2022

Health & Care Model

All of the organisations that make up BSW Together (Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire) are working together as a collective to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, tackle inequalities and reach better outcomes and access to services for everyone.

To help us all achieve this, we are collaborating with clinicians, staff, patients and carers from across BSW to develop our Care Model. We've created a short video to explain what our model is about and how it will affect patients and people who live and work in BSW. The video can be found here

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/blog/bswtogether/find-out-more-about-bsws-health-and-care-model/>

Our health and care model focuses on five areas – all aiming to make sure our health and care services are fit for the future to meet the needs of local people.

To read more about the health and care model visit the BSW Together website <https://bswtogether.org.uk/about-us/shaping-a-healthier-future/about-our-health-and-care-model/>

Winter Pressures

Members of the public can play their part in easing the pressure on the local NHS over the coming months by choosing the healthcare option most appropriate for their condition.

Many minor illnesses and injuries can be managed safely and effectively at home with rest and over-the-counter medication, while quick help for any person unsure of how to treat a less-urgent condition can also be sought from community pharmacies.

In addition, people can get useful medical information, including symptom details and at-home treatment plans, via their smartphone, tablet or laptop by visiting the NHS website at www.nhs.uk or through NHS 111 online.

Further information on health and care services across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, as well as details of how to access local pharmacies, can be found at www.bsw.icb.nhs.uk.

Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

Any person in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire due a flu or Covid-19 vaccine is being encouraged to come forward before Christmas.

Getting vaccinated now or in the next few days will ensure that people's immune systems have enough time to respond to the vaccine and build up a good level of defence against both flu and Covid-19.

Vaccinations for Covid-19 are still available from a wide range of locations across the region, with many people now able to have the jab closer to home, with more community venues now acting as vaccine centres. People can find their nearest vaccination centre through the NHS website or by calling 119.

Flu vaccines are free for all adults over 50 years of age, as well as for some more vulnerable people, including pregnant women, those with a long-term health condition and frontline health and social care workers.

More information about the flu and Covid-19 vaccines can be found online at www.bsw.icb.nhs.uk.

Devizes Health Centre

The new Devizes Health Centre is one of the region's first integrated care centres, this new state of the art facility will enable the delivery of enhanced services in an improved clinical setting for people in and around Devizes.

Patients of the four local GP practices – Lansdowne Surgery, Market Lavington Surgery, St James Surgery and Southbroom Surgery will be able to be referred for same or next-day medical care at the new health centre, making it easier for patients to access the care they need locally.

The healthcare facility will provide primary care services, such as those traditionally found in GP practices, along with hospital outpatient services, physiotherapy, audiology, blood tests, and mental health support. The new centre brings together providers so that patients can be looked after in the most joined-up way possible.

Devizes Health Centre will also lead the field in sustainable design, as one of a small number of net zero health facilities across England. The site will have an energy EPC rating of A+, and will utilise green technology, such as heat pumps and solar panels to enable the site to be self-sufficient.

For more information on Devizes Health Centre, visit <https://bsw.icb.nhs.uk/news-and-events/integrated-care-centres/devizes-health-centre/>

Get the right support this winter

As winter sets in and the cost of living crisis begins to bite, we have put together a range of information and signposting advice on our website, to support local people through these tough times.

Our latest articles include:

[A guide to local organisations](#) that offer practical help and support with the cost of living, such as where to get free, independent advice, where to find warm spaces and food banks, and how to keep on top of your finances. We'll continue to update this information through the winter.

Looking after your health during the colder months is especially important and our article offers tips on [how you can stay](#)

[well](#) and where to get care and support if you need it.

In a post-pandemic world, prioritising our mental health and wellbeing has become a necessity. We explain what the signs of mental ill health are and [share tips on self-care](#) to manage your mood.

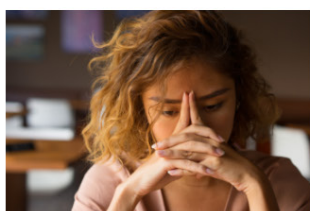
[Our downloadable guides](#) to mental health support in Wiltshire can also help you find local services for both children and adults. Since 2021, the guides have been downloaded more than 670 times.

Plus details of [Wiltshire advocacy services](#) are also available if you need help and support with the complaints process.

Find out more [on our website](#).

Advice and information

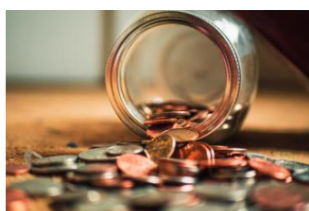
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Looking after your mental health this winter

In a post-pandemic world where the cost-of-living crisis is beginning to hit home for many of us,...

13 December 2022



Where to get cost of living support in Wiltshire

Local organisations that can give you practical help and support.

28 November 2022



How to stay well this winter

Tips to help you stay well this winter and get the care you need.

28 November 2022



What you need to know about flu

Know the signs and symptoms of seasonal influenza (flu) and who is eligible for a free vaccine.

28 September 2022

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board

Update From Cricklade Town Council

Area Board Meeting – 18th January 2023



On Sunday 13th November the town gathered to remember the fallen. The parade included 29th Regt, uniformed youth groups, members of Cricklade Royal British Legion, councillors, and was led by The Cricklade Band. As always, there was a large turnout from residents wishing to pay their respects.

Shortly afterwards a short service took place at Blakehill Cairns where the Parachute Regiment, Glider Pilots Association and Royal Canadian Air Force, all who flew from RAF Blakehill Farm in WW2, were remembered.



CTC obtained a grant from the Department for Transport to install EV Charging Points in two areas of Cricklade. The first, at the Fairview Fields/Stockham Close Car Park (next to the Rugby Field) and the second at Cricklade Leisure Centre. There are four double charging points at each location.

CTC worked with BP Pulse who provided the 25% balance of the funding, meaning that there has been no cost to Cricklade residents in delivering the project.

The picture shows Cllr Rod Case using the new facility.



The annual skateboard workshop took place in October. It was expertly run by ATBShop (from Swindon) as always. A good time was had by all participants.

In previous years sponsorship finance was obtained but this year it was funded by CTC.

A guide to Banking Hubs October 2022

What is a banking hub?

A Banking Hub is a shared banking space, similar to a traditional bank branch but available to everyone. The hubs currently consist of a counter service that will be operated by Post Office staff, where customers of any bank can withdraw and deposit cash, make bill payments can carry out regular banking transactions. In addition, there will be private spaces where customers can speak to someone from their own bank about more complex issues. The banks will be working on a rotating basis, so there will be staff from different banks available on different days.

What services will the hubs provide?

Banking hubs will offer basic counter services, allowing people to withdraw funds, make cash, change and cheque deposits, pay bills and make balance enquiries. Automated services for deposits and withdrawals will also be available.

On alternating days, bank staff from specific banks will be available so people can speak to their own bank about problems or other banking issues they may need help with.

Over time, our hubs will develop to meet the needs of the communities using them, as we learn more about the services people need and adapt to the changes initiated by the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

What other services are available to people who need access to cash?

As well as the banking hubs, communities in every part of the UK need access to cash. There are a range of existing services that are being expanded or others that have been recently launched, including:

- Free ATMs
- Post Office counter services
- Free deposit/SME business services
- Cashback without purchase

How many hubs are planned?

So far, 25 Banking Hubs have launched, are launching soon or are underway. We are expecting the next ten hubs to open their doors within months. Yet this is just the first wave in the rollout of hubs around the UK and is part of a longer-term vision for cash access on the high street.

It's clear there's a great demand for the Banking Hubs and other services that allow people to access their cash around the UK. So we hope to have up hundreds of hubs in place in the coming few years.

Who will staff the banking hubs and how will they be sourced/trained?

Banks will ensure staff are available to work in the hubs on specific days of the week. So people will be able to check when their own bank staff will be in the branch and can go in and speak to them. Anyone will be able to use our Post Office staffed counter services any day that the Hub is open.

People using the hubs will be able to speak to fully trained and experienced staff from each bank who will be able to provide the same support and banking advice as you'd expect from a traditional branch.

Will the staff be able to help resolve problems and complaints?

Banks all have the same process for dealing with complaints and sorting out problems, from errors to financial difficulties, under existing financial services regulations. Branch staff will be able to offer advice and support in-house – and direct people to the departments that can sort out the problem or resolve any complaints.

How will the banking hubs help more vulnerable people?

The Access to Cash Group has conducted extensive research to ensure that any proposals will meet the requirements of older or more vulnerable people in every community.

As the pandemic highlighted, many vulnerable people are left isolated and unable to obtain cash or get help with their finances for a range of circumstances. Being able to speak to trained and experienced members of banking staff in a secure environment is very important to people in these circumstances. The needs of carers and people holding Power of Attorney are also significantly addressed by a face-to-face service.

Accessibility isn't just about availability. After all, if the only free ATM in a five-mile radius is up a steep hill, many people will not be able to use it independently. Part of the Access to Cash program is to ensure that all of these factors in each unique community are included in to our future planning.

How long does it take to set up and launch a hub?

Creating new services does take time, and we are going as fast as humanly possible, from a standing start in January 2021. Since our trial launches, it's taking roughly 12 months to set up each branch. But with every hub we develop and launch, we're speeding up the process. There will always be complexities with each Banking Hub, but we're confident we will be speeding up this process as much as we can – especially with the support of the local community.

Setting up a Banking Hub generally involves two phases

- First six months: During this period we work in the local community to find and agree a suitable, accessible location for the Banking Hub and agree the lease.
- Second six months: This begins when the lease is signed. We'll start to tell people from the local community that the hub is coming soon. We kit out the branch and finally train our staff in the final month before the launch.

While the first six-month period is the most unpredictable in terms of timescales, the final six months builds in extra time for unexpected events (issues with the lease, building problems, etc) but in all likelihood, the launch date will be much sooner than the 'official' timescale.

We are taking an ambitious approach to the clear need for the Banking Hubs around the UK. As soon as we announce a new tranche of hubs we're already working on the next ones. In the next two years, we hope to have hundreds of branches in place.

How do you decide which communities need a banking hub or cash services?

There are two ways that new hubs are created. Whenever a bank makes a change to its network (such as a branch closure or reduced opening hours) it needs to notify LINK in advance. LINK will then assess the location's needs, looking at what other services are available locally, the size of the location (people and number of shops) and determine whether the community needs a new hub. The criteria that LINK uses have been developed and agreed after extensive consumer and small business group input, and is operated independently of the banks.

In addition, a community can also request a review itself. LINK will then independently assess the needs of that community using the same criteria. Any community can ask for a review – the form is on LINK's website: <https://www.link.co.uk/consumers/request-access-to-cash/>. Barton-upon-Humber in Lincolnshire is our first announced hub that will be created after the community requested the service.

LINK, the Post Office and other cash services available now

Banking hubs are not the only solution to the problem of access to cash. We believe it's vitally important for consumers to have access to a range of services so they can get cash when they need it, including outside of traditional banking hours. Some of these options include:

The LINK network and providing access to cash

[The LINK cash locator](#) can help people locate where they can access cash in their local neighbourhood by postcode, including resources such as:

- Free ATMs
- Free cashback without purchase
- Post Office counter services

- ATMs that disperse £5 notes
- Deposit services
- Coin deposit services
- Foreign currency deposit services
- ATMs and cashback services (chargeable)

The site also identifies where services are available to support people who might need specific help, like wheelchair accessibility and audio assistance.

Cashback without purchase

LINK launched the ‘cashback without purchase’ initiative in November 2021 after a year-long successful trial. While many people will be familiar with the concept of ‘cashback’ – asking a retailer to provide them with cash as part of a purchase - they may also remember that this was often at the retailer’s discretion. Many people felt compelled to make a purchase in order to ask for cash.

Cashback without purchase offers exactly that – cashback on request, without strings. Best of all, the scheme is available in 8,000 shops that use [PayPoint](#) as their cash services provider.

PayPoint has 28,000 locations nationwide and allows retailers using the system to take bill payments, collect parcels (Collect +) and other services that will be familiar to millions of people. Many of the retailers are small, local shops that people particularly affected by the cost-of-living crisis rely on and use for other counter services like purchasing credit for pre-payment energy meters.

Post Office Counters

Post Office is the UK’s largest retail network with over 11,500 branches within 3 miles of 99.7% of the population.

This makes the Post Office the largest branch-based network where people can access their cash. Over 120 million transactions on behalf of 27 high street banks took place in 2018. People can currently use the following services at the Post Office:

- Cash withdrawals
- Paying in cash and cheques
- Balance enquiries
- International transfers

The Post Office is a vital service for many people struggling to access their cash. However, it cannot be expected to be the only alternative for people who need face-to-face banking services. The Post Office will be providing counter services in the new Banking Hubs, alongside staff from the individual banks that operated most commonly in the local community.

RWB and Cricklade Area Board Community Care Group meeting

Wednesday 30th November 2022 10.30 - 12noon, Community Centre, MoD Lyneham

Attendees:

Mary Champion	Wiltshire Councillor (Chair)
David Bowler	Wiltshire Councillor
Stevie Palmer	Volunteer Community Organiser
Nicola Arthurs	Cricklade Town Council
Heather Ponting-Bather	Purton Outreach
Ashley Harris	Carers Support
Rose Love	Lydiard Tregoze Parish Council

Guests:

Cat Attewell	Home Instead Community Engagement Officer
Harry Tipple	Community First

1 Apologies:

Diana Kirby	Tockenham Parish Council
Louise Nankivell	Prevention and Wellbeing Team

2. Cat Attewell gave a talk re Home Instead Care and Community support. This talk prompted a lengthy discussion involving all attendees on the current care system and the shortfalls. Hospital discharge system also discussed.
3. Harry Tipple gave a short talk on Community First, their involvement in many projects including Community Transport and Link Schemes.
4. Update on Warm Spaces:
Cllr Champion has a list of funding opportunities to help set up and maintain Warm Spaces. Wiltshire Council together with Community First have produced a directory of Warm Spaces in Wiltshire. This can be found on Wiltshire Council website .
It was suggested that a local community area directory of Warm Spaces be produced both on line and a printed version that can be put in town/parish noticeboards.
Public Living Room has now opened at RWB Memorial Hall, Tuesday mornings, 10 - 12noon, all are welcome.
5. Jan Forsyth, Community Connector, is no longer in post. Our thanks to Jan for her support to this group and the community.
6. Possible future speakers:
Jo Harrison Living Well Team, PCN
Mel Lambourne Care Coordinator Tinkers Lane Surgery, RWB
Tania Currie GWH Discharge Liaison Team
7. Date of next meeting: 25th January 2023, venue to be confirmed, probably Cricklade Town Council Office.

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade CATG (now Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group - LHFIG)

Date of meeting: Wednesday 14th December 2022. Microsoft TEAMS.

Chair – Councillor Bob Jones, Highways Officer – Steve Hind

Notes taken by Steve Hind

	Item		Actions and recommendations	Who
1.	Attendees	Cllr Bob Jones (Chair), Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Ray Thomas (Purton), Kevin Woolnough (Tockenham), Jonathan Hill (Cricklade), Mo Suleman (Lydiard Millicent), Rupert Pearce (Broad Town), Stuart Bernard (Lyneham & Bradenstoke), Steve Hind (Wiltshire Council - Highways Principal Engineer), Martin Cook (Wiltshire Council – Highways)	Area Board to note	AB
	Apologies	Cllr Mary Champion, Jim Gunter (Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett)		
2.	News and Updates			
3.	CATG/ LHFIG Budget	Not discussed (See attached).	Area Board to note	AB

4. Top 5 Priority Schemes (A List)				
	Item	Latest Update	Actions and recommendations	Who
	<p>Issue 5083 PURTON: Submitted 10/01/2017</p> <p>Road priorities at Tadpole Lane, B4533 and the C70</p>	<p>Experimental order for prohibition of entry and exit at C70 Hayes Knoll Road commenced on 24th May 2021</p> <p>Cabinet Member Report process complete and experimental order made permanent on 25th November 2022. Decision details on public web site</p>	<p>Issue to be CLOSED</p> <p>Area Board to note</p>	<p>AB</p>
	<p>11-21-10 Broad Hinton Submitted 14/08/21</p> <p>Extension to 50mph from Elm Cross to beyond Winterbourne Bassett turning.</p>	<p>Investigation being undertaken regarding signage and road marking improvements.</p> <p>These have been shared with the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was noted that there may be surfacing work planned at this spot soon. Officers to liaise further to establish most cost-effective approach to implementation.</p> <p>Signing completed. However, road markings not implemented because the maintenance surfacing work was not undertaken at this location.</p>	<p>Establish whether still on maintenance programme</p>	<p>SH</p>

	<p>Gates, signs and road markings</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council will not allow build outs in unlit areas or on derestricted roads. Bob Jones to discuss with Parvis.</p> <p>No engineering resolution had been identified. A speed limit review was considered unlikely to result in a reduction in the limit, however Bob Jones would go to the Parish to ask whether they wish to follow that route.</p> <p>Parish Council have requested speed limit review which has been ordered via Atkins. It was confirmed that the Parish had agreed to contribute 25% of the costs.</p> <p>Atkins have completed review with recommendations of part 50mph and part 40mph. Sent to PC for consideration bearing in mind Biomethane Castle Eaton Ltd application and potential change to traffic volumes.</p>	<p>Confirmation required from PC, then arrange advertisement.</p>	<p>Latton PC</p>
	<p>11-19-08 Lydiard Tregoze Submitted 11/11/2019</p> <p>Request for extended 40mph speed limit</p>	<p>Unsuitable for 40mph extension. Re consideration of preventing right turn into Sally Pussey's Inn.</p> <p>Signing scheme developed and consideration of road marking solution to deter vehicles parking in turning lane for the Inn. Consideration also given to possible signing for vehicles turning in and out of Spittleborough Farm and cemetery but assessed as not appropriate.</p> <p>Cost Estimate £3,000. The Parish Council representative confirmed a 25% contribution towards the scheme.</p> <p>Signing implemented.</p> <p>Road markings to be implemented under the ad hoc process now complete.</p>	<p>Issue to be CLOSED</p> <p>Area Board to note</p>	<p>AB</p>

	<p>11-22-16 Cricklade Submitted 03/08/22</p>	<p>Chelworth Crossroads Improvements</p>	<p>Recommendation to move issue to Priority A list.</p> <p>Jonathan Hill to send previous reports to SH.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>JH</p>
	<p>11-22-2 The Elms/ Washpool Submitted 04/02/22</p>	<p>Speed reduction</p>	<p>Arrange meeting. Mo Suleman, Luke Curtis, Steve Bucknell, Steve Hind</p>	<p>SH</p>
	<p>11-22-3 Cricklade Submitted 09/02/22 Speed limit on approach to Cricklade from the east.</p>	<p>Existing traffic order information obtained but nothing available to determine the speed limit within the street lit area.</p> <p>Speed limit review required from the A419. Cost not for CATG as this is an anomaly which needs to be resolved within Highways.</p> <p>Atkins have been requested to undertake a speed limit review.</p>	<p>Issue on list for monitoring.</p>	

6. Prioritisation of issues			
To agree prioritisation of issues below should any priority A/B issues be completed			
PARISHES	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	
Broad Town			
Clyffe Pypard & Bushton	11-22-10 The Barton signs and road markings Area Board to note. Recommendation to move to Priority A list.	11-22-15 Youth Hostel to be removed from signs Martin Cook meeting with PC and to report back.	
Cricklade	11-22-18 Stones Lane, dropped kerb	11-22-17 The Causeway pedestrian improvements Martin Cook to meet BJ and JH to identify hedge trimming.	
Latton	11-22-7 traffic calming		
Lydiard Millicent			
Lydiard Tregoze	11-21-4 Hook – footway safety from Hook to Coped Hall roundabout.	11-21-15 Hook – pedestrian path, Hook St to Bolingbroke Arms	
Lyneham & Bradenstoke	11-21-1 Lyneham – junction visibility (near Tesco)		
Marston Meysey			
Purton	11-21-8 Manor Hill, speed reduction	11-22-9 Mustang Way, Moulden View – No waiting	

		Area Board to note. Recommendation to move to Priority A list. Purton PC 25% contribution to speed limit review agreed.		
	Royal Wootton Bassett	11-22-12 A3102 Junction with Whitehill Lane/ New Road - improvement	11-22-13 Community garden nature reserve – ROW issue	
	Tockenham			
	Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett	11-22-14 Junction signing – Highden Lane with Broad Town Road		
	7. Minor Signing schemes to be paid for by Town/ Parish Councils			
	There were no schemes to be considered on this occasion.		Area Board to note	AB
	8. Date of Next Meeting			
	22 nd February 2023 via TEAMS		Area Board to note	AB

Report To	Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 18 January 2023
Title of Report	Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

- To provide detail of the grant applications made to the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board. These could include; community area grants, health and wellbeing, young person's grants and Area Board initiatives.
- To document any recommendations provided through sub-groups.

Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Young People	Health and Wellbeing
Opening Balance For 2022-23	£ 24,639.00	£ 19,916.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 12,881.00	£ 2,915.00	£ 1,854.00
Current Balance	£ 11,758.00	£ 17,001.00	£ 5,846.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 5,008.00	£ 15,551.00	£ 5,846.00

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG850	Community Area Grant	RWB Environment Trust	EcoRWB Infrared Camera	£500.00	£500.00
Project Summary: We want to purchase an infrared camera for use by local people to assess the heat loss areas on their houses so they can target insulation measures to reduce their heating bills.					
ABG895	Community Area Grant	Purton Cricket Club	Purton Cricket Club Nets Resurfacing	£22271.00	£5000.00
Project Summary: Purton Cricket Club nets are our most used asset. We have had them for approx. 13 years and the surface is now in need of replacements. The approximate cost of this will be around £25,000 This is a much cheaper option than having the nets dug up and a new net bed laid.					

ABG903	Community Area Grant	St Bartholomew's Church Croft	St Bartholomew's Church Croft Boiler Replacement Project	£3500.00	£1750.00
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Project Summary:

The current Croft boiler is at least 15 years old, and it has been known for some time that it is beginning to age. Efficiency has been declining, there have been a number of small repairs required and sourcing of parts is becoming more difficult. The latest failure was more significant and more costly than previous repairs. Following this latest repair, the plumber advised that the boiler is reaching the end of its life and beyond economic repair. The project is therefore to secure an energy efficient replacement boiler fit for purpose. The Croft serves the people of Royal Wootton Bassett as a community space welcoming all for coffee and light refreshments. It is also used as a meeting space for a variety of local groups, e.g., Book Club, Flower Guild, the AA and French Teacher. One Saturday a month it is offered to Charities free of charge to raise money for their Charity. Our current three mission and key initiatives are: *The Croft is registered with Wiltshire Council as a 'Warmer Space'. This offering is made 6 days a week to anyone who is struggling to heat their home during these challenging times. It provides somewhere warm for people to meet and have a gifted warm drink if required. *The Croft hosts a group of Ukrainian families who are able to come and meet with other Ukrainian speaking families. Both these initiatives are free of charge. *The Royal Wootton Bassett satellite branch of the Swindon Food Collective is operated from The Croft and is seeing an increased number of vulnerable people attending and needing food and support.

ABG940	Youth Grant	The Stay Safe Initiative CIC	The 2023 Digital Empowerment Programme	£2900.00	£1450.00
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Project Summary:

To help address the ever-growing issue of online harm / abuse and the impact social media is having on young people, for example.... 1: Online grooming cases in the UK have risen by 80% since the pandemic (NSPCC). 2: The impact social media is having on young people's mental health by being exposed to content promoting self-harm and suicide is increasing every day. Highlighted by the death of Molly Russell 2022. 3: 68% of local young people have told us they know someone who has been a victim of online hate, bullying or sexual harassment. 4: Almost half (48%) of young people we have worked with over the last year have told us that social media and online interactions can have a negative impact on their mental health. today more than ever, young people and their families need as much direction, advice and support as possible. The Digital Empowerment Programme has been designed to be delivered in secondary schools to enable us to reach hundreds of our communities young people and families and will not only help them to stay safer online, but will also allow them to have a bright and positive digital future. This project has four main elements: ELEMENT 1 - Preparation Prior to us working with anyone all young people are given a voice! Allowing young people to share their own personal thoughts on living in the Digital World and giving them the opportunity to be heard is what shapes all of our work. It's for this reason that before we visit a school, we invite all pupils to take part in an anonymous online student digital life survey. This not only gives us a great insight into our audience, but also allows us to reference lots of the group's thoughts and concerns during our live face-2-face sessions. ELEMENT 2 – Working with the whole family Parenting in the Digital Word 'Virtual sessions' Before we work with young people, we want to bring parents and carers up to speed, to allow them to have a greater understanding of their young people's digital lives. Exploring what they are doing online, understanding the risks, and providing straightforward help and advice to keep everyone at home safer. Knowing that many feel overwhelmed trying to keep up with the constant evolution of games, app's and social media platforms, they are quite understandably worried about online bullying, grooming and what their children are sharing online. This session will allow them to be well informed and NOT scared ELEMENT 3 – 'In school' sessions for young people. These sessions are 100% about them. We will work with every Yr7 and Yr9 student in school. Yr7's 'Keeping up with my growing digital life' Yr9's 'Building a positive digital future' It's by reaching these audiences individually, that we are able to provide age-appropriate advice, direction and support throughout their secondary school journey. All of these sessions are delivered in a professional, relaxed and engaging way and involve audience participation / involvement throughout. It's important to us that our audiences always have the opportunity to be heard and are able share their thoughts and ideas. This allows for open and honest discussions to help promote critical thinking in young people when considering future online activity and behaviour. We don't want to talk AT THEM but instead WITH THEM. We address and discuss issues such as... Social Media Pro's and Con's Online Hate (bullying and hate speech) Online Sexual Harassment (child on child abuse) Online Grooming and interacting with strangers Sexting (sharing indecent images online) Digital Resilience Self-Image and Identity Digital tattoo / footprint (my online future) Getting help and support and more... ELEMENT 4 – Follow on support and evaluation Ongoing Support: Due all live sessions we highlight and signpost a wide range of places both young people and parents can get instant, free and non judgmental (and in some cases anonymous) advice and support after our visits. To back this up, every student and family at school will be provided this an extensive resource pack with lots of additional information, help and support they can use moving forward. This pack will sign post them to a wide range of charities and support networks should they need them in the future. Evaluation: Following all sessions students and parents will be invited to evaluate what they have learnt and have the opportunity to feedback how useful they found the project. To enable this to be as transparent as possible this follow on evaluation survey will be 100% anonymous to everyone wishing to share their open and honest views. This will allow us to continue to evolve both content and delivery of this project moving forward.

1. Background

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.

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)
- ♦ Young People (revenue)
- ♦ Health and Wellbeing (revenue)

The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

2. Main Considerations

2.1. 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 person's funding guidelines have been adhered to.

2.2. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.

2.3. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub-groups of the Area Boards.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

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.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

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

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community-based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

8. Safeguarding Implications

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

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

Report Author

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