

MINUTES

Meeting: Chippenham and Villages Area Board
Place: Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road,
Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3QN
Date: 25 September 2023
Start Time: 6.30pm
Finish Time: 8.50pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Stuart Figini (Senior Democratic Services Officer),(Tel): 01225 718221 or (e-mail) stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Ross Henning, Lowden and Rowden (Chair)
Cllr Dr Nick Murry, Monkton (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Liz Alstrom, Chippenham Hardens & Central
Cllr Nick Botterill, By Brook
Cllr Adrian Foster, Chippenham Sheldon
Cllr Howard Greenman, Kington
Cllr Peter Hutton, Cepen Park and Hunters Moon
Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Chippenham Hardenhuish
Cllr Nic Puntis, Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads

Wiltshire Council Officers

Ros Griffiths – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager
Louisa Young – Area Board Delivery Officer
Max Hirst – Democratic Services Officer
Kate Blackburn – Director Public Health (allocated to the Area Board)
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Pete Foster
Chief Constable – Catherine Roper

Total in attendance: 20

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
45	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Cllr Clare Cape Gordon Olson</p>
46	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
47	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
48	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave updates on outcomes and actions arising from previous meetings of the Area Board, and notified attendees of upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Local Plan Review • Transport/Highways Matters Area Board Event on 11 December at the Olympiad • Multiply – Online Courses • Update on the Council’s activity and progress on the Climate Emergency - https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw
49	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Board noted the following information items which can be found in the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community First • Healthwatch Wiltshire • Update from BSW Together (Integrated Care System)
50	<p><u>Wiltshire Police Chief Constable</u></p> <p>The Board welcomed Chief Constable Catherine Roper, who gave a verbal update on Wiltshire Police.</p> <p>The Chief Constable had been in post 6 months and described the work she had been doing since the force had been graded poorly and placed in special measures in June 2022. The reasons for this were described as:</p>

- Not recognising vulnerable persons and their challenges.
- The response to incidents not being adequate.
- The process from when members of the public first contacted the police to the conclusion of a case was described as having failings all throughout.

The Chief Constable was very conscious that the foundations of Wiltshire Police needed to be rebuilt, and that as trust and confidence in the force had declined the morale within the force had declined as a result.

Rebuilding the fundamentals of Wiltshire Police would lead to being brought out of special measures. This included work already underway on the business-as-usual delivery plan, restructuring the senior management and performance frameworks and refocusing crime-tackling priorities.

The Chief Constable described the Control Room as simply not good enough and stated that serious work was being done to improve the service the public received.

Other areas of improvement included:

- Visibility on the roads to deter criminals.
- Recruitment activities, with emphasis given to opportunities for those in a gap year.
- The Evolve programme, allowing those most involved in day-to-day activity to give their views on where improvements can be made.
- An auditing and inspections regime, ensuring progress had been made through regular reports to the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Every 6 months the Chief Constable and PCC attend Whitehall to face numerous questions and explain how improvements had been made. The most recent meeting on Monday 18 September had noted improvements in organising and prioritising areas of improvement.
- The speed at which calls are answered. The Chief Constable receives a daily report on the number of calls and how quickly the needs of the caller had been understood and actioned. Teams have arrived quicker than national targets.

Inspector Pete Foster commented that he hadn't seen as high a level of interest and drive for improvement in his 18 years in the Police. He was also pleased that more Police Officers were available to show a presence in public.

In response to a question about engagement and intervention, it was clarified that mobile police stations had been deployed to improve contact with the public. It was agreed that more patrols in local parks and hotspots was needed.

In response to a question about prevention and using an online report system, it

	<p>was clarified that all crimes reported are logged and monitored and if certain locations are deemed hotspots or certain crime types are identified then the police response is adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the Licensing Committee had not seen a police presence for a period of time and the Chief Constable agreed that this would be looked at.</p> <p>Erratic driving around the A350 was highlighted as a serious issue.</p> <p>In response to a concern raised on policing numbers, it was clarified that although recruitment was still ongoing, numbers were better than ever, and the situation was described by Inspector Pete Foster as far better than a few years ago.</p> <p>The Chair raised concerns that councillors often miss local policing engagement activities and hopes such activities can be better communicated between them.</p> <p>Concerns around the length of time 101 calls take to answer and follow up was raised and accepted by the Chief Constable as an area they are driving to improve.</p> <p>It was clarified that the Chief Constable is the National Policing Lead for Children and Young People and is responsible for ensuring across England and Wales continually strives to improve in this area.</p>
51	<p><u>Area Board Priority Updates</u></p> <p>Lead Councillors updated the Board on work undertaken in each of the Area Board's Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority - Youth engagement and supporting positive mental health and wellbeing in young people (Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Adrian Foster) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth activities supported by the Area Board over the summer holidays. • £10,000 of Million Hours funding awarded to youth projects in Chippenham Hardens and Central ward. • Local Youth Network meeting at Hardenhuish School September 2023. • Chippenham Teen Take Over April 2024. • Area Board funding to WOLT enabled the charge for the high ropes at River Park to be kept down. • Rise Trust delivered detached outreach work throughout the summer. • Rise Trust youth club sessions <p>Million Hours Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell Your Story – 3 sessions and a gig at the end.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional detached outreach work. • Friday lunch sessions. • Trips to the Arc climbing centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority – Addressing climate change (Cllr Nick Murry and Cllr Kathryn Macdermid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chippenham Climate & Ecological Emergency Forum meeting 21 September 2023. • Focus for 2023/24 - Engaging the parishes, linking with WC Climate Team, Community Directory. • Priority – Promoting wellbeing and reducing social isolation in older and vulnerable people (Cllr Clare Cape) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chippenham Health and Wellbeing group meeting 11 October 2023 (Integrated Care System / Rethink Mental Illness / Falls Prevention Resources) • Attendees were reminded that Older and Vulnerable adults funding is available. • Priority – Supporting the local economy (Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Nick Murry) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Support Funding for local foodbanks. • Chippenham One Plan consultation update. • Priority – Reducing anti-social behaviour (Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Liz Alstrom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting partner networks to tackle ASB. • Community Safety forum and Purple Flag Breakfast 6 October 2023. • Rise Trust relocating to Olympiad – safe space and detached youth work from October. <p>The Board wished to congratulate Sandie Webb for her work tackling fraud in Wiltshire which gained national new coverage. Sandie founded Chippenham Community Hub in 2021 during the pandemic and today the hub's focus has shifted to the town's centre for fighting fraud.</p>
52	<p><u>Partner and Community Updates</u></p> <p>The Board noted the following written and online updates, which can be found in the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Policing Team Road Safety Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service • Chippenham Area Parish Forum Meeting – 19 July 2023 • Chippenham TC Update
53	<p><u>Wilts & Berks Canal Trust - Community Engagement</u></p> <p>Dave Maloney, Chair of the Melksham, Chippenham and Calne branch, gave a PowerPoint presentation which is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>The main points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust is a registered charity established in 1977 to restore 70 miles of abandoned canal and towpaths between Semington, Abingdon and Cricklade. • As of 2023 29% of towpaths and 6.5% of the navigable canal had been restored. • The Trust had been very active in Chippenham, particularly at their Pewsham learning and heritage restoration site and on the canal towpaths. • Within the presentation, maps were shown of the areas being restored. • Plans for 81 projects are in place which will cost over £300m and it was envisaged the public wellbeing and economic benefits will total over £250m per year upon completion. <p>The Board expressed their gratitude for the presentation and the work that the Trust does for the area and the need for spreading awareness to more Pewsham residents was emphasised.</p>
54	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Board considered the following grant applications:</p> <p><u>Older and Vulnerable Grants</u></p> <p>Chippenham Day Centre & Friendship Group requested £2,581.98 towards running costs.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ross Henning and seconded by Cllr Liz Alstrom</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award Chippenham Day Centre & Friendship Group £2,581.98 towards running costs. <u>Reason</u> – The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.</p> <p><u>Young People Grants</u></p>

	<p>Rag and Bone Arts CIC requested £3,530 towards their Teen Drama Improvisation Workshop & Art Display.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ross Henning and seconded by Cllr Liz Alstrom</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award Rag and Bone Arts CIC £3,530 for their Teen Drama Improvisation Workshop & Art Display. <i>Reason – The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p>The Stay Safe Initiative requested £2,175 towards their Digital Empowerment Programme.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ross Henning and seconded by Cllr Peter Hutton</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u> To award The Stay Safe Initiative £2,175 for their Digital Empowerment Programme. <i>Reason – The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p>
55	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Board considered the notes and recommendations from the recent meeting of the Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group (LHFIG) which took place on 6 July 2023.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Peter Hutton and seconded by Cllr Adrian Foster it was:</p> <p><u>Resolved</u></p> <p>To approve the recommendations from the meeting of the Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group on 6 July.</p>
56	<p><u>Urgent Items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
57	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting of the Chippenham Area Board would take place on 11 December 2023.</p>