



Malmesbury Area Board

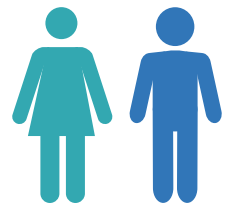
End of Year Report

May 2021 - March 2023

Malmesbury Area Board

Malmesbury Community Area covers 245km² of north western Wiltshire and is made up of mainly rural countryside and is dominated by one major settlement, the ancient market town of Malmesbury. There are 20 parishes across the community area and no other towns. The countryside and its villages have many buildings built of the local limestone which gives the area its Cotswold character.

The Area Board is Malmesbury's local cabinet for Wiltshire Council, bringing local decision making into the heart of the community area. The Area Board is made up of 4 unitary councillors. The Councillors are the voting members of the board, and all those who engage in the board's work are equal members, able to influence decisions, shape and deliver on local priorities.






**Total
Population
20,285**

Area Board Investment

The Area Board invests in local community projects and initiatives that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. The Area Board aims to work in partnership to achieve maximum value for its investment. They take a long term view to invest in prevention and early intervention, focusing on tackling inequalities and improving social mobility.

Total Area Board Investment

£45,680	£25,040	£15,313
Community	Youth	Older and Vulnerable Adults
		
Total Community Contribution		
£813,873	£89,933	£41,767

The total amount invested in projects through additional community contribution, from fundraising, grants, services in kind or volunteering

Local Priorities

The Malmesbury Area Board reviewed available local data and evidence and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes. The Area Board has undertaken a series of more specific local actions to positively address them, including the key achievements below:

Youth engagement and positive activities for young people



Malmesbury Area Board has put significant investment into the services Rise Trust offer to young people. Focused on Malmesbury town, they include detached youth work, where Rise's staff in their distinctive pink polo shirts go out into the community to find young people and engage with them around the issues they face. Rise also provide the Safe Spaces youth club where young people are mentored and encouraged to take part in fun activities.

Green Issues

Like many other area boards, Malmesbury has prioritised the environment and climate change. The area board has been able to deliver a new cycling route between Malmesbury and the village of Sherston, one of the area's larger villages. Further cycle routes and footpaths joining up Malmesbury with surrounding villages are being identified. New, public EV charging points are being created in Sherston and Malmesbury in partnership with Wiltshire Council's partner, Joju Solar.



Highway safety



Malmesbury Area Board works closely with local parish councils and Wiltshire Highways through the Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group. The aim is to improve safety for all on the area's roads. This work has included new dropped kerbs in a number of locations improving access for those with less mobility; looking at HGV access to the town and the need for weight limits, especially at The Triangle; making pavements safer by installing bollards to prevent vehicles mounting the kerb and changes to speed limits to make roads safer.

Community-led projects

27

Community

15

Youth

16

Older and
Vulnerable
Adults

The Malmesbury Area Board has developed a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, organisations and residents in the town and villages. The Board recognises the talents, expertise and knowledge of the local community and empowers and facilitates community led action to co-deliver local services.

A shining example of the type of support and change that area boards can drive forward was the creation of a network of support organisations and “Warm Spaces” that were there for local residents throughout winter of 2022/23 and who were affected by current cost of living issues. This network included community venues such as local churches, Malmesbury Abbey, the library and Riverside Centre, Malmesbury’s foodbank and the community fridge as well as the Community Area Partnership. Warm Space venues were able to provide a range of activities for both young and older people, hot drinks and meals and advice and support for issues such as budgeting and menu planning. All provided a warm and welcoming space for anyone who needed it. Malmesbury Area Board played a key role in co-ordinating this work and ensuring each venue or partner added to the overall offer. This included spacing these activities across the week into a calendar of different services and venues so that a warm space was always available. The area board offered essential funding to venues to allow them to stay open, even when their own costs were going up, and to provide meals and drinks to those needing their warm space. When Malmesbury Foodbank looked to set up new Citizens’ Advice Bureau sessions for their clients, the area board was able to help fund the availability of this vital information.

A key mission of Wiltshire Council’s Business Plan is to help Wiltshire be a place where ‘We live well together’, and it aims to help support communities to be more resilient in the face of challenging times and setbacks.

Engagements

The Malmesbury Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include the city council, voluntary and community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs and local charities.

The Area Board wouldn't be able to achieve what they do without these partners working on the ground with them. The Area Board hosts regular business meetings, engagement activities, events, surveys and working groups to stimulate and support local community action.

**Area Board
Business meetings**

8



Attendances **185**

**Area Board
working groups**

19



Attendances **227**

**Engagements/
events/ activities**

34



Attendances **105**

**Area Board
surveys**

3



Responses **198**

Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group

The Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group (LHFIG) is a sub group of the Malmesbury Area Board, which deals specifically with highway issues. They aim to find solutions for local transport issues, such as road repairs, traffic problems, road layouts and parking.

The amount allocated is dependent on the geographical size and population for the community area and the funding allocation is for capital expenditure and can be used to provide new and improved highway infrastructure.

LHFIG Projects 2022/23

- Malmesbury Bristol Street 20mph limit
- Malmesbury Cross Hayes car park 'no entry' sign and road markings
- Brinkworth footway contribution to substantive scheme.
- Malmesbury Mill Lane – conversion to 2 way cycle track.
- Ashton Keynes – Happyland/ Waterhay Lane – warning signs and road markings.
- Malmesbury, Gloucester Road/ Old Station Mews – dropped kerbs x 5 and footway extension.



LHFIG meetings

8

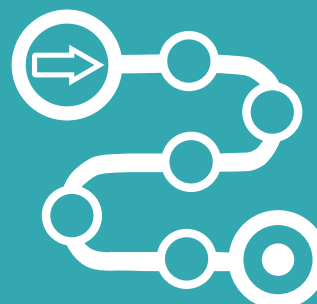


Attendances

129

LHFIG projects completed

6



Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2023/24

By agreeing and delivering to local priorities, the Area Board is able to proactively address issues by focusing its resources and working in partnership with local organisations, volunteers and residents. To effectively select local priorities it is important that there is a regular review of the evidence available and the views of the residents are sought. To aid Councillors to agree their priorities, the list below provides some of new sources of data and evidence:

- **JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence**: The 2022 Wiltshire JSNA presents data on the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Wiltshire
- **Census 2021 results**: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- **VCSE research - Wessex Community Action**: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- **Annual report - Wiltshire Citizens Advice**: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors through the development of the Area Board local action plan.

Based on the work undertaken in 2022/23 and the new evidence available, some of the key priorities that the Board may wish to consider are as follows:

- **Youth engagement, improving school attendance and positive activity opportunities**
- **Addressing climate change, improving active travel and reversing biodiversity loss**
- **Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation**
- **Supporting community resilience**
- **Improving transport and access, including rights of way and promoting active travel**

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