

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL MELKSHAM AREA BOARD

JUNE 2018

Melksham 'Our Community Matters' Local issues: local action

1. Purpose of the Report

To update members on the progress made to address the priorities identified by the community at the 'Our Community Matters' Joint Strategic Assessment event held on 18.01.2017.

2. Background

The Melksham 'Our Community Matters' event was held on 18th January at the Melksham Assembly Hall. Over 100 members of the public and partner agencies attended and participated in the event, which focused on the data set out in the [Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment 2016-17](#).

The JSA brings together the results of research conducted by the major agencies and public sector bodies in Wiltshire over the last six months. The project was initiated by the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Wiltshire Assembly. These bodies will use the priorities emerging from the events to focus and support strategic projects, activities and services across Wiltshire.

Participants at the events used the data to inform themed roundtable discussions and to identify local priorities underpinned by the research. All participants had the opportunity to vote on the priorities and the results are set out in this report. Following agreement on the priorities, the themed roundtables then looked at practical community-led actions that could be taken to address the issues identified.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Gain a consensus around priorities for the area
- Provide the basis for community-led action and projects over the next two years
- Develop a community plan for the area
- Provide the Council and partners with a clear focus for local actions

The Area Board adopted these priorities shortly after the event and has since focused on supporting and facilitating local actions to tackle those priorities.

3. Priorities identified

The following documents set out the JSA analysis presented to the 'Our Community Matters' conference and the priorities identified by the community on the night. The following documents are available to view online at <http://wiltshirejsa.org.uk/community-area/melksham/>:

- Summary of issues identified by the research
- Priorities agreed at the event

4. Moving forward with community-led action

To address the priorities, the Area Board has been using its strategic influence and delegated powers to shape the delivery of local services and actions. It has also used its delegated resources to facilitate and support community-led projects. The community engagement manager has been working with local community groups and partners, using the local priorities as a work plan. Some of the actions are easier to address than others and work has focussed on areas where tangible outcomes and progress can be delivered. This has helped to capitalise on the enthusiasm and momentum generated by the event.

5. Impact

Appendix 1 sets out the actions achieved since the 'Our Community Matters' event took place. This is a two-year programme and the figures represent the period between April 2017 – March 2018. The report shows the actions that have been delivered to address the priorities in the 9 JSA themes. It is important to note that these actions have been delivered by a wide range of agencies and are not solely the actions of the area board. The area board may have funded some actions or offered support to others. Some may have been independently by the groups concerned, but all help to address the priorities identified by the community.

6. Recommendations

- (1) That the area board notes the JSA update report.
- (2) That the area board expresses its thanks to the organisations, groups and partners who have contributed actions that address the local priorities set by the community.

Report Author: Rhys Schell, Melksham Community Engagement Manager
Tel: 01225 716752
E-Mail: rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk