

Calne Without Parish Council - update to Calne Area Board Meeting 5th December 2023

Calne Without Parish Council hosted our second Energy Saving and Local Environment Day on 16th September at the Lansdowne Hall in Derry Hill. We had stands and speakers from a wide range of organisations including the Heat Pump Federation, WEC, Warm and Safe Wiltshire, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Avon Needs Trees, the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, Eco Creations, Calne Men's Shed, Potterne Honey, Sustainable Calne, Friends of the River Marden, Hedgehog Friendly Gardens and Armstrong Architecture. Wiltshire Scrapstore ran an activity making draught excluders and hot water bottle covers, and Clare's Circus provided entertainment for children. It was a really well-attended and positive event.

We used the event to launch our free "Plant a Tree" scheme, providing free trees to residents to plant in their gardens. This has had a great take-up.

We will also be running our free thermal imaging camera loan scheme for its second season, helping people locate areas of heat loss in their homes.

The Parish Council continues to progress a number of road safety schemes through the Calne Area LHFIFG and are pleased to see progress being made. Minor improvements have recently been completed on Old Derry Hill, in Ratford and on the Mile Elm Road, and more significant schemes are in progress.



One of the improvements we would like to see made is the implementation of a weight limit in narrow lanes in Studley, including Norley Lane, following a number of incidents involving HGVs. We are frustrated that a moratorium on new weight limits remains in place, even in locations such as this, which would have no knock-on impacts on neighbouring local authority areas.

Our Footpaths Group continues to work on maintaining local paths. We have undertaken repairs to a number of stiles and footbridges recently, as well as starting a larger project to reinstate footpath CALW13 where it crosses the embankment of the old railway line near the Millenium Bridge. So far, we have cleared the path and restored the handrailing on one side. Further work is planned to replace the handrailing on the other side and renovate the steps. We are indebted to Wiltshire Council's Countryside & Rights of Way team for their ongoing support.

We are pleased to see progress being made with restoring the footway along the A4. We would appreciate a better understanding of the programme and would particularly like to see the section between Lower Compton and Cherhill being addressed early, as this section is well-used by parents and schoolchildren.

Finally, the Parish Council has reviewed and provided feedback on Wiltshire Council's draft Local Plan Review. We appreciate the effort that has gone into the Plan and trust that our feedback will be taken into consideration.

John Barnes
Chair, Calne Without Parish Council