

# Highways Matters Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# Agenda and Housekeeping

1. Welcome and Introduction – Chair
2. Highway Matters Presentation
3. Update from Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
4. Q&A
5. Close

# Wiltshire context

**Modern transport has transformed our society and economy. It has enabled us to take advantage of a wide range of dispersed opportunities and to keep in contact with family and friends. Advances in road haulage and distribution methods have stimulated economic growth by helping to provide us with unparalleled consumer choices, a 24-hour society and just-in-time deliveries.**

At the same time, however, our reliance on the private car and the lorry has led to busier and more congested roads. This, in turn, has resulted in fewer people keeping healthy through walking and cycling, increased concerns with regard to noise and other community aspects, accessibility issues for people who rely on public transport, and significant environmental impacts such as air pollution and climate change.

So, while transport can be viewed as simply a 'means to an end' (i.e. it just gets us from A to B), in reality it's a key element of a modern society with impacts on the economy, climate change, people's health, social exclusion, street scenes and the countryside.

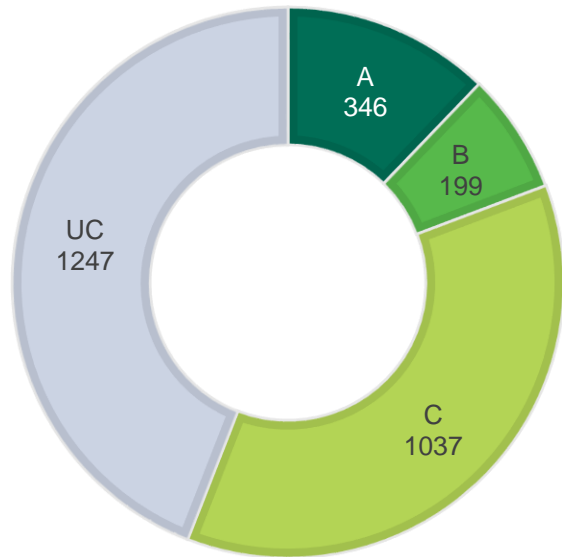
# Wiltshire Context

- The highway network – roads, bridges and related infrastructure – represents the Council's largest and most valuable public asset with a replacement value of over £5 billion.
- Over 2,800 miles of roads, and extensive public rights of way network;
- Extensive public transport network, which we have sustained despite financial challenges and changing travel patterns



# Asset Management - some numbers

Over 2800 miles of road  
by class



50,000 street lights and 6000 sign lights



65 signal controlled junctions



145 signal controlled pedestrian crossings



293 Belisha beacons



981 highway bridges



85000 road gullies

# Investment in our network

Highways Maintenance Fund - £21m

Additional £3.6m pothole fund

Integrated Transport Funding - £2.1m

Bus Service Improvement Plan - £4.2m

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - £4.7m

## Additional Investment by Wiltshire Council - 2022

- £150,000 pa over three years to tackle fly-tipping
- £200,000 per year for next three years for white-lining
- £333,000 per year to help prevent flooding, directed to gully cleaning

## 2023

- £500,000 for signing strategy
- £510,000 for flyposting removal and enforcement, litter picking rural highways, cleaning multi-story car parks and communications

**2023/24/25** - additional £10m for preventative maintenance

**2023/24/25** - additional £5.228m from cancellation of HS2



# Local Transport Plan

- The Local Transport Plan sets the framework for maintaining and improving transport in Wiltshire;
- It needs to align to our Local Plan Review and will help deliver Wiltshire Council's Business Plan priorities for transport across the County;
- We will be undertaking consultation on 'issues and options' towards the end of the year. Key themes will include:
  - Road Safety;
  - Public Transport;
  - Car Parking Strategy;
  - Freight;
  - Active Travel
  - Decarbonisation.

# Public Transport Review - consultation

- Aim is to help shape future bus policy and priorities for support
- Will help ensure we are providing value for money whilst delivering on Business Plan priorities and objectives of the National Bus Strategy
- Bus market has changed since COVID 19 - lower patronage levels
- Driver shortage and inflationary pressures
- Stakeholder consultation June 2023 - 163 responses
- Wider public consultation until November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Over 1000 responses to date
- Aim for a new policy and network for implementation from April 2024
- <https://wiltshirebusreview.commonplace.is/>





# Local Issues

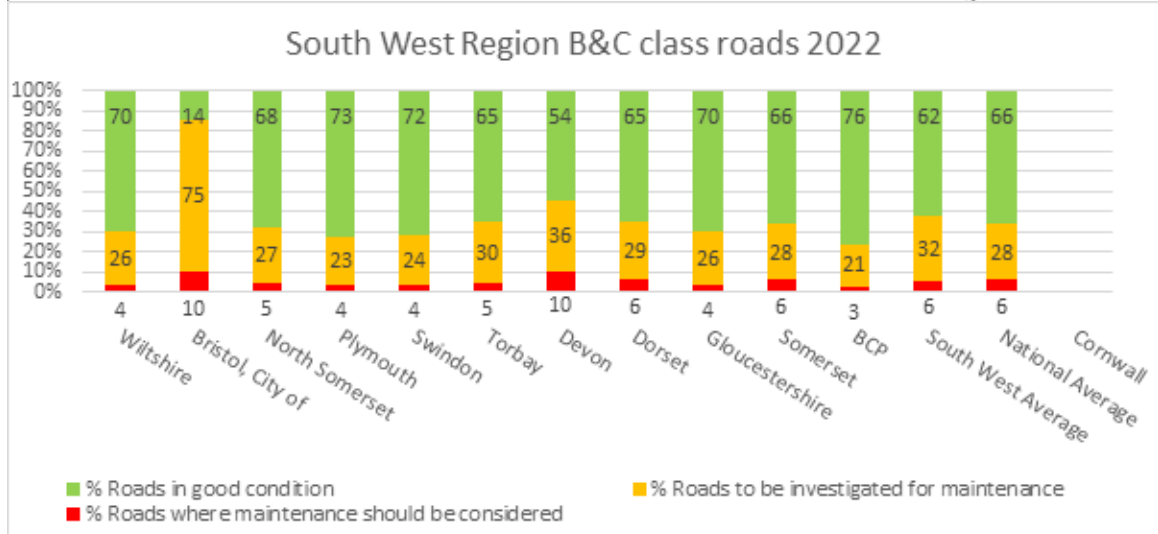
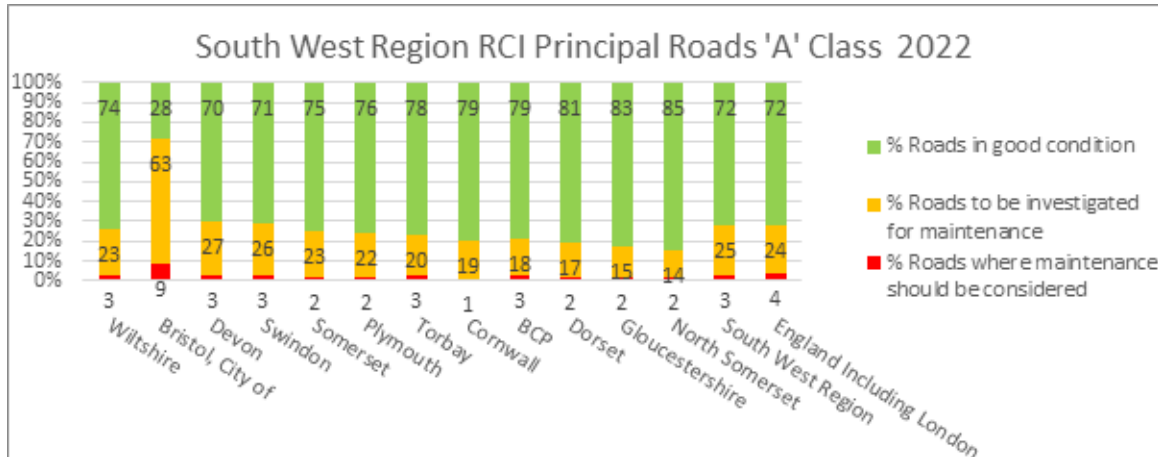
- Highway Maintenance
- Flooding
- Lyneham Banks
- RWB to Swindon cycleway

# Highways Maintenance

Highways maintenance typically refers to the upkeep and repair of public roads, pavements, and other related infrastructure. This can include tasks such as filling potholes, resurfacing roads, repairing bridges, road signs and markings, traffic signals and street lights.

- 1. Reactive maintenance:** This approach involves responding to issues as they arise, such as repairing potholes or replacing damaged signs. Reactive repairs are primarily driven from our scheduled inspections but also public reports such as via the MyWilts app. When assessing defects, we apply intervention levels as laid out in our Highways Inspection Manual – in other words, we prioritise the response based on specific safety criteria.
- 2. Planned maintenance:** This approach involves scheduling regular maintenance tasks to prevent issues from arising in the first place or getting worse. For example, regular road resurfacing or bridge inspections to identify and address issues before they become more serious.
- 3. Asset management:** This approach involves taking a long-term view of highways maintenance, and involves evaluating the condition of roads and infrastructure and prioritizing maintenance tasks based on factors like condition, safety, cost, and rate of deterioration.

# Highways Maintenance - Benchmarking



## 2022 South West Road condition scanner survey benchmarking

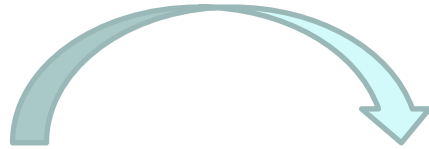
Scanner surveys provide a consistent method for measuring road surface conditions. The data is used to help inform maintenance decisions. The Scanner survey collects surface and geometric data using vehicle mounted lasers and cameras. Forty three parameters are collected and the results reported to the Department for Transport on an annual basis.

# Potholes Why so many?



Summer 2022 Dry & Hot

Road Surface Temperatures in Excess of **55 degrees C**



Autumn 2022 Wet

November – 145% of normal rainfall



Winter Dec Onwards – long periods Sub Zero

Road Surface Temperatures fell below **-9 Degrees C**



# Interim Repair

- Undertaken to keep road safe
- Can provide a durable repair
- Enables more extensive repairs to be programmed efficiently



# Permanent Repair

- Failed Area Cut out using a mini planer
- Reinstated using “hot” material hand laid

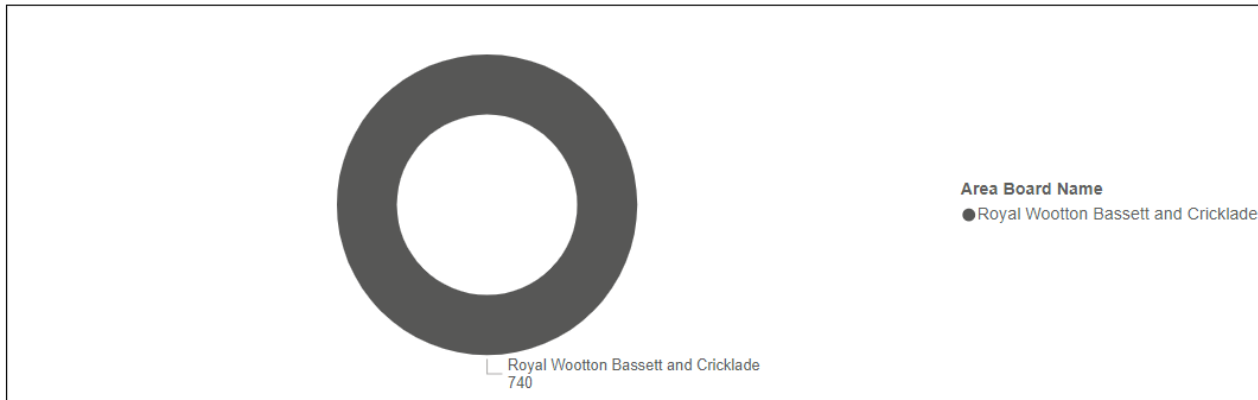


# Innovation – Defect dashboard

Wiltshire Council

P1 -4 Defects, 1 April 2023 to Present

MILESTONE  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
A part of MGroupServices

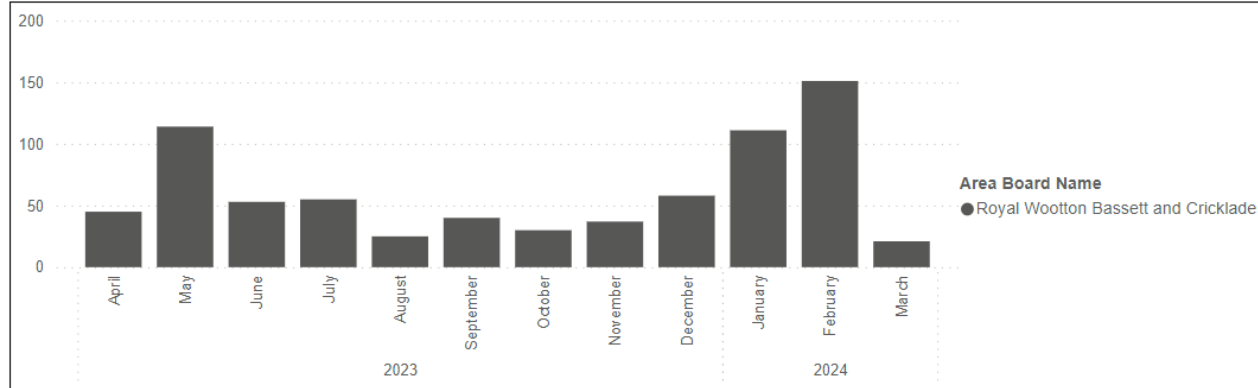


Completed Defects

740

Area Board Name

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cric... ▼



# Flood Prevention

- A & B Roads Gullies Emptied Annually
- Along with around 5500 gullies classed as High Risk
- Remaining Gullies emptied on a 3 year cycle
  
- Grips cut annually



Tractor Mounted Grip  
Cutting Head



Gully Tanker/Vactor

# Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

- 18 Groups across the County aligned to the Area Boards.
- LHFIGs exist to enable local communities to raise local highway issues, prioritise them, and provide a mechanism for these issues to be addressed.
- The Groups have an annual funding allocation to allow delivery of solutions.
- Representation at the Group is through Parish & Town Councils.
- Lots of detail on the [Wiltshire.gov.uk](http://Wiltshire.gov.uk) website on the Highways pages.

## RWB & Cricklade LHFIG

- Current budget £91,431. Commitments £26,714
- 17 live projects



# Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

## LHFIGs can fund the following:

**Pedestrian improvements:** including dropped kerbs, new footways, substantive improvements to existing footways, pedestrian crossings (including assessments).

**Cycle improvements:** new cycle paths, cycle parking / storage.

**Bus infrastructure:** new and replacement Shelters (subject to agreement on future maintenance liability), bus border kerbs, bus stop road markings.

**Traffic signing:** new and replacement signs (including signposts), street name plates, village gateways.

**New road markings:** new and replacement of existing markings.

**Speed limits:** assessment and implementation.

**Waiting restrictions:** assessments and implementation.

**Footpath improvements:** styles, gates, surface improvements to rights of ways (council maintainable only).

**Drainage:** minor improvements, new gullies.

**Street lighting:** new installations.

**Traffic management measures:** including Sockets and posts for SID (Speed Indication Device) equipment.

# Parish Steward Scheme

- Our team of Parish Stewards are specially trained to complete small-scale discretionary local highways priority works to town and parishes.
- There are 18 Parish Stewards, one for each community area, who work with representatives in their parishes to ensure all work requests are clear and are logged for review before they start the work. We also have a support gang that works with the Parish Stewards on larger-scale projects, based on demand.
- Tasks include proactive and reactive works. For example, verge siding out, vegetation clearance, pothole repair, drain and gully clearance.

# Public Transport

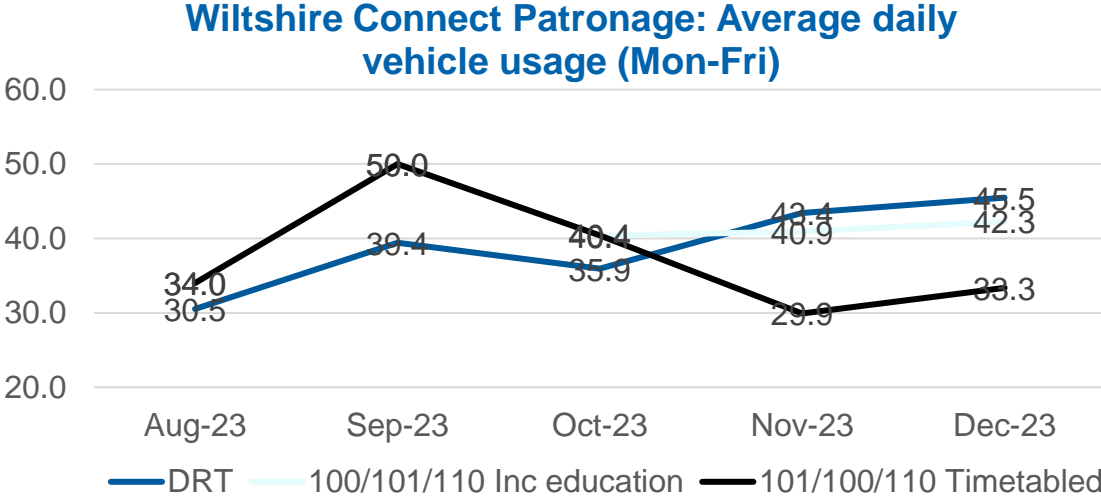
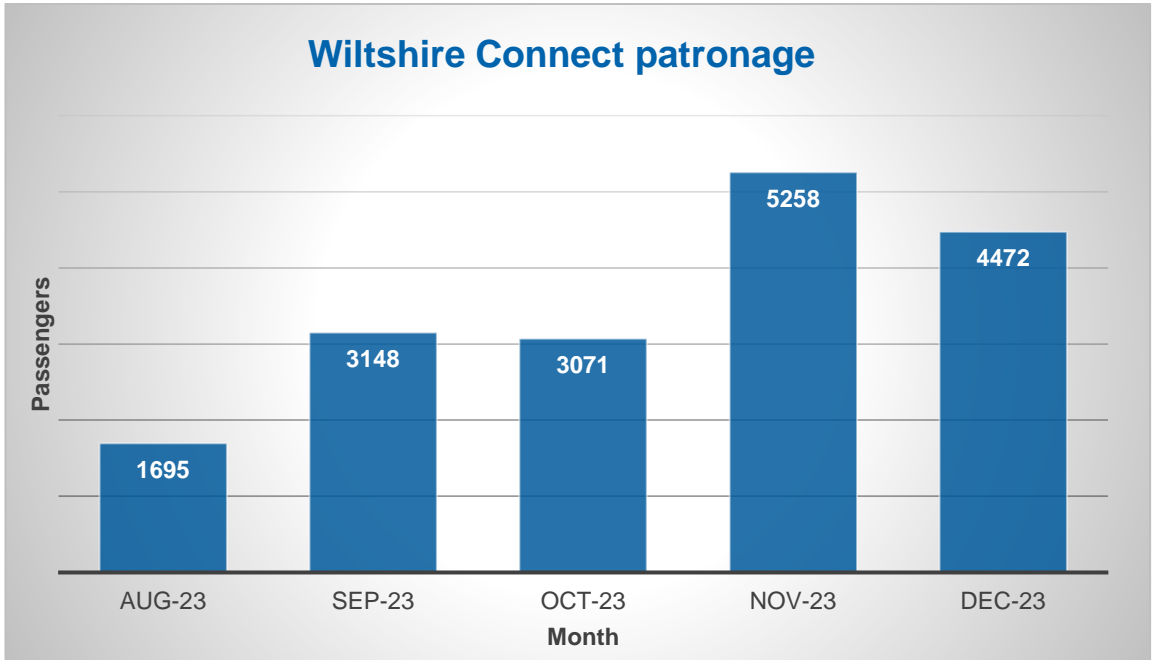
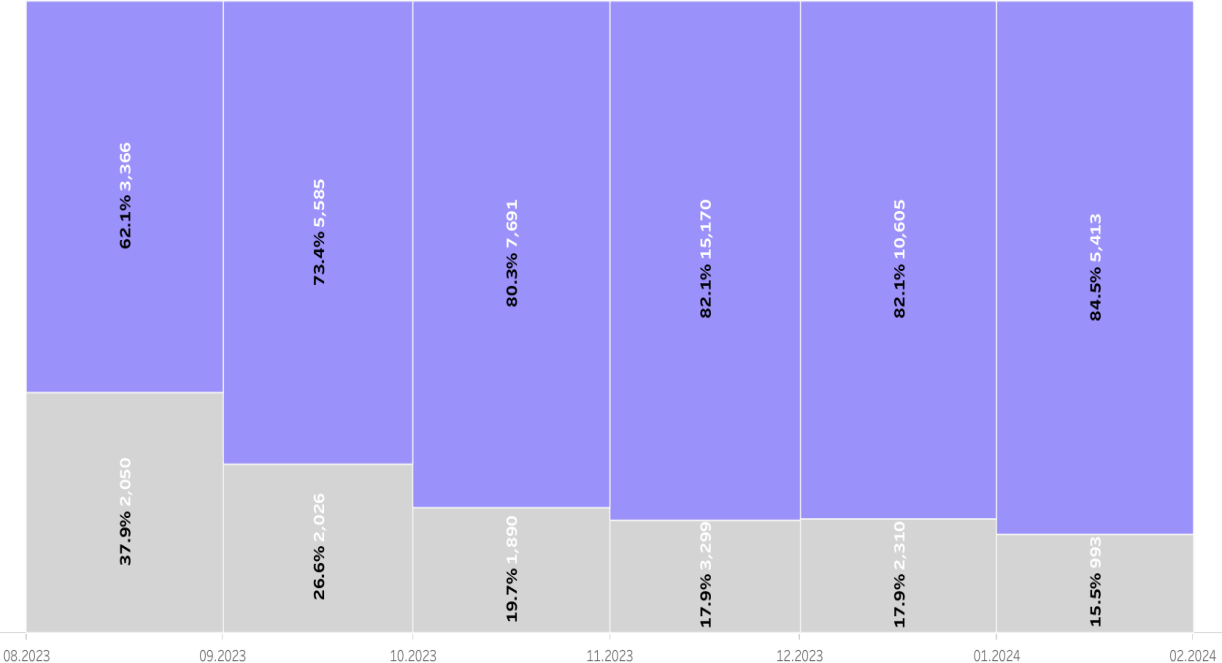
- £1.1m of UK Prosperity Funding
- Refresh and expansion of the Bassett Boomerang



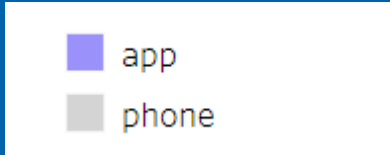
# Demand Responsive Transport

DRT services have seen genuine patronage growth of almost 50% between August and December to a point where the DRT vehicles are exceeding the daily patronage load of the Wiltshire Connect timetabled / semi flexible vehicles.

App usage has gradually increased since the service launched and in January 85% of rides are being made on the app.



LIVE·WORK·INNOVATE



# Lyneham Banks

- Funding approved for reinstatement
- Currently undertaking procurement for contractor
- Delivery details to be confirmed / comprehensive engagement plan
- Continue to monitor impacts on local road network

# Verge and litter clearance – extra funds

- Grounds maintenance and street cleansing in the Royal Wootton Bassett boundary is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.
- Litter collection of main routes and trunk roads has received an extra investment of £0.3m this year.
- Enforcement resources are being increased to tackle the issues of fly posting, fly tipping and rural littering.
- Loan cleaning equipment is provided by the council's street cleaning contractor, idverde, to town and parish councils to support community events.
- Idverde are also available to support community groups with street scene improvement works.
- **'We're Targeting Fly-Tippers'** and **'Don't Mess with Wiltshire'**

# Thank you for listening.

**There will time for questions from the floor;**

**All questions received, in advance and this evening,  
will be responded to;**

**Answers will be made available on our website.**

# Q&A