

Amesbury Area Board

MINUTES OF THE AMESBURY AREA BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2020 AT SHARP HALL, 234 WATSON RD, LARKHILL, SALISBURY SP4 8RB.

Present:

Cllr Graham Wright, Cllr Mike Hewitt (Vice-Chair), Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Robert Yuill (Chairman) and Cllr John Smale

Also Present:

Cllr Richard Clewer

1 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amesbury Area Board and thanked them for attending.

At the Chairman's invitation, the Councillors introduced themselves.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Cllr Darren Henry
- Wing Commander Vincent Thomas

3 **Minutes**

The minutes were presented for consideration and it was;

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

5 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- **Wiltshire Family and Community Learning**

Wiltshire Family and Community Learning included a range of community-based and outreach learning opportunities. Courses were funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Learners had to be 19+, have been resident in UK/EU for three or more years, have less than five GCSEs grades A-C and/or be a service family and/or in receipt of benefits.

Call on 01225 770478 to find out more about the service. Or email: familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk.

- **Flood Resilience in Your Local Area**

Communities may be interested in holding a workshop to enable any towns and parishes within the area the opportunity to sit down and work through drafting up a flood plan for their community along with a colleague from the Environment Agency.

Communities could find out if they were at risk of flooding here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>.

For more information please contact Renate Malton, Flood Resilience Officer on renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Cllr Hewitt, as a member of the Flood Working Group stated that most Amesbury Area parishes had a flood plan or were drawing one up. However, it was important that these were kept up to date, so parishes may wish to contact the Flood Resilience Officer to discuss.

- **Motiv8 Children and Young People's Service**

Motiv8 provided support services in Wiltshire for children and young people, up to their 18th birthday, with problematic substance use. They also supported children, young people and families affected by parental substance use. Its primary objective was to improve the health, welfare and life chances of those vulnerable to, or experiencing, substance misuse. For more information email: info@dhimotiv8.org.uk or call: 0800 1696136.

- **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) worked to collaboratively set local area priorities, by combining service led data with local insight and opinion. This would act as a catalyst for community led action that helped meet local need and supported the delivery of the Wiltshire Council Business Plan. Through working with the area boards, Wiltshire Council was able to encourage and support communities to take action to sustainably meet their needs.

Amesbury Area Board was aiming to hold its JSNA 'Our Community Matters' event at the March meeting, on 19 March at Antrobus House. This would be a ticketed event, although tickets were free, the meeting was encouraged to attend.

6 Updates from Partners and Town/Parish Councils

The Chairman referred to the updates set out in the agenda and invited further updates from Town/Parish Councils and other Partners.

- **Police**

Sergeant Thorne gave an update and referred the meeting to the written report in agenda supplement 1. In particular to the award for excellence in partnership working that PC Lucy Wileman won. Withshire Police had been through a restructure and reintroduced the neighbourhood structure. This meant there would be a dedicated officer for where you live and a slight increase in staff for the team. PC Lucy Wileman covered Amesbury Town and PC Juliet Cox covered Amesbury Rural, Bulford and Larkhill. There would be the same PCSO's across the area. These changes should mean that people had a better point of contact.

Amesbury Police had been busy with proactive operations, including some successful rural crime operations, including preventing hare coursing. If residents saw any hare coursing they were encouraged to inform the police.

There had been a drink drive campaign over the festive period with an increase in arrests from previous years. It was thought this was due to the police being more proactive. Again, residents were encouraged to report drink drivers.

As reported by Spire FM a drugs warrant had been served in Amesbury the day before and a quantity of drugs were found. Enquiries were ongoing. This formed part of their continuous, robust action on anyone dealing drugs. If residents suspected drug activity they could call 101 to report it.

In response to questions it was stated that the police work with the Military Defence Police to prevent people abusing Salisbury Plain and protected byways.

- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

A video was shown to the meeting regarding the OPCC precept consultation. The increase for a band D property would be £1 a month, taking the annual cost to £218 per year for an average property. There was a YouTube video you could watch here: <https://youtu.be/SnokAmvcZo8> and people could comment on the proposals here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8NQQJFW>. The deadline to comment was midday on 31 January 2020.

- **Fire and Rescue Service**

Matthew Maggs (Station Manager South East Wiltshire) was in attendance, he referred the meeting to the written report and invited questions.

Cllr Mike Hewitt thanked the Fire and Rescue service for a successful event that had taken place recently. This was a flooding exercise in Salisbury to rehearse actions to take in the event of a flood and how to put the flood barriers up. The Fire Service, Police, Highways Agency, Environment Agency and Army had all worked together and it was a good event.

In response to a question from the Chairman it was stated that "Other Emergencies" attended by the Fire Service consisted of activities such as assisting the ambulance service, forced entry and bariatrics.

There was a recruitment drive on for all Wiltshire stations, looking for on call fire fighters. It was particularly difficult to find people during the day. It was hoped that companies that would let their employees by on call fire fighters during the day would also get in touch. Amesbury Town Council stated that they could advertise the recruitment drive in Amesbury.

- **Town and Parish Councils**

The written update from Shrewton Parish Council was highlighted.

- **A303 update**

Marcia Daniels of Highways England to give a brief update on the A303. Marcia referred to the Stonehenge A303 project which was almost at the end of an 18-month planning process. The Planning Inspectorate had completed their report and presented it to the Secretary of State who would announce their decision on the project by the 2 April 2020. The contents of the report were not known.

Some ground investigation works at the Countess Roundabout in Amesbury were underway which would help them to inform contractors if they got the hoped-for decision. There was also some more minor survey work to complete. Surveys were going out to businesses as well, so any business owners were urged to keep an eye out for these and to return completed surveys. There was community forum on the project which met every couple of months. The next meeting was on 12 February, 7.00pm at Anrotbus House in Amesbury. People were welcome to attend.

The Chairman requested that Marcia and her colleagues provide a written report for each area board and to attend when there was significant news to provide an update.

- **NHS Wiltshire CCG**

The Chairman referred the meeting to the written report in the agenda.

- **HealthWatch Wiltshire**

The Chairman referred the meeting to the written report in the agenda.

7 **Local Youth Network Update and Youth Activities Grant Applications**

Cllr Fred Westmoreland introduced the grants. Jacqui Abbott, Community Engagement Manager explained that Able Hands Together were applying for two grants. One was a youth grant and the other a community area grant. It was decided to consider both their grant applications at the same time rather than under their separate agenda items. A representative of Able Hands Together spoke in support of their application. It was;

Resolved;

- **To grant Able Hands Together, £5,000.00, from the Community Area Grant fund towards building a barn for their community farm. This was to be awarded once the following conditions were met:**
 - **That a business plan was supplied;**
 - **Evidence of ownership of the land / buildings or a lease on the land / buildings should be provided;**
 - **Planning permission documents for the barn conversion / change of use etc should also be supplied.**
- **To defer the Youth Grant from Able Hands Together, for £5,000.00, towards building a new bridge at their farm-based education service.**

REASON: This was so that the conditions of the Community Area Grant could be met and to ensure that the project was a success before further funds were awarded.
- **To grant Evergreen Café, £2,500.00, towards their young people cookery group.**

The board noted that grants were not usually awarded if the applicant was not present. However, they were all familiar with the success of this project and were aware that the applicant for the Evergreen Café grant was unable to attend. Therefore, on this occasion an exception was made.

8 **Waste Collection Changes**

It was explained by the Chairman that agenda items 10 and 11 would be heard prior to items 8 and 9.

Tracy Carter, Interim Waste Management and Carbon reduction Lead Officer, Wiltshire Council, gave a presentation on upcoming changes to the way waste and recycling was collected in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council was changing the way they collected waste, moving to co-mingled collection for recycling, this system had been proven to be successful in many areas of the country. Collections would still be fortnightly, although as a

consequence of the changes, some collection days would change. Residents would be notified by post several weeks in advance of any changes to collection days. Once residents had received this letter they would also be able to view changes online and print a calendar if they wished.

Under the new system, glass and textiles would still go in the black box. Anything else recyclable could go in the blue lidded bin. Examples of items that could go in the blue lidded bin were plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays, cardboard boxes, food and drink cartons, paper, food and drink cans, aerosols and foil.

It was requested that people wash and squash items if possible. Washing the items helped to maintain the quality of the materials and squashing them simply meant you could fit more in the bin.

The black box would still be used for glass. The reason glass would still be kept separate was that the re-processors liked to have it separate to prevent glass shards getting into other recycling. The collection vehicles had a separate pod for glass. Textiles could also be put in the black box however these must be bagged up and the bag tied. Unfortunately, duvet's and sleeping bags could not be recycled.

The Council did not make a profit from recycling, however money raised from recycling helped to offset the cost of collecting waste.

Hopefully the proposed changes would make it easier for residents to recycle and should therefore increase recycling rates. The changes would also mean that one type of vehicle could collect all types of waste and recycling. This meant that Wiltshire Council could get rid of about 38 vehicles from the road, which in itself would help to reduce carbon emissions and costs. The changes meant that collection times may also change. It was requested that residents put their bins out by 7.00am on the day of collection.

A new materials recovery facility was being built in Calne, which would sort the mixed recycling.

Residents could sign up for email alerts from the waste service at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling-collection-changes> in order to be kept up to date with developments. You could also register to get a larger bin or an extra bin at this address.

If parishes and community groups required advice or help regarding spreading the news about the changes they were welcome to email: wasteandrecycling@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Details were given regarding the End Destination Charter, which was a voluntary scheme developed by the Resource Association to promote openness and transparency over end destinations of waste. Wiltshire Council had signed up to this scheme and published annual reports on line at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/what-happens-to-recycling>.

People were asked to reduce what they use, reuse what they could and to recycle.

In response questions it was stated that when the letters went out informing residents of the changes there would be a sticker enclosed advising what items can be recycled in each bin. Residents could then choose whether to put these in their home or on the bin.

If residents did require a second blue lidded bin it would be free of charge.

Residents that lived in rural locations with narrow lanes would receive the same service. The standard lorries that were coming into use were larger than those previously used. However, as Wiltshire was a rural county, four different sized lorries had been ordered so that all areas could be accessed. They would use the largest lorry possible for the route for efficiency. All residents would still receive fortnightly collections.

The Chairman thanked the officer for her presentation.

9 **Update from Amesbury Area Board Climate Emergency Workshop**

Cllr Graham Wright gave an update on the Climate Emergency Workshop held at the last Amesbury Area Board meeting in November.

Cllr Wright thanked people for attending the event. After seeing the feedback from the meeting Cllr Wright had been greatly encouraged.

A summary of feedback responses was given. These were provided in full in the agenda. There were 10 top carbon issues for individuals and it was hoped that these could be considered 2 at a time in more detail over the years area board meetings.

It was reported that Berwick St James were installing air pumps and heat pumps and being proactive as a village which was and very encouraging.

Town and Parish Councils were requested to consider what actions they would take to tackle the climate emergency.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wright for his presentation and for the good Area Board meeting.

10 **Military Civilian Integration/Communities Together**

Guy Benson – Wiltshire Council Military Civilian Integration Lead

Guy Benson, Wiltshire Council Military Civilian Integration (MCI) Lead introduced himself and stated that Wiltshire Council was the only council in the UK to have an MCI lead.

The 75th Anniversary of VE day would fall on 8 May 2020 and to mark this the Early May Bank Holiday was being moved from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May.

Wiltshire Council would hold a service at County Hall on 5 May 2020, with a bugle and piper. All were welcome to attend. Attendees would have the opportunity to form the shape of the number 75 outside County Hall and this would be recorded by a drone. Footage would be released on social media on 8 May 2020. The 8 May would also see Royal British Legion services at various church locations.

Wiltshire Council was to hold an MCI conference at the Tidworth Garrison Theatre. The date was hoped to be 4 June 2020; however this was to be confirmed. The theme of the conference would be "What does good MCI look like?" and would cover MCI from a Wiltshire Council perspective, Military perspective, Town/Parish Council perspective and a Garrison perspective. Examples of good MCI would be looked at as well as development of MCI and future initiatives of MCI. The aim was to enhance MCI opportunities for our communities.

Mr Benson wanted to raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant. The Armed Forces Covenant was a promise by the nation to ensure that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, were treated fairly. Wiltshire Council was a member of the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board. Members of this South West partnership consisted of 7 partner local authorities, the Army, Royal Navy, RAF and the Wessex Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association. The aim was to be people centric, support delivery of the covenant, improve outcomes and to meet and reduce needs. The Board met bi-annually or more if required. Current priorities included policy alignment, JSNA, outreach, funding, education, strengthening links with partners planning. There was mobile outreach including an outreach vehicle that could be used in different location to spread the word and help people. This was run by Forces Connect South West. More information could be found here: <https://www.forcesconnectsouthwest.org.uk/>. There was also Armed Forces Covenant grant money available.

Wiltshire Council Highways

Allan Creedy, Head of Sustainable Transport, Wiltshire Council and Parvis Khansari – Director, Highways and Waste, Wiltshire Council were in attendance along with Neill Page, DIO Army Basing.

It was suggested that Cllr Graham Wright ask questions of the above regarding Army Basing and resultant highways issues which he had been alerted to by residents.

Q) Cllr Wright asked how you cross the A345 when going from Durrington to Larkhill as a child?

A) Neill Page stated that from a MOD perspective a planning application was put in, in August. As a result of comments received, a revised planning application was being drawn up and would be submitted in March. The design team was working with Wiltshire Council to find a compliant solution. The solution would be dependent on planning approval and then technical approval

and was being worked on as a priority. The plans did include a refuge in the middle of the road.

Q) It was not easy to cross from the The Packway to St Michael's school, was there a safety audit and would they get sight of it?

A) There had been a safety audit which had raised no issues, they would get sight of the safety audit. The safety audit would also include Bulford issues.

Q) There was no pedestrian barrier on the path down from Tombs Road, what would be done regarding this?

A) Lt Col Pete. Gentles and Cllr Wright would fund a barrier there so this would hopefully be resolved very soon.

Q) Would there be a review of speed limits at Larkhill?

A) It had been determined that it was safer to leave the speed limit at 40 mph, going down to 30 mph when you reach Larkhill. This was based on national guidance and the nature of the road. You wanted drivers to slow down when reaching Larkhill. This was the most effective way to achieve that.

Q) A zebra crossing had one of its LED outer flashing rings replaced by a standard type, reducing visibility, would this be addressed?

A) The LED flashing ring was on order, so this would be resolved soon.

Q) What were the plans for traffic management at Larkhill if and when the A303 tunnel was built?

A) Regular meetings between Highways England and Wiltshire Council were underway and the board would be updated regularly.

Q) At St Michael's School Cllr Wright had provided traffic cones to make the situation safer. Would remedial work be undertaken there?

A) In terms of compliance the contractor had been back to look at the site and it was assessed as safe. However, the school and local authority were going to put in zig zags lines and signage. Work on that should start the following week.

Q) Amesbury Town Council spoke regarding problems with the round roundabout at Steeple Hill. Would this be resolved?

A) The roundabout was compliant, it had been through 2 Road Safety Audits and met the design that was approved.

There were other complaints, which all involved parties would work through.

Some of the parents of children at St Michael's school still had issues, it was suggested these be discussed after the meeting.

Cllr Wright explained that the issues addressed had concentrated on Larkhill as the meeting was being held in a Larkhill venue.

Bulford Parish Council stated that they wanted their issues aired and addressed. However, the Chairman explained that as time was running out we would need to move on to the next item. Cllr Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts, Tourism, Housing, Climate Change and Military Civilian Integration offered to have a discussion with them and the relevant officers in another room at the venue so that the meeting could continue as planned.

Bulford Parish Council explained that they had spent 12 months waiting for a meeting and were not happy with this solution, they wanted their problems aired and recorded in the minutes.

Neill Page stated that there had been many meetings, they had responded to questions and there had been engagement with communities. After some discussion Bulford Parish Council, Cllr Clewer and the Highways Officers did go for a side meeting in a different room to discuss their issues.

DIO Army Basing – Neill Page

Mr Page gave a brief update to the meeting on the Army Basing Programme. Progress on the delivery of barracks developments and Service Families Accommodation (SFA) continued. The majority of essential barracks assets and approximately 80% of the houses were now complete, with around 70% being occupied. The Bulford and Ludgershall estates were complete, at Larkhill there was still some more houses to go and it was anticipated this would be completed in the Spring of 2020.

The living accommodations aspects had been delivered, with non-critical aspects still to go. The MOD/NHS shared medical facility would open the following week.

At Bulford a complete Road Safety Audit had been conducted. Outstanding planning elements would hopefully go in March with delivery by the end of the year for footpaths and cycleways to connect Bulford and Larkhill to the new estates. There would still be works continuing for the last 5% of deliverables until 2021.

A report by Mr Page would be published online after the meeting as agenda supplement 2.

Communities Together – Cllr Graham Wright

Cllr Wright gave a brief update. A picture was shown of 4 children from St Michaels School, showing their winning Drive Safely competition posters. Planning for this year's Easter Egg Hunt was underway. The Larkhill Community Partnership was awaiting a meeting with Wiltshire Council regarding overall enhancements to Larkhill. The Scouts would have a February drive for new members. The new medical centre was nearly finished.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their updates.

11 Royal Artillery Museum

The Chairman introduced General Eeles who was to give a presentation on the Royal Artillery (RA) Museum Project.

The RA Collection (established 1778) embodied the stories of the Regiment, their men and women, and the evolution of artillery technology. It was one of the most important collections in the British Army and was one of only three Army collections designated by Arts Council England for its national importance. The collection was currently in storage or out on loan. A home was needed for the

collection and the museum would add to the tourism offer of the area once complete.

Proposed themes for the museum included the Evolution of Artillery, the Royal Regiment of Artillery and Army on the Salisbury Plain.

It was hoped the project would be delivered quickly and would have a new approach. Including:

- It must deliver a financially sustainable business which can secure the future of the RA Collection;
- The initial capital build must be financially realistic – i.e. deliverable by the Regiment with limited external support.
- The site must be available, have easy access to the A303, utilities connections, and be outside the “red flag” area.
- The site must be free of designated archaeological and ecological assets.
- Subsequent development should be delivered as funds permit but must not be a prerequisite for financial sustainability.

It had been hard to find a site; however, the Army had made a positive decision on Avon Camp West in summer 2019. The Regiment had also made a positive decision and commitment of funding. SWLEP support had been re-confirmed. The Initial Capital Project site layout and building design had been confirmed. However, enhanced programme funding had not yet been addressed. The initial cost of the project was around £8 million.

The project was based around a cost-efficient steel frame building which would house a large proportion of the collection. There would be a two-year construction and preparation period. The building would contain large exhibition spaces, galleries, a medal room as well as conference/meeting rooms and space for corporate or regimental dinners surrounded by iconic equipment. There would be stimulating science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and history education offer. There would also be emphasis on activities and immersive interpretation, to include:

- WW1 Trench Experience.
- Contemporary Forward Operating Base.
- Armoured vehicle rides and artillery firing (blank).
- Gunner themed Children’s Play Area.
- Arena for re-enactments, displays and 2 or 3 major events (e.g. Artilleryfest).

There would also be:

- RSA training support function.
- Future capability displays – industry linked.
- Workshop for restoration and conservation of artefacts.
- Gallery and cafe with spectacular views over Salisbury Plain.
- Possibly other Larkhill Garrison amenities.

The building was designed to reduce its visual impact on the site. Slides were shown with plans and designs. There was a viewing platform for 360-degree views of Salisbury plain.

Projected visitor numbers were explained, and benefits of the projected were detailed, to include:

- Local employment – build period, permanent and seasonal
- Volunteering opportunities
- Outreach programmes for isolated populations
- Local economy spend: pub, B&Bs, shop, grounds maintenance
- Community Hub: cafe (local produce) and play-park
- Schools education programmes
- Local events space and exhibitions
- Local military history interpreted
- Civil-Military Integration centre
- Potential to improve bus services, cycle and walking routes
- Conference, entertaining and lecture facilities

Lease negotiations were underway with DIO. It was hoped that they would submit the planning application in February 2020. Then the detailed design would be finalised and the build put out to tender. If all went well the build would commence in Summer/Autumn 2020 with the museum opening in early 2022.

Figheledean Parish Council stated they were waiting for the plans to come out and were not sure whether they would be supporting the application until they had consulted residents. There were concerns regarding increased traffic on the A345.

General Eeles responded that as many issues as possible had been addressed while developing the plans. Part of the planning process would include an impact assessment on the A345.

Netheraven Parish Council were also waiting for the planning application to come in before they commented.

The Chairman thanked General Eeles for his presentation.

12 **Update from the Community Area Transport Group (CATG)**

There had not been a CATG meeting since the last Area Board meeting. The next CATG meeting would be held on 14 February 2020, 10.00am at the Redworth Centre.

13 **Health & Wellbeing Group**

Cllr Graham Wright gave an update to the meeting on the Health and Wellbeing Group. There had been a successful event at Christmas where 30 older people were taken to Stonehenge. There were local schools singing and a semi-professional choir who gave a great performance. Presents were handed out

by Father Christmas. Cllr Wright thanked the Stonehenge Visitor Centre for their hospitality, which included complimentary mince pies, mulled wine and a free viewing of their new exhibition.

Upcoming Health and Wellbeing meetings would be held on:

- Tuesday 4 February
- Monday 11 May
- Tuesday 4 August
- Monday 9 November

All HWBG meetings would be held at Evergreen Court, Archers Way from 10am until 11.30am.

There was still Health and Wellbeing funding available so grant applications were encouraged.

14 **Community Area Grants**

Representatives of organisations applying for grants spoke in support of their applications. The Able Hands Together grant was considered earlier in the meeting.

The applications to the community area grant fund were considered and it was;

Resolved:

- To grant Smiley Face Nursery, £5,000 towards new preschool toilets.
- To grant Woodford Parish Council, £1,450.00 towards a Speed Indicator Device for Middle Woodford.
- To grant Winterbourne Parish Council, £ £1199.80, towards information dissemination across the Winterbournes
- To grant Newbourne Players, £4,000.00, Theatre lighting refurbishments and safety update. (Additional grant published in agenda supplement 1).

15 **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

16 **Future Meeting Dates, Evaluation and Close**

The next meeting of the Amesbury Area Board would be held on 19 March 2020 at Antrobus House and would be the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

(Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 9.15 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Tara Shannon of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718352, e-mail tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk

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