

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT AND CRICKLADE AREA BOARD  
**Place:** Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8EN  
**Date:** 27 November 2019  
**Start Time:** 6.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.30 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Kevin Fielding, direct line 01249 706612 or e-mail [kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Mollie Groom and Cllr Jacqui Lay

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Kev Fielding – Democratic Services Officer  
Jane Vaughan – Community Engagement Manager

### **Town and Parish Clerks/Councillors**

Clyffe Pypard Parish Council – Peter Gantlett  
Cricklade Town Council – Angela Jenson & Mark Clarke  
Lydiard Millicent Parish Council – Mike Sharp  
Lyneham & Bradenstoke Parish Council – Carol Jenkins, Gayna Howarth & Ann Kingdon  
Purton Parish Council – Ray Thomas  
Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council – Nic Hughes

### **Partners**

Cricklade LYN – Richard Roberts  
Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Partnership Liaison Group – Howard Chandler

**Total in attendance: 52**

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome from the Area Board Chairman</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to a special meeting of the Royal Wootton Bassett &amp; Cricklade Area Board which incorporated the first Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Fair.</p> <p>The Chairman introduced the councillors and officers present.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cate Watson and the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group for working with the area board to put on the first Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Fair.</p>
2	<p><u>Introduction to Richard Clewer Cabinet Member for Climate Change on Wiltshire Council Climate Emergency work</u></p> <p>Cllr Richard Clewer - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts, Tourism, Housing, Climate Change and Military-Civilian Integration, Wiltshire Council gave a short presentation highlighting how Wiltshire Council was trying to be a greener organisation and promote green issues.</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>That it was important to make Wiltshire as environmentally friendly as possible.</p> <p>There were many small changes that Wiltshire residents could make in their everyday life that could have a big positive impact on the environment</p> <p>Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaving the car at home and walk more</li> <li>• Taking shorter showers and turning off taps when brushing teeth</li> <li>• Trying to use as little single-use plastic as possible</li> <li>• Using a reusable cup</li> <li>• Using bags for life</li> <li>• Recycling as much as possible</li> <li>• Turning off lights when not using them</li> <li>• Installing a smart meter to help manage energy use</li> </ul> <p>That Climate change and its repercussions were an acknowledged global</p>

	<p>problem. Wiltshire Council would be doing all it could to tackle this issue locally.</p> <p>In February 2019, at a meeting of full council, Wiltshire Council had resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge that there was a climate emergency</li> <li>• Seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030</li> <li>• In July 2019 Wiltshire Council's cabinet also pledged to make Wiltshire Council carbon neutral by 2030.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Clewer announced the launch of the Wiltshire Green Pledge with Wiltshire Council encouraging local people to think about actions they could take and to make a Green Pledge.</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy-climate-emergency">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy-climate-emergency</a></p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Clewer for his presentation and attending the meeting.</p>
3	<p><u>Community Discussion 1 - Re-wilding our verges</u></p> <p>Representatives of the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group outlined the importance of protecting and cutting of verges throughout the community area. Approximately 55 people joined the ' Re-wilding our verges' discussion</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Bio-diversity was threatened by the climate emergency, with bird life declining.</li> <li>• That the world faced an extinction of experience – with people no longer enjoying country walks etc.</li> <li>• The increasing dangers of our throwaway society.</li> <li>• The importance of re-wilding the verges of our community area and giving them protected status.</li> </ul> <p>Adrian Hampton - Head Local Highways and Streetscene – South, Wiltshire Council advised that Wiltshire Council were happy to work with the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group to ensure that rural and urban verge cutting is carried out in an ecologically friendly manner throughout the community area.</p>

	<p><b>Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>That Wiltshire Council works with the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group to identify appropriate rural and urban verges to trial ‘ Re-wilding’, where maintenance and mowing is carried out in an ecologically friendly manner throughout the community area.</b></li> </ul> <p>The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their contributions to the discussion.</p>
4	<p><u>Community Discussion 2 - Encouraging and Promoting environmentally friendly businesses in our Community Area</u></p> <p>Representatives of several local environmentally friendly businesses gave their views and experiences of encouraging and promoting environmentally friendly businesses in our Community Area.</p> <p>Approximately 50 people joined the ‘Encouraging and Promoting environmentally friendly businesses in our Community Area’ discussion.</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That sustainable businesses were good for both community and environment.</li> <li>• That Wiltshire Council should be encouraging the start up and on-going support of local environmentally friendly businesses.</li> <li>• That an eco-networking event would be beneficial and raise awareness.</li> <li>• That Royal Wootton Bassett was fortunate to have a diverse range of environmentally friendly businesses including organic farmers, eco-friendly beauty salons and cleaning services.</li> </ul> <p>The Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group was encouraged to speak to the Community Engagement Manager about applying for funding to help create and launch an Eco-directory/website for the local area to help promote local environmentally friendly businesses.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their contributions to the discussion.</p>
5	<p><u>Community Discussion 3 - Reducing our carbon emissions</u></p> <p>Approximately 55 people joined the ‘Reducing our carbon emissions’ discussion.</p> <p>Dave Knight gave a short presentation outlining the benefits of cycling, attendees present were able to give both the positives and negatives of being a</p>

	<p>cyclist using the roads of the local area.</p> <p>The Deputy Chair of the 'Calne – Our Place' project gave a brief overview of how the Calne community area had looked to improve how it could try and play its part in reducing carbon emissions and make residents more healthy with the Calne transport Strategy.</p> <p>Laura Gosling - Senior Transport Planner Sustainable Transport, Wiltshire Council provided a report which outlined how Wiltshire Council was trying improve and enhance cycling throughout Royal Wootton Bassett and Wiltshire.</p> <p>It was hoped that the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group and Wiltshire Council Strategic Transport Planning officers would work together to develop a joined up cycle network.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all the speakers for their contributions to the discussion.</p>
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Cycling in the Royal Wootton Bassett community area

6	<p><u>Grant Funding</u></p> <p>Grant Funding Applications</p> <p>Community Area Grants</p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purton &amp; Cricklade Young Farmers Club awarded £5,000 for New Club Hut Roof</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pips community café awarded £60 for Wi-Fi at Pips community cafe</b></li> </ul> <p>Youth Grants</p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cricklade Local Youth Network awarded £4,200 for Sports Activities Development Project with the condition that the capital element of the grant would be withheld until the Chairman was confident that the project was sustainable.</b></li> </ul> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing Grants</p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To allocate £2,600 from the Health &amp; Wellbeing budget to</b></li> </ul>
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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>enable the Health and Wellbeing Forum to commission a Creative Mental Health and Wellbeing project.</b></p> <p>To note that a new Health and Wellbeing Forum which met for the first time on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019, and the discussions held as laid out in the meeting notes included in the agenda pack</p> <p>Cllr Initiative Funding (Cllr Bob Jones)</p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To Allocate £100 to the Health and Wellbeing group to facilitate the ongoing running of the Forum in 2019/20</b></li> </ul>
7	<p><u>Future Meetings</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Royal Wootton Bassett &amp; Cricklade Area Board would be held on Wednesday 25 March at Cricklade Town Hall.</p>
8	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>Cllr Allison Bucknell thanked everybody for attending an interesting and informative meeting, and that the Area Board looked forward to future collaborations, working with the Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group.</p>

## **Cycling in the Royal Wootton Bassett Community Area**

**Author: Laura Gosling, Senior Transport Planner, Wiltshire Council.**

**Date: 22<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

### **Background**

The Wiltshire Council [Cycling Strategy](#) sets out our aims and objectives for cycling across the County. We seek to provide a network of cycle routes in the principal settlements and market towns, and where appropriate, between the market towns and to national cycle routes.

Each of the main towns has an existing cycle network and in each, routes have been identified where potential improvements could be implemented for cyclists. These links are shown on Wiltshire's Town Cycle Network Plans outlined in Appendix 1 of the Cycling Strategy.

### **Town cycle networks**

The Town Cycle Network Plans are regularly updated, usually in light of significant developments or changes in traffic flows. Updated versions of the networks are published as improvements are made and if routes are changed due to further feasibility work. We usually prioritise delivery of cycle schemes based on where there is the most potential to increase cycling. Due to limited budgets for cycle schemes, the Council seeks to prioritise where we think there will be the greatest benefit.

Appendix 2 of the Cycling Strategy sets out the principles for planning and designing cycle networks in Wiltshire. This provides references to some of the guidance we use as officers in planning cycle infrastructure.

### **Inter-urban and rural routes**

While the main focus is on links within towns, intra-urban links may also form a part of the Network Plans, where distances are short enough or there is a route to a strategic employment site. For instance, the proposed Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon route is a key intra-urban link that sits alongside the Town Cycle Networks. Additional improvements to Rights of Way and other rural and leisure routes may also be considered through developer contributions, Area Board funding or other external funding sources.

### **Cycle Parking**

Wiltshire Council has a limited supply of cycle parking stands to offer to businesses and organisations across the county and these can be applied for in the first instance by sending an email to: [emma.painter@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.painter@wiltshire.gov.uk) with the following details;

- Type of stands required
- Number of stands required
- Map outlining proposed location of stands
- Photos of proposed location (if possible)

Once this information has been received, the request will be considered for suitability (which may involve an engineer's site visit), and a land ownership search conducted.

### **Royal Wootton Bassett**

The latest published version of the existing Royal Wootton Bassett cycle network can be found at: [https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Royal\\_Wootton\\_Bassett\\_web.pdf](https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Royal_Wootton_Bassett_web.pdf)

The scheme for a new shared use pedestrian and cycle path between Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon is being developed in partnership between Wiltshire Council, Highways England and Sustrans. The majority of the funding for the scheme is coming from Highways England via their Cycling Designated Fund. Whilst it is hoped the scheme can be delivered by 2022, discussions with landowners are still ongoing where the route runs over private land; their co-operation is crucial in securing the successful delivery of the route.

### **Budget**

Unfortunately, budgets for cycling improvements are very limited, with only a small amount allocated each year via the Council's Integrated Transport budget or Area Boards. Other available sources of funding for cycling improvements include S106 contributions, CIL funding or external funding/grants that may become available

### **Cycling Groups**

In some towns across Wiltshire, Cycle Network Development Groups have been set up which are usually organised and hosted by the Town Council. Membership is made up of Town councillors, Wiltshire Councillors and local cycling groups. The aim is to work together to develop and implement the cycle network and promote its use. The idea being that any schemes Wiltshire Council try to deliver are supported by all of the decisions makers in order to avoid abortive work and the consequent waste of time and resources.

From the highway authority's point of view, it is vitally important that the councillors are involved in these groups from the outset as they represent the decision making bodies. This is crucial as cycle scheme implementation can be very controversial and both councils need to be promoting any schemes that come forward. For instance, cycle scheme development can involve one or all of the following; removal of parking, the narrowing of roads, the sharing of footways and or the alteration of junctions, not all of which are popular with the general public. As such, schemes that are not likely to be acceptable and deliverable can be discarded at an early stage so as not to waste precious resources on feasibility, design and legal costs.