

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** South West Wiltshire Area Board  
**Place:** Online  
**Date:** 11 November 2020  
**Start Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.30pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Jose Green (Chairman), Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Tony Deane (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr Bridget Wayman

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Lisa Moore, Democratic Services Officer  
Karen Linaker, Community Engagement Manager

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police, Inspector Pete Sparrow & Sergeant Kevin Harmsworth

**Total in attendance:**

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<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
32	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chairman, Cllr Jose Green welcomed everyone to the online meeting of the South West Wiltshire Area Board.</p>
33	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspector Gill Hughes - Police</li> <li>• Fire &amp; Rescue – Richard Humphrey</li> </ul>
34	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were none</p>
35	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>The minutes of the previous online meeting held on 30 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.</b></p> <p>Update since last meeting:</p> <p><u>Tisbury Outdoor Swimming pool</u>  Feedback from the users of the Tisbury swimming pool indicated that it had been greatly used during the additional month it was open. The GB Underwater Polo Team had also been to use the facility.</p>
36	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave thanks to all of the Senior Officers, Cabinet Members, staff and key workers for their commitment in keeping the wheels turning across Wiltshire. Sincere thanks to all of Wiltshire who had worked to keep things going during these difficult times throughout the pandemic.</p>
37	<p><u>Partner and Community Updates</u></p> <p>The Board noted the written updates attached to the agenda and received verbal updates from:</p> <p><u>Police - Inspector Pete Sparrow &amp; Sergeant Kevin Harmsworth</u></p> <p><u>Inspector Sparrow:</u>  There was no written update this time, however, happy to report the crime</p>

figures remained low and average in comparison to the same period for last year.

Road safety week – there would be a focus on speeding vehicles next week, with the Road Policing Unit active across Salisbury and Warminster areas.

Covid – this was creating demand on the service as the force continued to encourage people to stick to the rules and remain at home.

Questions:

- How were the restrictions affecting policing? Answer: It was going relatively well, nationally there was a higher demand on the Police and due to legislation and people having to isolate, there were reduced staff numbers. So far, the effect on Wiltshire Officers had been low with the occasional team experiencing an issue.
- I spoke to the PCSO in Mere, he would be retiring next March. We hope that the Police would be able to find a replacement of equal calibre as he has been extremely good in communicating with us. Answer: Kevin - Yes the PCSO there; Pete is a member of my local team, I have suggested that we may produce a certificate of recognition.
- We have been visited at our farm by a pickup with 2 men, which was scouting. When we appeared, they drove off. Could this behaviour be alerted to on the Neighbourhood alert, as the posts on there are not all related to crime? Answer: Pete – We do have an organised crime group that were known to steal from rural areas, we do target these individuals and will disrupt their attempts as much as possible. There was an incident a few weeks ago and we now have two individuals on remand. The communications on social media were not all written by Officers and yes some posts were more aimed at engaging the community and getting the message out to a wider audience as possible.
- Thanks to Inspector Sparrow in regard to the drug related incidents around Wilton. Part of the problem had been resolved, so thank you and your team, it is appreciated.

The volume of scams had risen hugely as well as cold calls during this covid time, what nationally was done about them? Answer: Pete – We advise people to report on scams and notify Action Fraud. The scams are usually national or international scams and not locally based. So there needs to be a national approach.

There was also an online reporting tool and phone number. An additional layer of safety could be added to block these types of calls. If aware of any vulnerable people out there please do put them in touch with our neighbourhood teams.

Sergeant Kevin Harmsworth

Within Mere there was a focus on Antisocial behaviour, and in Killmington. Police were helping to facilitate meetings with the family involved.

Community Speedwatch was on hold currently so as part of Road Safety week the known active areas would be supported with an increased police presence. A programme to deliver phase 2 training to volunteers through lockdown was in place and there had been a good uptake with additional new members starting.

Working with local schools and parents to highlight the dangers of knife crime, signposting people to relevant social media.

Covid related activities – some data on the website – increase in reported covid breaches, up from 34 to 124 in a matter of weeks. There was an online report function.

We also now run an ‘Adamo’ – a dedicated police vehicle with two officers who can be dispatched to a site when an incident of a covid related breach was reported.

#### Questions:

- How wide an area do you cover in SWW? Answer: Kevin – where we have known CSW groups we would cover those and the major roads.
- Would your visit include the south? We are the most southerly village and we see more Dorset police than Wiltshire police. Answer: I ask my teams to get out as far and wide as possible. We would come out in Road Safety week to reduce KSI.
- There is an issue when you have been before because there is no signal for you. We have a huge mast outside at Rushmore park, why can't you use that? Answer: That would need to be directed to the PCC.

#### Decision

**The Board noted the updates and minutes from partners and working groups as attached to the agenda.**

Community Safety Group – notes in the pack, detailed actions to be carried forward.

Cllr Deane noted that there has not been a CATG meeting since the last Area Board. He gave information relating to the traffic issues through Tollard Royal, as noted earlier by Richard Mitchell. A suggestion was to activate the use of a SID, which was powered by a solar panel. Cllr Deane noted that it did not store enough power to run the device fully. The Traffic Engineer had suggested a power supply be installed to the device, at a cost of £3200 and that CATG usually met to agree recommendations to be taken to the Board for approval. He went on to say that as there has not been a meeting since the last board, he would like the Board to give a grant for up to £4000 to fund the work.

	<p>Cllr Wayman, noted that as this had been brought to Members in the middle of a Board meeting with no prior notification or supporting papers, he had not followed the standard procedure.</p> <p>The Chairman also noted that as Cllr Deane was the Chair of CATG, he was able to schedule a meeting prior to the next Board meeting, where the issue could be looked at in line with protocol. Recommendations from that could then be brought to the next Area Board meeting for consideration by the Members.</p> <p>Mr Mitchell confirmed that the issue was one that had been around for years and that Tollard Royal parish council had been pleading for something to be done for some time.</p> <p>The Chairman advised Mr Mitchell and Cllr Deane that the correct process was to set up a CATG meeting to consider the matter. If there was a case for urgency this could be investigated once an application form was submitted through the standard process.</p>
38	<p><u>Wiltshire Council Update on Covid-19 Response &amp; Recovery</u></p> <p>Karen Linaker, Community Engagement Manager gave an update. The main points were:</p> <p>We are back in response with this second lockdown not as painful as the last, due to less restrictions being in place.</p> <p>Village support groups were still up and running and were very self-sufficient and resilient. They had been given opportunities to meet with Karen to ask any questions and share tips. Only one person did join a drop in, maybe because of the late notice or just because actually, they are ok.</p> <p>There will be covid educators, these were Wiltshire Council staff permitted to go out and ensure that people understand what the restrictions are and deliver the education and the encouragement to abide by the restrictions.</p> <p>The Wellbeing hub had been on reduced hours and was now open 7 days a week. There had been some demand, but not to the levels of the first lockdown.</p> <p>Local groups keen to support and work with us. There had been a great approach from grass roots all the way up.</p> <p>There were a total of 24 groups in our area.</p>
39	<p><u>Community Area Status Report</u></p> <p>Karen Linaker, Community Engagement Manager presented a report to the Board. A copy of the presentation slides are attached to the minutes.</p>

Due to the lockdown the Board had not been able to set its priorities as it would have usually done with a JSNA event. These priorities help to set projects around the community area.

The aim was to stimulate more collaboration within and between parishes and groups on community projects. Karen shared a short list of key facts and concerns across the community area:

1. Largest 65yrs + population in Wiltshire
2. There were no secondary schools, 6<sup>th</sup> forms or HE, therefore, young people tended to move on out of the area
3. Rising numbers of youth unemployment
4. We have pockets of generational deprivation
5. Some of the highest property prices in the county with many struggling to get on the property ladder
6. Crime rates were statistically low, but many residents remain concerned about speeding and rural crime in particular
7. Young people found it difficult to access activities and employment because of a lack of transport
8. Weak broadband in some villages
9. High incidents of fly tipping

Comments and questions:

Commercial flytipping has increased along with paid clearances being flytipped instead of disposing of it properly.

Were the high hospital admissions statistics available for the area? – Answer: Karen would find out and feedback.

For some reason the Wilton area and some outline villages seem to have high levels of hospital admissions.

Library users are not currently able to use Mere library. Why are they still closed when the volunteers are willing to man them, it is affecting people's mental health? This is a local issue that the Board should address.

It is a local issue in Tisbury also. The smaller libraries were due to open towards the end of November, but now in lockdown that's gone out the window.

It is about making the smaller libraries secure and covid safe and was controlled by public health.

The Chairman asked that the CEM approach the Director to ask the question and highlight the issue and feedback that the Board would like to see the local libraries open in some form or other as quick and as safe as possible.

**Action: Chair and CEM to make contact with the relevant Cabinet Member**

	<p><b>and Director to present the Boards views.</b></p> <p>Karen advised that there would be more opportunity to go through the longer list and to slim it down. By the January or March AB there would be a list with the main priorities. The board would then be able to focus on a few of them and look towards local groups to take the others on.</p> <p>Karen urged people to take the information out to parish councils and village groups with the aim of feeding back any comments to <a href="mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk">karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk</a></p>
40	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Board considered the request to top up the Finger post funding scheme budget for 2020/21.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>The South West Wiltshire Area Board allocated a further £3690 towards the Finger Post funding scheme for 2020/21.</b></p> <p>The Board then considered funding bids as detailed in the report attached to the agenda. Applicants present were invited to speak briefly in support of their projects. Members were then able to ask questions and then vote on each application in turn.</p> <p><u>Sedgehill Village Hall – Replacement Finger Post – requested £550</u>  The applicant spoke on the application.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>Sedgehill Village Hall was awarded £400 towards a replacement finger post.</b>  <b><i>Reason</i></b>  <b><i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2020/21</i></b></p> <p><u>Tisbury History Society – Website renewal – requested £600</u>  No one was present to speak on the application.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>Tisbury History Society was awarded £600 towards the website renewal project.</b>  <b><i>Reason</i></b>  <b><i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2020/21</i></b></p> <p><u>West Tisbury PC – Finger Post – requested £550</u>  The applicant spoke on the application.</p>

	<p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>West Tisbury PC was awarded £400 towards a replacement finger post.</b></p> <p><b><u>Reason</u></b>  <b><i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2020/21</i></b></p> <p>Cllr Dean noted that he had met with the Director of Communities and Neighbourhood Services and discussed the option of using the Nadder Centre in Tisbury for future hybrid style meetings.</p> <p>He detailed how this may take place with a projection of the teams meeting on to a big screen. Cllr Deane then asked the Board to allocate £3,000 of funding to enable this to take off after further investigation.</p> <p>The Chairman added that the board should wait and look to see what other boards were doing within the guidance of what was permitted in regard to public meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Church also stated that Board's would need to lead by example, as staff had been advised to continue to work from home where they can.</p>
41	<p><b><u>Close</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the South west Wiltshire Area Board will be held online, on 13 January 2021 at 6.30pm.</p>
<p><u>slides</u></p>	



## Our Mission!

- **To shape local projects around your priorities**
- **To stimulate discussion at your next parish council or community group meeting about the projects and initiatives needed to tackle priorities**
- **To stimulate more collaboration within and between parishes on community projects and priorities**

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1

## The Short List of Key Facts & Concerns in South West Wiltshire

1. We have the biggest 65yrs + population in Wiltshire
2. We have no secondary schools or 6<sup>th</sup> forms or HE, and so, young people tend to move on elsewhere
3. (and yet...) We have rising numbers of youth unemployment
4. We have pockets of generational deprivation
5. We have some of the highest property prices in the county and many struggle to get on the property ladder
6. Crime rates are statistically low, but many residents remain concerned about speeding and rural crime in particular
7. Young people find it difficult to access activities and employment because of a lack of transport
8. We have weak broadband in some villages
9. We have high incidents of fly tipping

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2

## The Longer (more detailed) List....

### Environment

- High fly tipping rate
- 52% of housing has good energy efficiency rating in Wilton CA

### Housing

- High average house price
- Lack of affordable housing for young people

### Transport

- Strengthen community transport

### Economy

- Strengthen broadband
- Tackle rising youth unemployment

### Community Safety

- Ongoing speeding concerns
- More to do to realise the potential of neighbourhood watch
- Concern about incidents of rural crime

### Health & Wellbeing

- High hospital admissions (*accidents, self-harm, alcohol*)
- Only 6% of population is a library member
- High mortality rate from preventable illness in Wilton
- Do more to support mental health for all ages

### Children & Young People

- Obesity in 10-11yr olds
- Low educational attainment for primary school children in Wilton CA
- Few available apprenticeships

### Older people

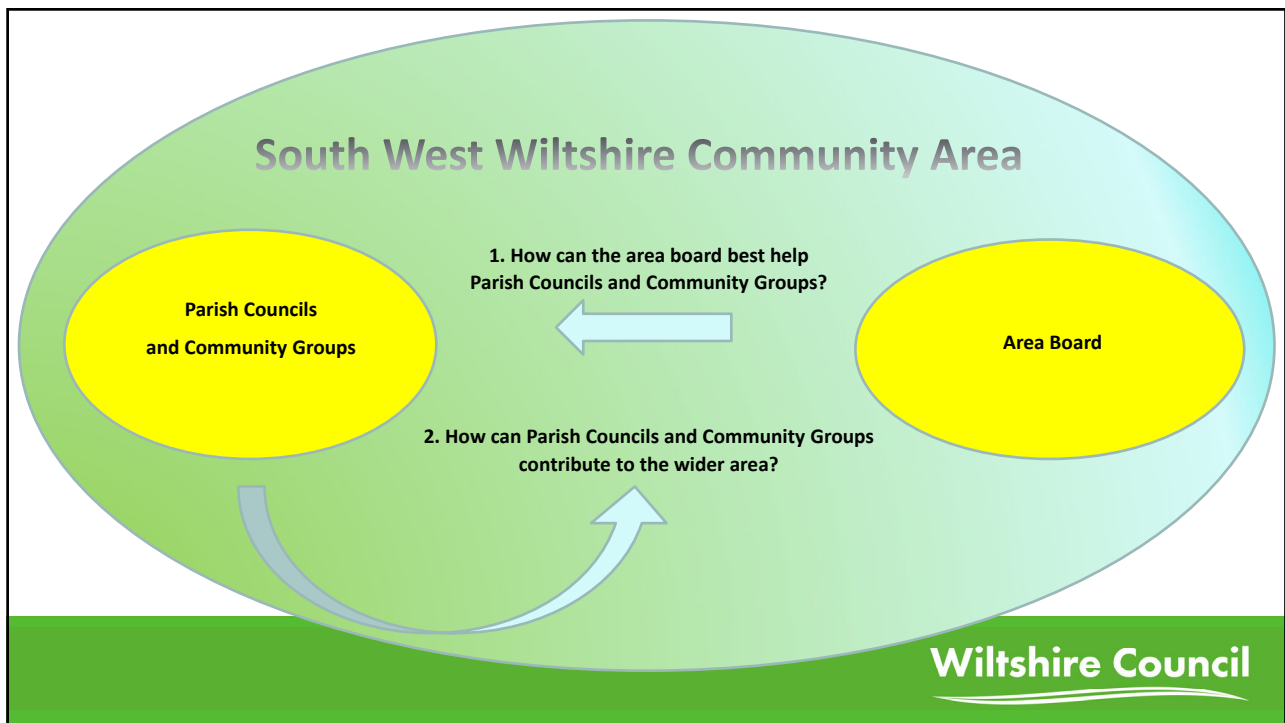
- Focus on loneliness and isolation
- Strengthen support for unpaid carers
- Support people living with dementia

### Deprivation

- Geographical pockets of deprivation requiring further analysis
- 10% of 0-19yr olds living in poverty
- Across South West Wiltshire: 9.3%-12.6% living in fuel poverty

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3



4

## Projects, initiatives, processes to support priorities

### Ongoing

- Communications (newsletters, website, noticeboards etc)
- Recruiting/retaining volunteers
- Tackling fly-tipping and litter
- Maintaining hedges and verges
- Maintaining rights of way
- Community Transport
- Community Speedwatch
- Older people support/activities
- Youth support/activities
- Carers Counsellor

### Emerging

- Eco-friendly villages
- Make A Friend Be A Friend (tackling older people isolation)
- Community housing
- Youth mentoring
- Digital inclusion
- Strengthening broadband
- Additional support to help village / community groups get back up and running
- Strengthening neighbourhood watch

### New ones needed on

- Youth unemployment
- Childhood obesity
- Deprivation
- Raising educational attainment
- Rural crime
- Mental health of vulnerable adults

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5

How can we make a difference, together?  
What are you doing that others can learn from?



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6

## In conclusion....

Thank you for taking the time to:

- Help us continue the dialogue on community priorities
- Commit to further discussions with your parish council and community groups
- Commit to new collaborative opportunities within and between parishes, groups and organisations
- Please email [karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk) with your comments and questions on priorities, projects and initiatives for South West Wiltshire.

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7

## Area Board's Finger Post Initiative

- The Members of South West Wiltshire Area Board recognise the contribution of finger posts to the area and our communities.
- In 2020-2021 the Board is considering making funds available to each Parish Council which wants to upgrade a finger post in disrepair.
- The Area Board will use community funds to subsidise up to £400 of the cost of each post. Parishes will be obliged to provide a meaningful contribution.
- The work must be carried out to the Wiltshire Council specification, a detailed work plan & target timeline must be submitted with each grant application, including a before photograph, invoices and a photograph of the new post in place. Timber is to be from renewable sources, letters & figures on the finger post will be standard and Wiltshire Council will point parishes towards a suitable source. No changes of names on the finger posts will be countenanced (any changes etc need Gazetting to comply with regulations)
- Specifications will be available at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways/fingerposts](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways/fingerposts)
- Funding requests need to be submitted to [karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk) 6 weeks before the area board meeting.

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8