

## **AGENDA**

Meeting: Melksham Area Board

Place: Semington Village Hall, High St, Semington, Trowbridge BA14 6JR

Date: Wednesday 6 December 2023

Time: 7.00 pm

Including the Parishes of:

Broughton Gifford, Melksham, Melksham Without, Steeple Ashton, Keevil, Great Hinton and Semington.

The Area Board welcomes and invites contributions from members of the public. The Chairman will try to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak will have the opportunity to do so.

If you have any requirements that would make your attendance at the meeting easier, please contact your Democratic Services Officer.

Networking opportunity from 6:30pm.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Cameron Osborn, direct line 01225 718224 or email cameron.osborn@wiltshire.gov.uk

All the papers connected with this meeting are available on the Council's website at <a href="https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk">www.wiltshire.gov.uk</a>

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114 / 713115.

#### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Jonathon Seed, Melksham Without West & Rural (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Sankey, Melksham East (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Phil Alford, Melksham Without North and Shurnhold
Cllr Nick Holder, Bowerhill
Cllr Jon Hubbard, Melksham South
Cllr Jack Oatley, Melksham Forest

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#### **Parking**

To find car parks by area follow this link.

#### **Public Participation**

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of the items for discussion. The Area Boards welcome public participation and the Chairman will try to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate where possible. To discuss matters not on the agenda, please contact the officer named on the front page, ahead of the meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult Part 4 of the council's constitution.

The full constitution can be found at this link.

Our privacy policy is found here.

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details.

#### **Area Board Officers**

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager (SEPM) – Richard Rogers - richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board Delivery Officer – Caroline LeQuesne – <u>caroline.lequesne@wiltshire.gov.uk</u> Democratic Services Officer – Cameron Osborn – <u>cameron.osborn@wiltshire.gov.uk</u>

	Items to be considered	Time
	<u>Highways Matters</u>	
	Welcome and Introductions	
1	Highways and Transport Presentations	19:05
	To receive presentations on topics such as strategic business plan priorities, maintenance, LTP, congestion, public transport and air quality.	
2	Melksham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Update	19:25
	To receive an update on the LCWIP in Melksham.	
3	Q&A Session	19:40
	An opportunity to ask questions of those present on any local highways matters.	
4	Session Summary and Next Steps	20:30
	To conclude the Highways Matters event and discuss how best to move forward.	
	Short Interlude - Before Area Board	
	Area Board Business	
5	Apologies for Absence	20:40
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
6	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 10)	
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023.	
7	Declarations of Interest	
	To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.	
8	Chairman's Announcements (Pages 11 - 34)	
	To receive the following briefing notes through the Chairman:	
	Area Board Priority Report – Update	
	Cost of Living update	
	Polling District and Polling Place Review	
	<u> </u>	1

- Independent Visitor Scheme Update
- Archaeology Service Annual Newsletter 2023
- Cooper Tires Careers Fair and Redundancy Support

#### 9 Partner Updates (Pages 35 - 48)

To note any written updates from the following partner organisations:

- Wiltshire Police
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS)
- BSW Together (Integrated Care System)
- Healthwatch Wiltshire
- Community First
- Town and Parish Councils

#### 10 Area Board Funding (Pages 49 - 52)

20:50

To note the remaining budgets and to consider any applications for funding, as detailed in the attached report and summarised below:

#### Remaining Budgets if all funding is agreed :

Community Area Grant	Older & Vulnerable	Young People
£18,709.00	£4,205.22	£6,543.44

#### **Community Area Grants:**

Ref/Link	Grant Details	Amount
		Requested
	There are no Community Area Grants	
	to consider at this meeting	
	-	

#### Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants:

Ref/Link	Grant Details	Amount Requested
ABG1416	Riverside Centre – Food and Community Support Project. Total project cost £3000	£1500.00
ABG1438	Great Hinton Community Committee –	£494.78

Great Hinton Heritage Group. Total project cost - £494.78	

#### **Young People Grants:**

Ref/Link	Grant Details	Amount Requested
ABG1437	The Equivalent Project CIC – Self Harm Support Programme. Total project cost £10000	£1805.56

#### **Delegated Funding**

There have been no grants awarded under delegated powers since the last meeting.

Further information on the Area Board Grant system can be found <u>here.</u>

## 11 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) (Pages 53 - 72)

To consider the following recommendations from the LHFIG meeting from 2 November 2023:

- To add the following Issues to the Priority Schemes List with funding:
  - Issue 9-23-9 Speeding traffic on A365 Shaw and Whitley Corsham Road – SLOW road markings (£300 - 100% LHFIG)
  - Issue 9-23-12 Steeple Ashton, Sandpits Lane signs / road markings (£1077.14 - 100% LHFIG funded)
  - Issue 9-23-14 Steeple Ashton Common Hill / Newleaze – request for pedestrian barrier at exit of children's play area (£1,800.00 – 75% LHFIG, 25% PC)
  - Issue 9-23-15 Halifax Road Bowerhill 'H' Bar Marking request (£300 – 100% LHFIG)
  - Issue 9-23-16 Magister Road, Bowerhill Request for 'Children at play sign' (£100 – 100% LHFIG)
- To add the following Issues to the Priority Schemes List without funding at this time:

20:45

o **Issue 9-23-17** RTPI at Mitchell Drive, Bowerhill Estate, Market Place Melksham x 2

#### 12 Future Meeting Dates

To note future meeting dates (7.00-9.00pm):

- 6 March 2024
- 22 May 2024
- 6 November 2024

For information on applying for a grant or grant application deadlines for these meetings, contact the Area Board Delivery Officer, <a href="mailto:Caroline.LeQuesne@wiltshire.gov.uk">Caroline.LeQuesne@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>

Close 9.00pm



## **MINUTES**

Meeting: Melksham Area Board

Place: Melksham Library, Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham,

**SN12 6ES** 

Date: 12 September 2023

Start Time: 6.15 pm Finish Time: 8.50 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Matthew Hitchmatthew.hitch@wiltshire.gov.uk,(Tel): 01225 718224 or (e-mail) cameron.osborn@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at <a href="www.wiltshire.gov.uk">www.wiltshire.gov.uk</a>

#### In Attendance:

#### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Mike Sankey (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr Jonathon Seed (Chairman)

#### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Richard Rogers – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager Ella Crerar – Communications and Marketing Manager Caroline LeQuesne – Area Board Delivery Officer Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer Matt Hitch – Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 40

Minute No	Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision
28	Guided Heritage Walk Around Melksham
	The Chairman thanked Paul Carter, the Chairman of Melksham and District Historical Association for leading the heritage walk around the town, which was attended by nearly 50 people.
29	Chairman's Welcome
	The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting. Members and officers then introduced themselves.
30	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies for Absence had been received from:
	<ul> <li>Cllr Nick Holder</li> <li>Inspector Andy Lemon</li> <li>Cameron Osborn – Apprentice Democratic Services Officer</li> </ul>
31	Minutes of the Previous Meeting
	On the proposal of Cllr Jon Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Jack Oatley, it was resolved to make the:
	<u>Decision</u> To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 June 2023, as a true and correct record.
32	Declarations of Interest
	In relation to agenda item 12, Cllr Jon Hubbard and Cllr Jack Oatley declared that they were trustees of 4Youth. They did not participate in the debate, or vote on, the two grant applications from 4Youth.
33	Chairman's Announcements
	The Chairman noted that Wiltshire's Local Plan set out the framework for housing infrastructure for employment for the next 15 years. It was noted that there would be a consultation event on the Local Plan in Melksham at the Community Campus on Wednesday 4 October between 3pm and 7pm. There would also be an online webinar covering the whole of Wiltshire between 6:30pm and 8:00pm on Tuesday 10 October. Further information was on pages 7-9 of the agenda pack.
	He also read out a statement on Melksham House, which has been attached to these minutes.

#### 34 Partner Updates

The Area Board noted the partner updates as set out in the agenda pack; these were:

- Wiltshire Police Neighbourhood Team pg. 11-34
- Community First pg. 35- 37
- BSW Together (Integrated Care System) pg. 39-80
- Healthwatch Wiltshire pg.81
- Wiltshire Police Road Safety Agenda Supplement 1 pg.1-13
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) Agenda
   Supplement 1 pg.15-21
- Melksham and Bradford on Avon Primary Care Network Agenda Supplement 2

The Area Board also received an update from Social Prescriber, Sasko Spirovski, and Dr Amy Gately from Melksham and Bradford on Avon Primary Care Network (PCN). The representatives explained that the PCN involved collaborative working between the three local practices. Key points included:

- The Joy app would soon be available to allow patients to self-refer to local health services and it was envisioned that this would assist GPs in making the most effective use of their consultation time.
- The PCN were recruiting a Clinician Associate.
- Queries were asked about the PCN's view about the need for a medical centre at Verbena Court, given proposals for a new care home on the site. It was also asked whether staff had been moved from Giffords Surgery to Melksham Hospital. It was highlighted that the PCN had stated that they did not see the need for a new medical practice on the site in a letter written on 26 October 2022 in relation to a variation on a S106 agreement. The PCN emphasised the importance of communication with developers and health providers to ensure that there was appropriate health infrastructure in place for new developments.
- It was noted that Melksham Hospital was not suitable for lone working and challenges had been faced with the PCN's Estate Toolkit Delivery Programme.

#### 35 <u>Special Schools Developments</u>

Matthew Look, SEND Place, Planning and Commissioning Programme Lead, provided an overview of the requirement for special needs school provision in Wiltshire, before going to provide detailed information about work to transform Melksham House into a special school for children with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH). The Area Board were informed that, although Wiltshire had a number of special schools, it was reliant on the independent sector for SEMH provision, meaning that children sometimes had to be placed outside of the county. He explained that Melksham House would provide 42 places for primary age children, and between 25 and 35 secondary age children,

when it opened in September 2024.

The Area Board thanked the Programme Lead for providing valuable insight into the progress at the school. During the discussion, points included:

- Primary age children would be based on the ground floor at Melksham House, with secondary age pupils on the first floor. There would be no classrooms on the second floor as the building was listed, so it was not possible to make the necessary alterations to the staircase.
- It was envisioned that primary age children would be at Melksham House full time, although there might be a slightly more flexible model for secondary age pupils.
- In response to a query about whether the school's hall could be used by the wider community outside of school hours, the Programme Lead said that he would make further enquiries. The Chairman noted that he would welcome the opportunity to hold an Area Board in the building.
- When asked about how places would be allocated, the Programme Lead noted that children with an Education, Health and Care Plan would have their needs assessed by an expert panel and that parental preference would also be taken into consideration.
- The Area Board stated that they thought it was fantastic that the future of an important historical building could be secured through the provision of a vital public service.

#### 36 Heritage and Culture

Ruth Butler, Heritage, Education and Digital Engagement Officer at Wiltshire Council, provided information about the Explore Wiltshire app, a new, free, easy to use location-aware app that featured information about historical landmarks, cultural sites and events that have helped to shape Wiltshire's towns and villages. It included interactive maps, walking trails, hunts and challenges, plus photographs, audio and visual clips. She explained that the app would support the Wiltshire Towns Programme, aiming to increase the footfall in market towns. It was designed to allow town and parish councils, or local heritage organisations, to add their own trails and marketing messages. The officer highlighted that Melksham had a fantastic industrial heritage, including Cooper Tyres and Avon Rubber that could be included on the app.

- The Area Board thanks the officer for her presentation and said that they would welcome the opportunity to register Melksham on the app.
- The Chairman highlighted that Melksham had more listed buildings than Bradford on Avon.
- The Area Board expressed regret that they had not been included in the first tranche of towns to be added to the app. It was clarified that the Market Town Team had drawn up the list of the first 10 towns and that local stakeholders, such as heritage groups, the town council and Area Board could contact them to join the app.

- The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager had been discussing Melksham being the next town to join the app with Wiltshire Council's Heritage Services Manager and there was complete agreement that he should now express the Area Board's wish for this to happen.
- The Chairman of Melksham and District Historical Association, Paul Carter, said that his organisation would be keen to be involved.
- Material that could potentially be included on the app about Melksham included information about Victorian philanthropist Rachel Fowler and Great War stories from the Melksham Remembers project.
- It was highlighted that Melksham Football Club were amongst the oldest in the Southern League and it might be possible to advertise Melksham Food and River Festival on the app.

Heather Perry, Conservation and Museums Advisory Service Manager at Wiltshire Council, provided information about different ways in which Melksham could promote its heritage, including contributing to historic collections, or opening its own museum. She explained that there were 40 museums in Wiltshire, operating a variety of different operating models. Some museums were entirely volunteer run including Aldbourne Heritage Centre, which was based in a former public toilet. It was noted that there was an accreditation scheme to start collecting items and that her team were available to assist with issues such as governance, visitor experience and managing collections.

The Chairman of Melksham and District Historical Association agreed that consideration should be given to the best way to display the town's history. He reported that his association had first tried to set up a museum in 1962 and had made further attempts in the 1990s. It was also noted that the Melksham Hoard, a collection of Bronze Age artifacts were displayed in Devizes.

#### 37 Area Board Priority Update

Cllr Phil Alford noted that the planning inspector had agreed a new right of way in Melksham linking Murray Walk to an area near Woodrow. He also noted that Wiltshire's Cabinet had, earlier that day, agreed an additional £10 million investment in Highways and Transport.

#### 38 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

The Vice-Chairman paid tribute to the former Melksham Without Parish Councillor, Don Millard, who had sadly passed away.

On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jack Oatley, it was resolved to make the:

#### **Decision**

- 1) To close the following Issues:
- 9-22-1 Melksham Lighting off Hazelwood Road
- 9-22-6 Melksham Signing to Sandridge Farm
- 2) To add the following Issue to the Priority Schemes List with funding:
- 9-22-21 Melksham Snarlton Lane Crossing Point (£1,454.58)
- 3) To add the following Issue to the Priority Schemes List without funding:
- 9-23-13 Steeple Ashton Sandpits Lane pedestrian access to playing field

#### 39 Grant Applications

The Area Board noted the budgets remaining for allocation at the meeting and heard from representatives in attendance who gave a brief overview of their project followed by any questions by the Area Board. It was noted that the full list of applications for the meeting was included in Agenda Supplement 1.

#### **Community Area Grants**

West Wiltshire Radio Requesting £1,875 Towards Transition to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB)

In response to queries from the Area Board, the applicants confirmed that they would target 3,500 listeners if they were able to provide Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB). They were a not-for-profit company and would broadcast in Melksham. They had been awarded £1,250 by Bradford on Avon Area Board and were due to apply to Trowbridge Area Board. During the discussion, some members raised concerns about the schedule being Bradford on Avon centric and the wider benefit to Melksham over other stations.

On the proposal of Cllr Jon Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Phil Alford it was resolved to make the:

#### **Decision**

To refuse the application from £1,875 by West Wiltshire Radio towards the transition to digital audio broadcasting.

#### Reason

Insufficient evidence was presented to demonstrate the additional benefits to residents in the Area Board's area.

Meadowbrook Community Interest Company Requesting £1,600 Towards Improvements to their Entrance Track and Car Park Area

On the proposal of Cllr Alford, seconded by Cllr Hubbard, it was resolved to make the:

#### **Decision**

To award Meadowbrook Community Interest Company £1,600 towards improvements to their entrance track and car park area.

#### Reason

The application met Community Area Grant Criteria 2023/24.

#### Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants

Wiltshire Music Centre Requesting £1,500 Towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire

On the proposal of Cllr Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Jack Oatley, it was resolved to make the:

#### **Decision**

To award Wiltshire Music Centre £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.

#### Reason

The application met Older and Vulnerable Adult Grant funding criteria for 2023/24.

#### **Youth Grants**

Cllr Hubbard and Cllr Oatley did not participate in the debate, or vote on, the applications from 4Youth South West.

<u>4Youth South West Requesting £5,000 Towards Remote Village Street-Based</u> Youth Work

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Alford, it was resolved to make the:

#### Decision

To award 4Youth South West requesting £5,000 towards remote village street-based youth work.

#### Reason

The application met Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.

4Youth South West Requesting £5,000 Towards Detached Youth Work Melksham

On the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Alford, it was resolved to make the:

#### **Decision**

To award 4Youth South West requesting £5,000 towards detached youth work in Melksham

#### Reason

The application met Youth Grant criteria for 2023/24.

#### 40 Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

Future meeting dates were confirmed as:

7:00pm - 9:00pm

- Wednesday 6 September 2023
- Wednesday 6 March 2024
- Wednesday 22 May 2024

It was noted that the next meeting on 6 December 2023 would be a special meeting about All Things Roads.

#### **Melksham House Update**

10<sup>th</sup> Sep 2022

Work to refurbish Melksham House is continuing to progress well. The refurbishment of the external fabric of the building is nearing completion. The buildings original masonry has been carefully restored by a team of specialists. The scaffolding has recently been removed, revealing the restored exterior.

Work to restore and modernise the building's interior is now well underway. External landscaping works will also be progressed in the coming months.

The council are working with the contractor to ensure the building meets the needs of the end users. We hope the planned refurbishment of Melksham House will be completed early in 2024.

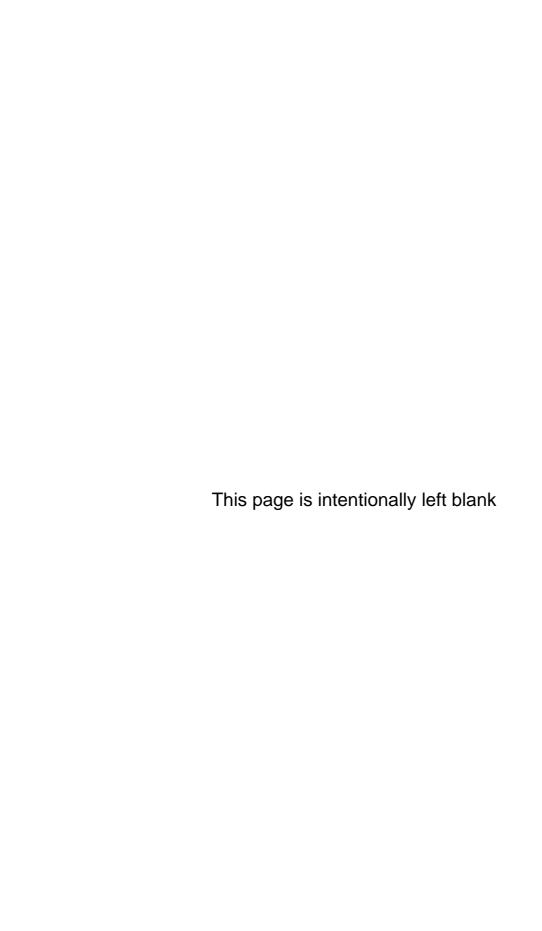
The end user has been identified as the SEND and Inclusion service. Melksham House will be used as a registered education provision for primary and secondary aged pupils, the majority with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). The service is aimed at children and young people who cannot access 'mainstream' schools due to social, emotional, mental health and medical needs.

A registered education provider is being sought. It is anticipated that the building will be available for a 'soft opening' from Easter 2024, once the education-specific adaptations are completed in early 2024. The education provision will open fully from September 2024.

Natasha Gumbrell

Capital Projects Service Lead







#### Engagement and Partnerships report - Nov 2023

The Melksham Area Board in June 2023 reviewed available local data and evidence, and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes:

- To engage with young people to improve employment opportunities and provide positive activities
- **❖** To protect and enhance the environment
- To reduce isolation and loneliness
- To support low-income individuals and families
- To reduce anti-social behaviour



Each priority theme has a series of more specific local actions that the Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager and Area Board Delivery Officer will work with the Melksham Area Board to deliver. Some of the actions that the Area Board Members and officers has led on or supported since the last meeting include:

#### 1. To improve opportunities for all children and young people

- 4youth have been funded to carry out detached youth work both in Melksham and the surrounding community area. Part of this will be to ascertain what the young people would like going forward.
- A first attempt to bring together those who work alongside Melksham youth was postponed. This meeting
  was to find out if these groups felt there were any gaps or barriers in youth provision in the town and
  surrounding area.

#### 2. To create safe communities and improve transport

An action was to run an event for highways matters to allow opportunities for the community to ask questions or raise issues of concern. This is taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

#### 3. To support older and vulnerable people

- Community Support 2.0 has now been operating for about 4 months and the health and wellbeing group discussed its progress and how it could be developed moving forward.
- The Melksham Neighbourhood collaborative is running in Melksham and focussing on an identified cohort of people to prevent falls
- The health and wellbeing meeting for Melksham area took place in October and identified a need to run cookery classes for adults to learn to prepare nutritious and cheap meals. They will start in in Jan 24.
- An interactive map of warm spaces and community providers as well as a wealth of helpful information on helping with the cost of living is available on the Wiltshire Council web site. <u>Council tax, benefits and financial</u> <u>support - Wiltshire Council</u>

#### 4. To help shape our community area whilst preserving and maximising our heritage

• Following the Sep Area Board meeting, a small group has met to discuss how to take forward adding Melksham to the heritage app and possible display boards. Wiltshire Council will pay for the addition of Melksham and once that has been completed, a larger meeting of interested stakeholders will take place to see how the app works as well as agreeing on the content and process for updating. At the same time, display cabinets and other more modern visual displays will be discussed with a view to purchasing them. Please let Richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk know if you wish to be invited.



#### Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	Cost of Living
Date prepared:	15 November 2023
Further enquiries to:	Will Oulton
Direct contact:	William.oulton@wiltshire.gov.uk

#### **Cost of Living**

With overall inflation stabilising, it is welcome news that some cost pressures for the community have reduced, but with other financial pressures remaining on household budgets, it is anticipated that there will be continuing demand for support and advice as the winter draws in.

The Council is continuing to work with partners to deliver interventions that provide advice and support to our communities, including:

- Wiltshire libraries are continuing as warm spaces and will also play a key role in distributing support (e.g. with Warm Packs or free Sim-cards) and advice (e.g. Providing energy advice or signposting to partners).
- We have contacted community providers to update our <u>interactive guide</u> to help people find key support to combat fuel and food poverty. In addition, we are creating a page on the directory that gives an interactive advent calendar view of provision/ opportunities over the Christmas period.
- Foodbanks and Community Food Providers are invited to apply for funding to support their work. Applications are welcome from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Organisations can make one application in this funding round. Further information and the application form is appended to this update.
- We have further developed our approach to delivering Household Support Fund, working with a range of services and partners to financially support a range of programmes and initiatives.
- Our website and media channels offer a range of online support and sign-posting information on topics including council tax/benefits, energy advice and mental health support.
- A dedicated Wiltshire Wellbeing support line to provide advice and guidance, and officers are working with to improve processes to ensure people are directed to right support.
- We continue to engagement with our communities, through activity such as the Boaters Survey, which has had a terrific response so far, and Community Conversations, to understand need



The DWP will be issuing the second Cost of Living Payment of £300 to those in receipt of Universal Credit, Jobseekers allowance, Employment support allowance, Income support and Pension Credit between 31st October and 19th November 2023.<sup>1</sup>

The Council is pleased to say that, following a successful summer programme that saw more than 1,220 young people take part, Wiltshire Council's Holiday Activity and Food programme (FUEL) will be back during the Christmas school holidays. It is funded by the Department for Education and provides children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals with free access to activity, food and nutritional education during school holidays. Eligible families will be able to sign up later in the year and details will be promoted through all schools in Wiltshire in due course. More information about FUEL can be found at <a href="https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuel-programme">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuel-programme</a>.

#### Warm and Safer Wiltshire

Warm & Safe Wilshire, provided by the council in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy, is a service to help residents live in warmer, safer and healthier homes. It provides in-depth telephone, home visit and outreach support to people and communities covering a wide package of support: including energy bills, energy saving tips, energy saving vouchers, and funding for heating and insulation improvements in their homes. More information is available at <a href="Warm and Safe Wiltshire advice service">Warm and Safe Wiltshire advice service</a>

This year, in particular, we are offering grants for broken heating systems and have extensive voucher offer to help with heating and food vouchers. Attached to this briefing is poster for the public highlighting the scheme

Also attached is a leaflet for frontline workers which details training available to frontline workers, which can also be taken up by third sector.

To help different communities access support, we have two Warm and Safe Community case workers covering the North and South of the county providing support to the third sector, home visits and in depth case work. The focus here will be on the 20% most deprived across Wiltshire, Travelling and Boating Communities, and the Military.

#### **Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation**

We are consulting on possible changes to its local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working aged people, ensuring it continues to benefit those who need it, and that the scheme evolves in line with Government's developing plans on Universal Credit.

The consultation is now open until 27 November 2023. I'd like to encourage people to respond via the electronic survey online at <a href="https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-council-tax-reduction">https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-council-tax-reduction</a> - paper copies are available in all of Wiltshire's libraries and main hubs. So far, more than two hundred responses have been received.

Potential changes to the scheme should result in it being more generous to people in hardship who are eligible to receive support, and that in turn should help to reduce the overall council tax debt written off each year due to those who are unable to pay.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



#### Wiltshire Food Banks and Community Food Providers Support Fund

#### **Grant Application**

Wiltshire food banks and community food providers, are invited to apply for funding support for the following categories:

- The purchasing of food, or food vouchers (up to £5,000)
- Support costs that enable the food setting to bring in professional financial advice (no funding limit each proposal will be assessed individually)
- The purchasing of capital items that enable residents to reduce their energy costs, which could be used at the food setting or in residents' own homes (no funding limit each proposal will be assessed individually)

This funding cannot be used for ongoing operational costs. Eligible organisations will be from the voluntary and community sector and will provide food free of charge, or at a subsidised rate.

Applications are welcomed for this second funding round available from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Organisations can make one application per funding round.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with their local Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager (SEPM). You can find the contact details for your local SEPM <a href="here">here</a>.

Applications will be assessed on multiple factors including the number of households they support, the evidence of need provided and the value of the service being offered to residents. It is anticipated that funding demand will be high, so please be aware that there may not be sufficient funding to fully support all requests.

To submit your application please complete this form and return to <a href="mailto:areaboards@wiltshire.gov.uk">areaboards@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>. Please note, it is essential that all successful applicants return a proforma regarding the use and impact of the funding. This will be provided to all successful applicants with the required deadlines for submission.

#### 1) Food bank or food provider details

Food bank or food provider	
details	
Address	
Contact name	
Contact telephone number	
Contact email address	



#### 2) Detail regarding your application?

Please provide a description of how the requested funding will be used? Please use a separate box for	Expected no. of households to	Amount being applied for?
purchasing of food, advice costs or other.	benefit from the funding?	
3) Please provide as much evidence and detail as p advice services are being proposed, please provi will deliver this).	•	· ·
4) How do residents access food from your orga	anisation?	
☐ Referral system		
□ Open access		
☐ Other - please advise here:		
5) Any other relevant information to support you	ır application?	



#### 6) Declaration

Supporting information; please upon request (You do not need	•		available to inspect
I have all the <b>necessary</b> a Safeguarding Adults, Public Lia assessments in place and will a The information on this for	ability Insurance, Access a make them available on re	audit, Health & Safe equest.	ety and Environmental
Signature	Name	Position	Date

# Cold home? High bills?

We're here to help ...



If our house is cold or you are struggling to pay your heating bills, please get in touch.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire offers free advice and support including:

- Grants for broken heating systems if you meet the criteria.
- Vouchers to help pay your bills.
- Other grants you may be entitled to.

Call us free today

0800 038 5722

Email warmandsafe@cse.org.uk







# www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/referral 0800 038 5722



# Are you a frontline worker in Wiltshire?

# Warm & Safe Wiltshire can help you help others stay warm this winter.

We offer free advice and support to Wiltshire residents to help lower their heating bills, stay warm and improve their health. This includes:

- Replacing broken heating systems.
- Accessing financial assistance such as prepayment meter vouchers or discounts on bills.
- In-depth casework with a trained advisor.

Frontline workers can also explore our **FREE** training options, from a brief overview of our services and how clients are supported, to an in-depth look at how to identify potential clients needing support.



You can refer Wiltshire residents to us quickly and easily using this online form: www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/referral

Or call 0800 038 5722

To book a FREE training session please email: warmandsafe@cse.org.uk









#### **Area Board Briefing Note**

Service:	Electoral Services
Date prepared:	27 September 2023
Further enquiries to:	pollingreview@wiltshire.gov.uk
Direct contact:	Caroline Rudland/ Liv Maybank

# Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 - Consultation

Wiltshire Council is carrying out a review of the polling districts and polling places in Wiltshire, as we are required to do by law.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on Local Authorities to 'carry out and complete' reviews of polling districts and polling places every five years. The next review must be completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that all polling districts and polling places are, as far as possible, suitable and accessible to all voters.

#### **Polling districts**

The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts for the purpose of UK Parliamentary elections. The arrangements made for the UK Parliamentary elections are also used at all other elections and referendums. Each parish, unless there are special circumstances, must be a separate polling district. When designating polling districts, we seek to ensure that all the electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as far as is practicable.

#### Polling places

A polling place is the designated area, polling district, or building in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

#### **Polling stations**

The polling station is the physical place in which polling takes place. The (Acting) Returning Officer decides on the location of the polling stations.

#### Steps for this review

The public consultation period will commence on the 2 October 2023 and will end on the 31 October 2023.

A webpage has been set up providing further information including:

- A list of current polling arrangements by unitary division area including the (Acting) Returning Officers comments and proposed changes
- An interactive map to view existing arrangements and any proposed changes
- An online form to make comments/representations.

Please note the review cannot consider changes to a parliamentary constituency, Wiltshire Council unitary division or parish and parish ward boundaries.

The review will be based on current constituency boundaries but will also have regard for the new parliamentary constituencies. The new boundaries will take effect for the next parliamentary elections that must be held before January 2025.



The final recommendations will be considered by the Electoral Review Committee in Mid November 2023 and, if approved will be implemented for the 1 December 2023 register of electors.

#### Timeline for the review

Date	
2 October 2023	Formal notice of the review
2 October 2023	Publish (Acting) Returning Officer's comments
2 October 2023	Commencement of public consultation period
31 October 2023	End of public consultation period
Mid November 2023	Final proposals considered by <u>Electoral Review Committee</u>

#### Commenting on the review

Representations can be made via:

- Online response form on the website: https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8167/Polling-District-and-Polling-Place-Review-2023
- Emailing: pollingreview@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Or by post to:

Polling Review, Electoral Services, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN



#### **Area Board Briefing Note**

Service:	Voice and Participation
Date prepared:	16/10/2023
Further enquiries to:	Sue Nash
Direct contact:	Sue.nash@wiltshire.gov.uk

Independent visitors (IVs) are adult volunteers who provide independent, one-to-one befriending support to children in care. Their role is to "visit, advise and befriend" the young person with whom they are matched.

The 1989 Children Act made it a duty for Local Authorities to provide IVs for those young people living in care who have little or no contact from their parents or family. In 2008, the Children and Young Person's Act extended this duty so that any young person in care could be eligible to have an IV, if considered to be in their best interests.

#### **Current Status:**

As of the most recent update, we have successfully matched 72 young people with independent visitors.

#### In Progress:

Additionally, there are currently 17 matches in progress, all of which are proposed to become active before Christmas. This will bring our total matches to an impressive 89. This remarkable increase of 21 matched young people in this financial year marks the second consecutive year of the most significant growth in our numbers, with the previous year seeing an increase of 10 matches. It's worth noting that this achievement is even more impressive when considering the 8 matches that are scheduled to close soon.

#### **National Context:**

Nationally, our success is measured against similar schemes by the National IV Network. Specifically, we are assessed based on the percentage of young people in care who are matched with an IV across the county. With 89 matches, our matched population will stand at 17.3%. To put this in perspective, the national average, as reported in the last Freedom of Information (FOI) report by the National IV Network, was only 3.3%. The highest matching percentage in England and Wales was 16%.

#### **Future Projections:**

In the coming months, four of our young people will reach the age of 18, causing a slight decrease in our matched population to 16.4% by the end of the financial year. Nonetheless, this remains a significant achievement and showcases our dedication to making a difference in the lives of care-experienced individuals.

#### Impact on Waiting List:



An essential outcome of these matches is the reduction of our waiting list. As more young people are matched with independent visitors, our waiting list is projected to decrease to 22 individuals. This will mark the lowest number of individuals on the waiting list since we began keeping records. Promotion of the IV Scheme: We encourage the Area Boards to actively promote the IV Scheme by directing prospective volunteers to our website: Independent visitor scheme - Wiltshire Council. This will help us continue our mission to provide meaningful support to young people in care and achieve our goals of positive social change. Conclusion: Our remarkable increase in matched young people, high matching percentage, and the decrease in our waiting list demonstrate our commitment to making a difference in the lives of care-experienced individuals. We look forward to your continued support and engagement in promoting the IV Scheme.

## Wiltshire Council

## **ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE**

WELCOME TO WILTSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE'S FIRST ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Archaeology Service identifies, records and protects the archaeology of all of Wiltshire, including Swindon wshc.org.uk. We provide archaeological advice mostly through the planning system, but also to landowners, universities, local groups and societies, and to the public. We also seek to inform on and promote the archaeology of the County. Our newsletter therefore aims to provide accessible and readable information about the work of the Service and some of the more notable archaeological and historical discoveries within the County in the last 18 months or so. There is also an annual Archaeology in Wiltshire conference in the spring. Keep an eye on the Wiltshire Museum's website for further details.

In this edition we have included recent archaeological projects in the County and within Swindon Borough Council that have resulted from our advice and guidance, as well as information about our Historic Environment Record, the Wiltshire Buildings Record, the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Co-ordination Unit and the work of Wiltshire's Finds Liaison Officer.

Our team is based in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. This state-of-the-art, purpose-built, records office was opened in 2007 and cost £11 million, but it has brought together the archives service, local studies library, conservation and museums advisory service, archaeology and Wiltshire Buildings Record under one, modernist, roof.

The Archaeology Service holds thousands of archaeological reports, aerial photographs and other records, all of which may be accessed by prior appointment. Just email us in advance at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk
We hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Archaeology Service Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre Cocklebury Road Chippenham Wiltshire SN15 3QN





TOP
The Wiltshire and
Swindon History
Centre, Chippenham.
Home of the
Archaeology Service.
© Wiltshire Council

LEFT
Some of the
Archaeology
Service team
at Stonehenge.
© Wiltshire Council

BOTTOM
The fine farmhouse
at 41 Green Road,
Swindon.
© Wiltshire Buildings
Record



# 'SEEING THE MONUMENTS FOR THE TREES' – A PROJECT TO CLEAR VEGETATION FROM THREE OF WILTSHIRE'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS.



TOP: Cam's Hill ringwork before clearance looking towards Malmesbury. © Aerial-Cam. Reproduced with kind permission.

BOTTOM: Cam's Hill ringwork after clearance. © Aerial-Cam. Reproduced with kind permission.

Wiltshire has some of England's most important and well-known ancient monuments. Many are designated as Scheduled Monuments, meaning they are legally protected due to their historical and archaeological importance. However, sometimes they can be harmed by natural processes such as tree and scrub growth, and burrowing animals, which can damage important buried archaeological remains and hide our history from view.

Last winter a community project, funded by Historic England, was organised by the Archaeology Service to remove the scrub over three of Wiltshire's ancient monuments. The first monument was an Early Bronze Age (1,800 – 1,500 BC) disc barrow, a rare monument type, on Burderop Down, near Chiseldon, Swindon. Large hawthorn bushes were removed from the monument so that it can now be seen in all its glory.

The second monument was a ringwork at Cam's Hill which is thought to be one of several siegeworks around the town of Malmesbury during the 'Anarchy' period, when Stephen and Matilda contested the succession to Henry I in the 12th-century. The monument has a 1.5m deep and 4m wide external ditch and a distinctive horseshoe shaped internal bank, 18m wide and around 1.8m high. It has never been excavated, although it bears close similarity to other monuments of this period in the south of England. Vegetation was cleared by volunteers in January and March 2023 and so the monument is now far more visible to those passing by on the adjacent public footpath. It is now hoped that livestock will graze the monument and deter re-growth.

The third monument was a group of four medieval lynchets at Southmill Hill, Amesbury, which survive remarkably well and are prominent features on the periphery of Amesbury. The lynchets are medieval in date and result from deliberate terracing of the steep hillslope for cultivation. The monument has been in steady decline for several decades due to unchecked scrub and tree growth, so over two days in February, volunteers, including the local scout group, cleared the scrub from one of the lynchets. It is hoped that the clearance work will recommence in autumn 2023.

The project was a great success and achieved what it set to do. As well as removing the risk of damage to these monuments from unruly scrub, all three monuments are now significantly more visible to those using public footpaths and other public rights of way. Thirty-eight volunteers participated in the project, and they all enjoyed the experience. The Archaeology Service therefore hopes to identify further monuments for clearance in the next few years...so if you would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Archaeology Service at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk

BELOW: Volunteers at Southmill Hill, Amebury. © Wiltshire Council







THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MARKET TOWN OF CALNE IS REVEALED.

Wiltshire is blessed with many historic towns and Calne is a particularly interesting example, lying on the A4, a major route to the west country before the M4 was built. The town was probably best known until the late 20th-century as the home of Harris' bacon factory which dominated the centre of the town until it was demolished in the mid-1980s. Documentary sources indicate that the town probably had Saxon origins and was a borough by the time of the Domesday Book in the 11th-century. It was an established town by the medieval period.

Archaeological evidence for the origins and historic development of the town has proved to be elusive, partly because there have been few opportunities for larger-scale archaeological investigations within the town. The demolition and redevelopment of Harris's bacon factory in the 1980s was not accompanied by any archaeological investigation, despite its location in the heart of the town.

The proposed redevelopment of a parcel of land to the rear of the Nos 8 – 13 High Street therefore provided just that opportunity. Exploratory archaeological investigation in 2016 demonstrated that medieval remains survived on the site and a detailed archaeological excavation was undertaken late in 2021 by Worcestershire Archaeology on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living.



The excavation identified a large Late Saxon (9th – 10th-century) boundary ditch, along with some lesser ditches. These are notable discoveries as it was presumed that the focus of the Saxon settlement lay around the Church of St Mary. Probably in the 11th-century, the boundaries within the site were re-aligned with the laying out of burgage plots for the medieval town, running back from the High Street. The site lay too far to the rear of the High Street to reveal the properties that the burgage plots served, but these back plots did reveal rubbish pits filled with medieval waste material. This included sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th- to the 15th-century and probably all locally made at kilns in Minety, Lacock and Crockerton. A notable find was a lead seal matrix, used for sealing important documents, probably reflecting the commercial use of the properties on the High Street. The remains of a lime kiln were also revealed and probably served in the construction of stone properties on the High Street.

The site was remodelled again in the 17thand 18th-century as the fortunes of the town improved, largely based on the weaving industry, until the town became synonymous with pork and bacon with the opening of the Harris factories in the 19th- and 20th -centuries.

TOP RIGHT: Harris' bacon factory, Calne in 1924. © Historic England.

RIGHT: General view of the excavation at 8 – 13 High Street. © Worcestershire Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: The medieval lime kiln under excavation.

© Worcestershire Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

With every historic building, the same question comes up at the end, how do you date it? When Wiltshire Buildings Record started in 1979 there was little to go on. The few books about vernacular architecture covered buildings in other parts of the country. We had help from the Salisbury office of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments but apart from emergencies they were recording only in the south-east of Wiltshire and buildings there had different characteristics from the north and west of the County. Since then, studies of vernacular architecture have increased enormously, especially, since 2009, with the assistance of tree-ring dating or dendrochronology.

The Wiltshire Dendrochronological Project started through funding provided by English Heritage (now Historic England) to train someone in the work. There were existing projects in Hampshire and Somerset which were well advanced, and Wiltshire was known to have similarly early buildings worth sampling. We already had a list of suitable medieval buildings and the project aimed to concentrate on base cruck, cruck and other early carpentry methods. This was Phase 1 of the project and we have now reached Phase 5 thanks to funding from various

sources.
The resu The results have been interesting. Overall, they have confirmed the dates we had assigned based on stylistic and documentary grounds. But they have often narrowed them down and highlighted the significance of small changes of carpentry method. There have been disappointments where the timber turned out to be elm rather than oak or came from fast-grown oak trees with a small number of wide rings which could not be matched with the master sequence.





TOP RIGHT: The derelict Studley Grange farmhouse, Lydiard Tregoze. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.

TOP LEFT: Cruck visible on the landing of Studley Grange farmhouse. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.

LEFT: Joint where 14thcentury upper timbers cap a 13th-century cruck, all smoke-blackened, at 41 Green Road, Swindon. © Wiltshire Buildings Record. TREE-RING DATING - THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS



Two former farmhouses in the Swindon area, both cruck-built, illustrate the highs and lows of the outcomes. Studley Grange Farm, Lydiard Tregoze, was brought to our attention in 2021 in a derelict state. Three of our members had a look at it and reported finding a cruck truss despite its listing as late 18th-century. As a threatened building we gave it priority. Robert Howard and Alison Arnold from the Nottingham Lab gamely tackled it for us bringing a generator to power their drills. Sadly, the oak timbers of the crucks were quick grown though dates were provided for the addition of a dairy wing in 1606 and a re-used collar of 1559-84 looked likely to come from the initial ceiling of the open hall. There is documentary evidence that the farm was a grange of Stanley Abbey at Bremhill and it was first mentioned in 1460. Robert and Alison had managed to get into the roof on the far side of the cruck truss and their photo of the joint at the apex suggests construction in the 15th-century is likely.

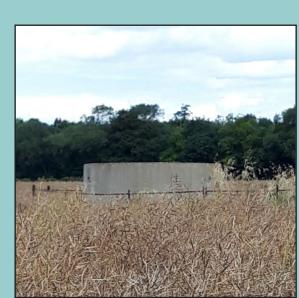
No. 41 Green Road, Stratton St. Margaret, was a reserve building on the day that Studley Grange was sampled so for that reason it was high on the list for future sampling. This former farmhouse had been visited briefly by our Principal Buildings Historian, Dorothy Treasure. We were not very hopeful of a good result as crucks in the Swindon area have proved before to be of elm or quick-grown oak. To our (and the owner's) amazement the lower parts of two cruck trusses dated from 1271-1296. They had been used again in a wider building with new upper parts and purlins etc in 1339-1355. This is a star building, quite exceptional, and shows just how valuable tree-ring dating can be.



The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) consists of a database with integrated digital mapping that holds information on all the currently known archaeological and historical monuments for the County – a fantastic resource. It contains records of over 50,000 monuments, including earthworks, finds spots, and historic buildings, and contains information about all types of archaeological investigations, as well as various sources such as aerial photographs.

To give a taste of what the HER holds, this article explores some of the notable records for the town of Corsham. Starting in the centre of the town at The Corsham School, aerial photographs of 1946 show the current School playing fields under allotments (HER record MWI74074), created as part of the 'Digging for Victory' campaign introduced in 1940. To the west of the School is Hatton Way, named after Sir Christopher Hatton, a favourite courtier of Elizabeth I. Sir Christopher, when expressing devotion for his queen, always signed his letters with a hat drawn over the word 'on'. Hatton spent about four years at Corsham House (MWI34260), now Corsham Court, a Grade I listed Elizabethan country house. Unfortunately, financial problems caused him to sell up!





#### WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON'S HISTORIC **ENVIRONMENT RECORD**

Halfway down Hatton Way is the site of Purleigh Barn (MWI65896), a demolished 19th-century outfarm of regular courtyard plan. The farmstead and all its historic buildings have been lost. The Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads and Landscapes Project Report summarises the results of mapping the historic character and survival of more than 4,000 farmsteads and 2,700 outfarms and field barns in Wiltshire, all mapped onto the HER. Knowledge and protection of the surviving historic farmsteads is essential if they are to be retained as a distinctive part of the rural landscape of the County.

Another notable Corsham building is the 'Pepper Pot', a Grade II listed toll house (MWI34400) on the A4 Bath Road. This pretty building was also once a sweet shop and is now a summerhouse. To the north of the A4 Bath Road, exploratory archaeological investigation in 2016 found a Neolithic (4,000 – 2,000 BC) pit (MWI76326), containing fragments of pottery. The field also contains evidence of ponds but the most exciting feature here lies underground. This is the former stone quarrying tunnel which probably ran from Hartham Park Quarry, sometimes known as the Pickwick Quarry. Bath Stone, a warm, honeycoloured limestone, has been desirable since Roman times and Brunel's cutting of the Box Railway Tunnel, close to Corsham, revealed a rich seam of highquality stone. The Corsham mines were extensively worked with miles of tunnels, chambers, and air shafts, and became the ideal underground storage location for the War Office during the Second World War and of further use during the Cold War (MWI31707). One of the ventilation shafts for the tunnels can still be seen above ground. So why not explore our HER for the area around where you live in Wiltshire. Visit our website or contact us at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.

> TOP RIGHT: Corsham Court. Image reproduced by kind permission of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.

LEFT: The Grade II listed 'Pepper Pot', an 18th-century toll house. © Wiltshire Council.

RIGHT: A ventilation shaft serving the underground Pickwick Quarry.



### AN IMPORTANT BRONZE AGE BURIAL GROUND AT NETHERHAMPTON ROAD, SALISBURY



Bronze Age burial mounds or barrows are one of the most common monument types to be found in Wiltshire, which, along with Dorset, probably has some of the densest concentrations of such monuments in the country. Many people will be familiar with the prominent barrow cemeteries set out on the chalk ridges all around Stonehenge which only add to the atmosphere of this most prehistoric of landscapes. Those barrows, with upstanding mounds still surviving, represent only the most visible of this monument type. Many more survive only as ring-ditches, the quarries from which the mounds were constructed, but where the mounds have long since been denuded by ploughing over centuries. Aerial photography and fortuitous discoveries have shown that these barrows, in the form of surviving ring-ditches, were constructed on a wider range of geologies and topographies and not just on the chalk downland.

Aerial photography has shown that several ring ditches exist in a short stretch of the Nadder Valley between Harnham and Netherhampton. Some 35 ring ditches have been identified, and more are sure to exist, located both on the valley floor, as well as the valley slopes. Their mounds have long since been denuded, but what survives still retains valuable archaeological information about the practice of burial in the earlier Bronze Age (2,200 – 1,500 BC).

Proposed residential development immediately west of West Harnham has provided the opportunity to investigate archaeologically several of these barrows and Cotswold Archaeology and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) have been doing just that over the winter of 2022 and into early 2023.

MOLA excavated a double ring-ditch and a second conjoining ring-ditch. Interestingly these monuments were located on the floor of the Nadder Valley. In the heavy winter rain, the barrow got close to being flooded but it seemed to occupy, probably intentionally, a slight gravel rise so that it stayed just above the flood level. The excavations revealed large graves in the centre of each ring-ditch, both of which contained the skeleton of an individual.

The graves were of considerable size, far larger than was needed to bury the one individual. Samples from the fill of the grave may tell us if there was a reason for that and if there was other material buried in the grave that has not survived to the present day, such as wood or organic material.



However, one of the burials was accompanied by a very fine pottery vessel, a highly decorated Beaker. These vessels are attributed to a migrant population that arrived in Britain around 4,500 years ago bringing with them new burial practices and these distinctive pottery vessels. It is hoped that this particularly fine example with go on display in Salisbury Museum.

Meanwhile on the opposite side of the Netherhampton Road, Cotswold Archaeology on behalf of their client, Vistry Group, has been excavating a group of five ring-ditches or barrows that form a barrow cemetery just at the base of the valley side. The barrows are marked by their different size, the width and depth of the ring-ditches, and the presence or absence of graves within or adjacent to the barrows. One grave within one of the barrows contained a fine and rare food vessel with a small handle, while one grave just outside of one barrow contained five individuals, an adult and four infants, all very tightly grouped. The implication is that they died in a single catastrophic event and analysis of the human remains will elucidate why they died and

their relationship to each other, as well as to other individuals buried in the other barrows.

Most unexpectedly, the excavation has also revealed an Early Saxon (5th – 7th-century AD) waterhole, as well as a smattering of Saxon pottery. It is not unusual for later Saxon burials to be inserted into or around the mounds of Bronze Age barrows, although at Netherhampton Road, it is not clear why this functional feature should have been placed here. That there were Saxons living nearby is attested by a very famous Saxon inhumation cemetery found in Harnham in the 19th-century. For the time being, the excavations at Netherhampton Road have been concluded. The long process of analysing the results is underway and will result in a publication that will reveal the details of this important excavation.

TOP LEFT: The Bronze Age barrows under excavation south of Netherhampton Road.

 ${\hbox{$^\circ$}}$  Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

 ${\tt BOTTOM}$  LEFT: The central grave and burial from one of the barrows north of Netherhampton Road.

© MOLA, reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: A double-ditched barrow before excavation south of Netherhampton Road.

© Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

MIDDLE LEFT: Beaker vessel grave good from one of the burials north of Netherhampton Road.

© MOLA, reproduced with kind permission.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BELOW}}$  : The Saxon waterhole with waterlogged timbers south of Netherhampton Road.

© Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.





In summer 2020 a mysterious hole appeared in a field close to the village of East Kennett, within the Avebury World Heritage Site, and was reported to the Archaeology Service. Being archaeologists, we are always fascinated to explore any such phenomena and so members of our team quickly went to the site and undertook an initial exploration. This found that the hole comprised a substantial pit, roughly circular, around 1m in diameter, and lined by four large blocks of unworked sarsen stone. The feature appeared to have a deliberate void, and was capped by other Sarsens, two of which remained in place, while a third appeared to have collapsed into the pit, so revealing the presence of the feature. A flint blade and a rim of Roman greyware were recovered from the collapsed fill but were assumed to be incidental. The initial interpretation was that this was a prehistoric cist or burial chamber. Similar examples of sarsen-capped burials are known from the wider region.

Consequently, Historic England undertook geophysical survey of the site of the 'hole' and its surroundings in 2021 and identified other possible chambered features, along with several ditches belonging to a field or enclosure system, and two possible rectilinear buildings. Along with the possible cist, the possible buildings were of interest as they bore some resemblance to the plans of Early Neolithic houses.



#### A MYSTERY HOLE IN EAST KENNETT: A PREHISTORIC OR ROMAN OPENING INTO THE UNDERWORLD?

The site was of sufficient interest that Professor Josh Pollard of the University of Southampton's Department of Archaeology organised an exploratory excavation of the site in late summer 2022. Much interest centred on discovering the purpose of the feature that had created the mystery hole two years earlier. The excavations stripped an area around the hole and revealed the sarsen stones surrounding the rim and slumped into the pit. At this stage, the only way to find out what lay below the sarsen stones was to carefully lift and remove them. By this stage, interest in the story was such that it attracted the attention of Professor Alice Roberts and the 'Digging for Britain' team, who filmed the lifting of the sarsen stones (Series 10, Episode 4).

Once removed and after some more careful excavation down to a depth of 2m, it became clear that this feature was not in fact a prehistoric burial chamber but a natural sink hole, the upper portions of which had been modified in the Roman period. A sink hole is formed from the natural dissolving of the soluble chalk bedrock, creating a deep fissure or hole in the bedrock. The Romans had erected the sarsens on the inner edge of this natural feature perhaps partly to form a barrier to stop livestock and children from falling into it, but perhaps also to emphasise it, as an opening into the underworld. The project emphasises the uncertainty of archaeology. As Professor Pollard so eloquently put it, it is 'what makes archaeology a vibrant and unpredictable subject'!

TOP: The mystery hole at East Kennett as it first appeared in 2020. © Wiltshire Council.

LEFT: The sarsen stones after initial excavation by the University of Southampton. © University of Southampton. Reproduced with kind permission.

RIGHT: The 'sink hole' after excavation.
©University of Southampton.
Reproduced with kind permission.



SOME FINDS REPORTED TO WILTSHIRE'S FINDS LIAISON OFFICER





A notable feature of the Covid-19 pandemic was the increase in the number of people who took up metal-detecting as they sought new interests that could be undertaken individually and outdoors. Everyone taking up the pastime is encouraged to follow the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017), which sets out the legal requirements as well as more general guidance on accepted best practice finds. org.uk. There is no doubt that the results of metal detecting have contributed significantly to our knowledge of the heritage of England and Wales. Much of this is due to the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) which was established in the late 1990s. The PAS encourages the reporting of all finds of archaeological objects, whether through metal detecting or not and is not limited to items of precious metal. To date, the PAS has recorded over 1.6 million objects, which has provided an extraordinary insight into the study of archaeological objects and their distribution.

TOP: Late Bronze Age gold penannular ring.
Reproduced by kind permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
TOP RIGHT: Blue glass bead dating from anytime between the Iron
Age and Late Saxon period.
Reproduced by kind permission of the Sussex Archaeological Society.
RIGHT: 17th-century silver cufflink.
Reproduced by permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.







Locally, the work of the PAS is overseen by Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) who receive, identify and record archaeological objects, plus deal with Treasure finds from England and Wales. Wiltshire has its own FLO and Sophie Hawke is based at Salisbury Museum and would be very glad to hear from you if you have any objects that you would like identified and reported on (pas@salisburymuseum.org.uk).

These are some typical finds from Wiltshire that have been reported over the last 18 months or so and they show the variety in age, type and material of object that are recorded. This complete gold or gold-plated penannular ring is of Late Bronze Age date (1150-750 BC). The object is oval and about 1.5cm across. The ring is mostly gold in colour, except for a brown band that appears to wrap around it. It is likely that this is the core of the object that has been heavily coated in gold and then filed away to leave the band. The ring's function remains uncertain, although it is likely that they were personal adornments, possibly worn on the ears or nose, rather than being hair-ornaments or items of exchange.

Not all objects reported are of metal. This beautiful, complete, annular, blue glass bead, around 1cm in diameter, dating from the Iron Age to early Medieval period c. 100 BC to AD 750, was found near Alderbury. This last object, found near Wroughton, is a silver cufflink, one element of a pair that would have been linked together. The cufflink, which is around 1.5cm in diameter, has stamped decoration of a pair of hearts side by side with a crown above. Cufflinks were introduced in England in the latter half of the 17th-century and those with this design are considered to have originally been produced to commemorate the marriage of Charles II to Catherine of Braganza in 1662 but continued to be used as a general symbol of love or marriage.









THE REMAINS OF OLD SARUM'S CATHEDRAL FOUND IN NEW SARUM'S CATHEDRAL CLOSE WALL

The Grade I Cathedral Close Wall in Salisbury started to be constructed in the later 13th-century but was not completed until the 15th- or 16th-century. It was built both as a defensive structure but also as a symbol of the status of the clergy and their lordship of the Close. It is known that permission was given in the 14th-century for stone from the Cathedral at Old Sarum to be used in the construction of the Close Wall and carved stone from the Cathedral can be seen on the Exeter Street face of the Close Wall in the form of stylised flowerheads.

The repair in 2022 of a short, leaning section of the Close Wall within the grounds of Bishop Wordsworth School along Exeter Street therefore provided the opportunity to examine its masonry makeup and to identify other masonry that might have been purloined from the old Cathedral at Old Sarum. The repair work was undertaken by the stonemasons of the Salisbury Cathedral Works Department under the watchful eye of Graham Keevil, Salisbury's Cathedral Archaeologist.

The exercise proved to be worthwhile as several pieces of very fine carved masonry were identified, mostly hidden and not visible on the face of the Wall. It also seems likely that even plain ashlar blocks came from the old Cathedral at Old Sarum. It seems odd today that, despite all the effort put into constructing a fine cathedral at Old Sarum, within a hundred years or so it was used as little more than a quarry for the construction of the Close Wall. However, it does add to the historical and archaeological importance of the Close Wall, which is also a strong architectural and aesthetic feature of the Close and the city landscape.



TOP LEFT: Salisbury Cathedral Close Wall under repair. © Wiltshire Council

TOP RIGHT: Carved stone, formerly part of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, built into the Close Wall along Exeter Street.

© Wiltshire Council

MIDDLE RIGHT: Carved stone, formerly part of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, built into the Close Wall along Exeter Street.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Carved stonework from Old Sarum Cathedral built into the Close Wall.

© Wiltshire Council

Stonehenge, Avebury & Associated Sites were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) List in 1986 and was one of the UK's very first World Heritage Sites. Stonehenge is the most sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Avebury is the largest. Both stone circles lie at the heart of prehistoric landscapes containing numerous impressive and amazingly well-preserved ceremonial monuments dating back over 5,000 years to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Together they form a landscape without parallel.

To achieve World Heritage status, sites must define what makes them to be of Outstanding Universal Value, or internationally significant, and how they intend to protect and enhance this. This is achieved through the adoption of a WHS Management Plan. In December 2022 Claire Selman joined the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Coordination Unit within the Wiltshire Council Archaeology team. The primary aim of the unit is to coordinate the delivery of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan . To do so, Claire works with over 25 partners, including national organisations such as the National Trust and English Heritage, and farmers and communities living within and surrounding the WHS.

Priorities within the Management Plan cover what may at first seem a surprising span of topics extending beyond archaeology to subjects including woodland management, dark skies preservation and arts projects. Together, the Management Plan's actions work to preserve the site's buried archaeology, relationship with the landscape and accessibility for visitors. No two days within the Coordination Unit are the same from meeting with partners viewing activity on site, to engaging with visitors at local events and organising Partnership Panel and Steering Committee meetings.

Claire recently spent some time exploring the WHS through the range of services available at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, which you can read about in a blog post here. Her discoveries included viewing some of the 1,114 entries on the Historic Environment Record from Stonehenge and Avebury. Each record builds a picture of life across the ages on this site, from Neolithic flint tools to Bronze Age round barrows, Saxon pottery and

TOP: Stonehenge with a near Winter Solstice alignment, December 2022.

© Wiltshire Council.

RIGHT: Attending Open Farm Sunday on the edge of Avebury WHS, June 2023.

© Wiltshire Council.



The opportunity to support the management of these iconic sites has led Claire to discover even more about our County and its heritage, and there's a wealth of monuments to explore beyond the stone circles themselves. To help plan a visit to the World Heritage Site, Claire recommends the walking trails on National Trust's Avebury and Stonehenge Landscape pages and the historical information on English Heritage's Stonehenge pages.

There are currently 33 UK World Heritage Sites, and 1,157 in total globally. The UK's World Heritage Sites demonstrate the breadth of what World Heritage can be, from natural sites like the Lake District to industrial sites such as The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales and even an entire city, Bath. Discover them all at: UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List To find out more about the Stonehenge, Avebury & Associated Sites World Heritage Sites, visit our\_website and follow @StoneAveWHS on Twitter.



In 1985 Honda started work on building their new car plant at South Marston, Swindon, providing a much-needed boost to the local economy and employment. The car plant itself replaced the site of an aircraft factory, first developed in the late 1930s as a 'shadow' aircraft factory, and then as an active manufacturing facility from 1940. South Marston Aerodrome was constructed at this time to serve in the Second World War. Phillips & Powis Aircraft Ltd, Short Brothers, and Vickers-Armstrong-Supermarine all produced aircraft at the site, including the iconic Supermarine Spitfire. Having been considered but been rejected as a possible municipal airport serving Swindon in the 1960s, the airfield came to end when Honda bought the site for their new venture. However, the runway still exists, running through the site, and was used by Honda as a test track. One of the attractions to Honda was the skilled engineer workforce of Swindon arising from its role in the railway industry. However, after 35 years, the Honda factory itself came to an end and the site is now being redeveloped again.

This redevelopment has provided the opportunity to explore the archaeology of the site preceding its 20th-century history. Remarkably, despite two significant phases of development to construct South Marston Airfield and then the Honda works, evidence for Late Iron Age (200 BC – AD 43) and Roman settlement, surrounded by extensive field systems, has come to light, some surviving under the airfield runway! Oxford Archaeology has been undertaking exploratory investigations and more detailed excavation at the site prior to development.

The evidence points to a small rural settlement that lies just off Ermine Street, the Roman road that links the local small town of Durocornovium (Wanborough) with the important regional centre of Corinium (Cirencester). The buildings might have been of slight construction and left little trace but finds of box tile, brick and tegula suggest a significant building lay nearby. A corn drier was found alongside some stone-lined pits, suggesting an area devoted to crop processing. Finds from the settlement include guern stones from grinding corn, whetstones for sharpening tools and two Roman shoes! The excavations are on-going and further discoveries are expected. The results will continue to add to the extraordinary history of this site on the edge of Swindon.



PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES – AN IMPORTANT SITE OF SWINDON'S 20TH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE REVEALS ITS ANCIENT PAST.



TOP: Newspaper cutting from 1965 about South Marston Airfield. © Swindon Echo, 8 January 1965. Reproduced by kind permission of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, document reference 2753FL.

LEFT: Aerial view of Iron Age and Roman deposits under the runway. © Oxford Archaeology. Reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: Excavating an Iron Age feature.

\*age 33 ford Archaeology. Reproduced with kind permission.

#### **Update for Wiltshire Area Boards**

November 2023

#### The BSW Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan (PCCDP)

The BSW ICB Board has approved a Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan (PCCDP) for BSW.

The PCCDP builds on existing BSW strategies, including the BSW Together Integrated Care Strategy and Implementation Plan as well as national policy and guidance.

It consolidates existing documentation and reflects the engagement work completed with service users, providers and wider stakeholders to identify initiatives and solutions to deliver our ambition.

This delivery plan also incorporates feedback from over 40 stakeholders including primary care GPs, integrated care board (ICB) members, the clinical oversight group, and the integrated community-based care (ICBC) programme.

It sets out a number of priorities to deliver transformation for primary and community care and reflects the engagement work completed with service users, providers and wider stakeholders to identify initiatives and solutions to deliver our ambition.

There will be opportunities for engagement with partners and our communities about how we deliver our transformational priorities.

The six transformation priorities are as follows:

- Deliver enhanced outcomes and experiences for our adults and children by evolving our local teams. We will build on our existing primary care networks to create more integrated neighbourhoods serviced by providers who can share information, caseloads, and estates to provide more joined up care and the capacity to do so.
- Adopt a scaled population health management approach by building capacity and knowledge. We will use data and insight to understand our populations better, identify health inequalities, target marginalised groups, and develop initiatives and services that improve access and result in fairer health and outcomes.
- 3. Actively co-design and co-deliver preventable models of care by strengthening local partnerships and assets. We can promote healthier communities and increase healthy life expectancies through better



#### Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire

**Integrated Care Board** 

understanding and working with our local communities. We recognise that care and support is best delivered by those who understand the adults and children who live within them.

- 4. Increase personalisation of care through engaging and empowering our people. We need to shift towards greater prevention and early intervention. We can do so by tailoring our support to a persons' specific needs and using technology advances to provide support in formats that align with individuals' needs and preferences.
- 5. Improve access to a wider range of services closer to home through greater connection and coordination. We will deliver excellent health and care services closer to people's homes and overcome inequality of access by creating stronger physical and virtual connections between primary and community care and specialist services.
- 6. Support access to the right care by providing co-ordinated urgent care within the community. We want emergency care to be for those who need it most and know we can help people to address their urgent needs within the community. This can prevent avoidable admissions and result in better outcomes and experiences.

#### **Winter Planning**

As our health and care system continues to experience unrelenting demand challenges and operational pressures, we are continuing to work with our partners to deliver existing demand management and capacity improvement plans.

Operationally there continues to be significant joint working in the locality under our Urgent Care, and Ageing Well programme, and the Home First project which support patients to remain at home, aiming to reduce our reliance on bed-based care and improve patient outcomes and experience.

We have also continued to increase our use of NHS@Home (virtual wards) - a flagship BSW scheme. A key focus for the coming months is on increasing referrals to the Wiltshire Health and Care service through continuing to raise the profile of the service.

# Area Board Update December 2023



# Hearing from minority groups

We're working with Wiltshire Council's Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), and children's charity Spurgeons to offer support and advice to minority groups.

#### Our work so far

In September 2022, we began our project with EMTAS and Spurgeons, funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, to hear the experiences of Fijian and Nepalese military families.

Healthwatch Wiltshire held two workshop sessions, at Tidworth and Bulford, with members of these communities, where we listened to their feedback on services and offered advice and guidance.

Key themes were the language barrier in making GP and healthcare appointments over the phone; being understood in an emergency; and a lack of understanding about the GP triage system. But all were registered with a GP, reported good experiences of hospital treatment and had no problems with getting the medication they needed. They were also satisfied with the dental treatment they had received.

#### Our work this year

Our work with EMTAS and Spurgeons has continued in 2023, where we've been engaging with Eastern European and Boater communities in a series of sessions.

This project, which is funded by NHS Charities Together, aims to signpost key medical services and deliver activities to support families' mental health and wellbeing.

#### Support for the Eastern European community

Sessions were held on Thursday mornings during June and July 2023 at the Polish

Community Centre, Trowbridge, with interpretation provided in Polish, Romanian, and Ukranian. We were there to provide information and signposting, while Spurgeons ran activities for children and offered practical advice for families.

Common themes included finding support for children with additional needs, finding mental health support and dealing with loneliness.

#### Support for the Boater community

Sessions were held at the Canal Tavern, Bradford on Avon and the Barge Inn, at Honeystreet, near Pewsey, in late July 2023.

Both sessions were planned more as listening and engagement exercises rather than structured sessions on particular topics. This was in recognition of the fact that this community is less used to being engaged and less likely to attend topic specific sessions.

Common themes included the difficulties boaters face in accessing GP and dental services, issues getting to appointments due to a lack of public transport, and collecting prescriptions as they have no fixed address.

Read our blog to find out more about what we heard.



01225 434218

info@healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk

healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk

#### **Community First Update**



#### Community First - Annual Review and Celebration Video

The Community First Annual Review 2022-2023 is now available to view and download on our website. The Annual Review contains a summary of our work with people and communities over the last 12 months. This includes updates from our programmes and services, a general outline of our priorities and a summary of financial information for the year ending 31 March 2023.

https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Annual-Review-2022-2023-FINAL-VERSION.pdf

Alongside the Annual Review, we have also produced a Celebration Video with a summary of our work in 2022-2023 which you can view using the following link:

https://youtu.be/I\_7JRAxZJGE?si=ueZugKZJx4hwWb6u

#### Community First AGM & Awards Celebration 2023

The Community First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Celebration took place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Devizes Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended the event as we celebrated our achievements in 2022-2023. The Community First Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of groups, organisations, individuals and young people who give so much of their time and enthusiasm to support our charity and its services.

#### **Full List of Winners**

We are sure you will join us in congratulating our winners for their well-deserved awards, many thanks also to Community First President Sarah Troughton for presenting each of our winners with a trophy and certificate.

Award Name	Winner
The Michael Jones Award for Inspirational Link Scheme or Community Minibus Volunteer	Janice Vincent (Malmesbury Link Scheme)
Community Project Funded through the Landfill Communities Fund	Roger Baker (Ashbury Village Hall)
The Martin Hamer in Special Recognition Award	Alan Fox
Most Innovative Community Run Project or Service	Darry New (Community Bus, Haydon Wick)
Robbie's Endeavour Trophy	Winterslow Youth Club
Young Carers Achievement Award - Under 12 years	Charlie
Young Carers Achievement Award - Over 12 years	Hannah



#### **Community First Update**

Project Inspire Achievement Award	Edward
Splash Achievement Award	Sam
Splash Volunteer Award	John Wyeth
Community First Young Leader's Achievement Award	Will
Building Bridges Outstanding Achievement Award	Dorcas Obeney
The Arthur Laflin Volunteer Award	Jacquie Henly (Hilmarton Parish Council)

#### Youth Action Wiltshire - Carols by Candlelight

Youth Action Wiltshire invites you to Carols by Candlelight to celebrate the 25-year anniversary of Wiltshire Young Carers Service. The event will take place on Friday 8th December 2023 (7pm) at Malmesbury Abbey. Drinks and canapes will be served following the service.

Proceeds will fund a programme of exciting and fun respite activities for Wiltshire Young Carers, including music and songwriting, workshops, art, wildlife and adventure activities.

To request tickets, please complete the ticket application form using the link below (a copy is included with this briefing pack) or email Ginnie Keen: ginniekeen@gmail.com.

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adult ticket £20
- Child ticket (14 years and under) £10

Ticket application form: <a href="https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Carol-2023-application-form-v2.docx">https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Carol-2023-application-form-v2.docx</a>

#### The Big Give Christmas Challenge - Wiltshire Young Carers Service



This year Community First is participating in <u>The Big Give Christmas</u> Challenge in support of our Wiltshire Young Carers Service.

We currently hold open cases for Wiltshire young carers, of which 14% are recognised as the most vulnerable with some in the safeguarding system. As well as the pressures of their caring role and having to balance their own school and relationship pressures alongside the additional caring role, the recent pandemic has increased stress and worry. A national survey carried out by Carers Trust showed 58% of

young carers were caring for longer and 40% said their mental health was worse.

Funds raised through The Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign will provide respite activities and support plans for 15 young carers, 30 Young Carers will access remote group webinars and a further 15 young carers can access structured one-to-one mentoring and coaching programmes with our Young Carers Support Workers. This will help them with their mental health and wellbeing. With increased investment, we can receive up to 15 new young carer referrals from our partner agencies.

### FIRST

#### **Community First Update**

Your gift will help more young people feel less alone in their caring role, they will see that home life has improved, they will feel included, be better at attending school, and feel happier.

Through this national campaign, we are aiming to secure up to £4,000 in pledges from supporters and donors which will be match-funded for 7 days between **28**<sup>th</sup> **November to 5**<sup>th</sup> **December** 2023. This is a fantastic way to help make a difference for young carers in Wiltshire and one small donation e.g. £5 will have *twice* the impact during this period.

More information about our how to support our Big Give Christmas Challenge will be available on our website and social media channels from mid-November.

#### Landfill Communities Fund - Wiltshire and Swindon Highlights 2022-2023

Community First manages and administrates the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in Wiltshire and Swindon. The LCF offers capital funding for local community, heritage and environmental projects in areas where local landfill operator sites or depots are located.

Funding for the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon is received from landfill operators. The Hills Group Ltd and Crapper & Sons Landfill Ltd. Over £5.5m of funding has been distributed through the LCF since 2002.

Entrust is the regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund and has produced statistical highlights for the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon in 2022-2023. A copy of the PDF is included with this briefing pack and is summarised below.

- £329k total LCF funds invested.
- 31 projects completed.
- 45 jobs were created as a result of funded projects.
- 298 people volunteer due to funding offered through the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon
- 124,720 public visits.
- £5.77 of additional economic value for every £1 invested through the LCF.

For more information about the Landfill Communities Fund in Wiltshire and Swindon, please visit the Community First website: <a href="https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants">www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants</a>

#### MiDAS - Minibus Driver Awareness Training

Community First offers accredited MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness) Training for organisations and groups, led by our fantastic Training Co-ordinator Martin Carter.

MiDAS is a membership-based scheme designed to enhance both driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. MiDAS is a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. Community First is now taking new bookings for MiDAS minibus training with our Training Coordinator Martin Carter. Martin is a retired Police Advanced Driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses.

The MiDAS training course includes a session on how to operate a minibus safely. This is followed by a 30-minute multiple-choice assessment with 20 questions. Trainees will need to answer 16 questions correctly to pass the theory test. Finally, there will be a practical test which incorporates a driving skills training session and an assessment drive which will last just over an hour, with the assessment taking 30



#### **Community First Update**

minutes. Upon completion of the theory and practical test, trainees will receive a certificate which is valid for 4 years.

Pricing is based on a minimum group size of 3 drivers per booking and starts at £105.00 per person. We are now taking new bookings for Winter 2023, early booking is recommended to secure a training place.

Please contact mcarter@communityfirst.org.uk for more information and how to book training.

A leaflet about MiDAS training is included with this briefing pack.

#### Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

eewing@communityfirst.org.uk

#### YOUTH ACTION WILTSHIRE CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 2023

To avoid disappointment please apply for tickets as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

There will be a glass of wine and canapes following the service.

Ticket Application form: Adults £20 and Children 14 years and under £10
Name:-
Address:-
Postal Code
Email address:- please write clearly
I would like to apply for adult tickets at £20 each
I would like to apply forchildren tickets . £10 -14 years and under
I would like to donate (optional) £
Total amount paid £ online or by cheque
Gift Aid:- Gift Aid increases any donations (not your ticket price) by 25% at no additional cost to you. To gift Aid please read the words below, then sign and date the form. Your address above is needed to confirm that you are a current UK taxpayer.  I agree to Youth Action Wiltshire (YAW) claiming Gift Aid on this and future donations I make to the charity. By signing this I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.
Signature
To pay either:  Online Banking:- Youth Action Wiltshire  Sort Code:- 40-17-17
Account No:- 51448714 Reference carol service, with your name, please
Cheque:- Made payable to Youth Action Wiltshire, and sent to Ginnie, to the address below.
Please email or post this ticket form to Ginnie Keen at <a href="mailto:ginniekeen@gmail.com">ginniekeen@gmail.com</a> or post to Mrs D.Keen The Firs Farm, Corston. Malmesbury SN16 0HB

Tickets will be emailed (or posted if you do not have an email)to you.

# 2022/2023 Statistical Highlights

# COMMUNITY: FIRST



£329k

Total LCF Funds invested





31 Projects completed

Each £1 spent, added £5.77 of additional economic value



45 jobs created

as a result of funded projects



3 mile

av 3.3 miles to landfill site

124,720 public visits



298 people volunteered due to Community First's funding.





# MiDAS: Minibus Driver Awareness Training

## Is your group or organisation looking to train new minibus drivers?

MiDAS is a training scheme designed to enhance driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. MiDAS is a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers.

Community First is now taking bookings for MiDAS training with our MiDAS Training Coordinator Martin Carter. Martin is a retired Police Advanced Driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses.

"Excellent course. Great trainer!"

MiDAS Training Feedback

MiDAS Training includes a theory and practical test, along with detailed information on how to operate and manage a minibus safely. Drivers who pass both the MiDAS practical and theory tests will receive a certificate which is valid for four years.

#### **Bookings:**

mcarter@communityfirst.org.uk



Standard MiDAS induction £125.00 Accessible MiDAS induction £165.00 Standard MiDAS refresher £105.00 Accessible MiDAS refresher £125.00

> Weekdays Only Minimum 3 drivers per booking



#### **Melksham Area Board**

#### **06 December 2023**

#### **Melksham Area Grant Report**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1. To provide details of the grant applications made to the Melksham Area Board. These could include:
  - community area grants
  - youth grants
  - older and vulnerable people grants
  - area board initiatives
- 2. To document any recommendations provided through sub groups.

#### **Area Board Current Financial Position**

	Community Area Grants	Youth Grants	Older and Vulnerable People Grants
Opening Balance For 2023/24	£ 22,309.00	£ 18,349.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 3,600.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 1,500.00
Current Balance	£ 18,709.00	£ 8,349.00	£ 6,200.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 18,709.00	£ 6,543.44	£ 4,205.22

#### **Grant Funding Application Summary**

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<u>ABG1416</u>	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Riverside Centre	Food and Community Support Project	£3000.00	£1500.00

#### **Project Summary:**

Melksham is considered a deprived town with a high number of vulnerable families who are regularly attending the Food Bank and Food Larder. Many of these families are experiencing food poverty, which this project is to address by way of guidance in how to provide good healthy families meals, at low cost.

<u>ABG1438</u>	Older and	Great Hinton	Great Hinton	£494.78	£494.78
	Vulnerable Adults	Community	Heritage Group		
	Funding	Committee			

Application	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	<b>Total Cost</b>	Requested
Reference					

#### **Project Summary:**

After an exploratory meeting on 17th October 2023, a group of Great Hinton residents led by John Buckingham hope to produce a heritage resource for village and area records. As an initial activity, the new Heritage Group intend to update the village map of properties, and gather and collate existing resources (documents, photographs, the Grapevine village newsletter, a Long estate auction catalogue, previous research done by two young residents of the village, etc). Members of the group will meet monthly to work together to establish further sources of information on the history of village properties and carry out interviews to ask for peoples' reminiscences to capture valuable social history from current and former residents. The outcome of the project will be a key resource outlining the main historical and social features of properties for which information is found. It is planned that this will be presented as a paper-based folder, cross referenced to an archive of all the supporting resources for each property. This pair of resources would to be kept in the village hall, to allow easy access for interested parties. It is recognised that the next step is to create a web-based resource, and/or add the information to the Melksham and Wiltshire and Swindon History centre web based resources. This project will carry out the essential groundwork necessary to achieve this as a future aim.

<u>ABG1437</u>	Youth Grant	The Equivalent	Self harm support	£10000.00	£1805.56
		Project CIC	programme		

Application	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
Reference					

#### **Project Summary:**

Following our success in providing a fully funded Self Harm Support Programme for young people living in Somerset last year, we are applying for a grant to extend a specialized support program for young people living in Wiltshire who are struggling with with their mental wellbeing and who's families are on a low income. We will do so by utilizing Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) techniques, offering a unique and therapeutic approach to assist young individuals in overcoming self-harm tendencies and promoting their overall well-being and mental health. Program Overview: The proposed Equine Facilitated Learning Self-Harm Support Program is designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and therapeutic environment for young people struggling with self-harm behaviours. The program will combine traditional EFL approaches with the transformative power of equine interactions to foster emotional healing, personal growth, and improved coping mechanisms. Program objectives: Empowerment and Resilience: Utilize equine interactions to help young participants build self-esteem, selfawareness, and resilience, empowering them to overcome self-harm tendencies. Crisis Intervention and Support: Offer immediate and ongoing support to young individuals in crisis, providing them with coping strategies and a support network to navigate difficult emotions and challenges. Skill Development: Facilitate learning experiences with horses to enhance interpersonal skills, emotional regulation, problem-solving, and communication abilities. Self Healing: Utilize Equine Facilitated Learning to provide a non-judgmental and healing environment where participants can process and express their emotions constructively. Anticipated Impact: The Equine Facilitated Learning Self-Harm Support Program aspires to make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of young participants by promoting emotional well-being, reducing self-harm instances, and fostering a sense of hope and resilience. We anticipate that this program will not only positively affect the individuals directly involved but will also contribute to creating a safer and more supportive community. Last year, we supported 20 Somerset students for 16 weeks, funded by Somerset Community Foundation. Of those 20 students, 16 completed the course and all 16 reported a significant improvement to their mental health and reduction in self harm. They also reported improvements in attendance at school/college, and we witnessed incredible social and emotional growth. The students started as highly anxious, closed down and introverted, but left as confident, chatty and optimistic, having made strong bonds with their peers and developed skills to navigate the outside world with less fear of being triggered. We often receive enquiries from distressed parents of young people living in Melksham who are suffering with their mental health and self harming, thus identifying a need for support for young people living in the town. So as to remain impartial, we will be seeking referrals for our proposed support via organisations such as 4Youth and Melksham Oak Community School. The funding we are seeking will be used to support 13 young people in need from Melksham to attend a full term of sessions (7 weeks). This works out at £138.89 per young person and includes report writing. The funding from Melksham Area Board will hopefully be being matched with a grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation t cover our remaining costs which are outlined below. Please see below a summary of our monthly expenses which we use to establish the cost of each session Monthly Costs £ ex VAT Rent £ 1,050.00 Hay £790.00 Feed £317.00 Accountant £200.00 Vets £400.00 Tea / drinks £25.00 Insurance £380.00 Other £ 240.00 Office Costs £184.00 Wages £ 5,713.00 Horse Supplement £160.00 Total £ 9,459.00 Available Monthly Provision Hours 56 Cost per provision hour £168.91 Cost per 90 min session £253.37

#### **Background**

- 3. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.
- 4. Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:
  - Community Area Grants (capital)
  - Youth Grants (revenue)
  - Older and Vulnerable People Grants (revenue)
- 5. The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

#### **Main Considerations**

- 6. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young persons funding guidelines have been adhered to.
- 7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
- 8. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub groups of the Area Boards.

#### **Safeguarding Implications**

9. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

#### **Public Health Implications**

10. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

#### **Environmental & Climate Change Implications**

11. Grant funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

#### **Financial Implications**

12. Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

#### **Legal Implications**

13. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

#### **Workforce Implications**

14. There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

#### **Equalities Implications**

- 15. Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 16. Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

#### **Proposals**

17. To consider and determine the applications for grant funding.

#### **Report Author**

• Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Richard.Rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.



	Item	Update	Actions and recommendations	Who
	Melksham LHFIG - Meeti	ng Notes - Thursday 2 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at 18:00 hrs		
1.	Attendees and apologies			
	Attendees: Apologies:	Cllr Mike Sankey – Chair, Cllr Jonathon Seed Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Nick Holder Cllr Phil Alford, Jonathon Tapper – Steeple Ashton PC Colin Wade – Semington PC, Pat Aves - Melksham TC Sarah Dow – Clerk to Keevil PC, Pat Tucker - Keevil PC Alan Baines – Melksham Without PC,Mary Winterburn - Great Hinton PC, Andy Cadwallader – Area Highway Engineer, Martin Rose – Principal Traffic Engineer Mark Stansby – Principal Traffic Engineer		AB
2.	Notes of last meeting			All
		The notes of the previous LHFIG meeting held on 03/08/23 2023 were presented to the Area Board at its 12/09/23 meeting with members passing all recommendations.	LHFIG to note.	All



3.	Financial Position			
		The closing balance for 2022/23 is now confirmed at £51,247.70 (see Appendix 1). This surplus is carried forward to this financial year.		AB
		The current balance for 2023/24, less previous commitments stands at £44,431.53		
4.	Live Priority schemes			
a)	Issue 6055 – Broughton Gifford - Gateways and Traffic Management measures.	The outstanding bollards have now been installed and we await the bill from our contractor.  Remedial work to the road markings is to be done imminently. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/">https://www.google.com/maps/</a>	Remedial works now complete. Awaiting billing for additional bollards.  Remove from next Tracker.	
b)	Issue 9-20-9 Melksham Sandridge Road – request to improve footway link to Maple Close	The Legal Team report that the final document was issued to the Landowner via his solicitor for sign-off at the end of May, but this has yet to be returned. The Town Clerk has since advised that the landowner has passed away, but his partner will now oversee matters. For legal reasons, it is likely to further delay this project.  Once the legal process has been completed, Highways will instruct the arborist team to remove the hedgerow and root system and erect Haras fencing to maintain a boundary between the highway and private property. This work is anticipated to take place in November. Once completed, the Town Council can mobilise their builder to construct the new boundary wall.	Town Council to continue to liaise with the landowner's legal team to move this matter forward.  Works on hold whilst Legal issues (probate) relating to free dedication with new owners is resolved. Completion unlikely in 23/24. Update at next meeting	MR Town Council



		Work to widen the path is programmed to commence on 2 <sup>nd</sup> January next year and should be completed within 10 days, although the programme might be affected should the legal process stall. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps">https://www.google.com/maps</a>		
c)	Issue 9-22-12 Bowerhill Halifax Road – request for drop kerbs to link Brampton Court with Sunderland Close  Issue 9-22-13 Bowerhill DeHavilland Place and Dowding Way – Request for footway extensions and drop kerbs	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  The work at both sites has been completed under a single Order. Interim bills have been received to the value of £6,452.73. HIAMS order M00027	Final account received for £6452.73. Invoice request to PC raised 30/10/23.  Remove from next tracker.	MR
d)	Issue 9-22-17 –  Melksham Without (various roads) Request for Parking Control Measures  To also include Issues 9- 23-3 Beanacre, 9-23-5 Bowerhill and 9-23-7 Melksham	Issue Submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  Request for a Parking Review at the following locations:      Semington Canal Bridge     Lancaster Road Bowerhill     Avro Way Bowerhill     Merlin Way Bowerhill     Mitchell Drive Bowerhill  It was noted that the canal forms the boundary between Melksham Without and Semington Parishes and that measures would be needed on both sides of the bridge.	Mark S has commenced review. Update to be provided at next meeting.	MS



		Semington Parish confirmed that they are content for measures to be included on their side of the bridge but no other sites have been identified for review within their Parish.  Investigation work to commence late July / early August.		
e)	Issue 9-19-11 Bowerhill Portal Road – Request for Bowerhill nameplate and white gates	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  An order (M00174) has been placed to undertake this work. Contractor is currently awaiting delivery of the gate. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps">https://www.google.com/maps</a>	Order Value £2422.10 Works complete but awaiting final account. Invoice to be raised for MWPC	MR
f)	Issue 9-22-2 Melksham The Crays – request for drop kerbs	Issue submitted by Melksham Town Council  The work has been completed and an interim bill has been received to the value of £2,388.78.  Highways to chase contractor for outstanding bills.	Final account submitted. Cost of £2388.78. Invoice request for MTC raised 01/11/23 Remove from next tracker	MR
g)	Issue 9-22-11 A350 Beanacre - request for measures to control entry speed at north end of village	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  Design work now underway. Proposals and an estimate will be issued to the Parish in advance of the next meeting. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps">https://www.google.com/maps</a>	Plans submitted to Melksham Without for consideration. Projected cost of both road markings / Gates, Signs is £13,300.  Alternate option to omit Central Hatching / road Studs and only install gates, signs, yellow transverse base at a cost of £6600. Remaining work to be picked up as part of future MM.  MWPC have confirmed their preference for this option and member agreed for this to progress to implementation. MWPC 50% contribution.	MS



h)	Issue 9-22-20	Issue submitted by Keevil Parish Council	Barrier works complete	MR
	Keevil, Martins Road – request to alter barriers	Issue concerns Right of Way, KEEV27 which provides access to the recreation ground.	Note increase in costs from original estimate of £10,650 to £13,200.	
	and improve condition of footpath surface.	Resurfacing work has been completed by the ROW team's contractor and we await their bill. Highways have removed the life expired safety barrier and provided new drop kerbs and hard standing.	PC to be invoiced for 25% contribution.	
		With the Parish's brief to make the path more accessible for buggies and wheelchair users, and taking into account the slow speeds and low traffic volume on Martins Road, officers decided againt replacing the barrier.		
		However, having received concerns from parishioners about this decision, the Parish have asked for a new, smaller barrier to be installed. This was agreed at a site meeting and Highways have this in hand. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/">https://www.google.com/maps/</a>		
i)	Shaw Corsham Road – request to reinstate louvre shuttering on	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  Louvres were omitted on the new signal heads when the traffic lights were replaced in 2020.	Louvres fitted to signal heads 25/09/23. Site to be monitored for residual problems following the change. Estimated cost £460.00. Awaiting Billing.	MR
	approach to signals	An order has been placed with our Traffic Signal Consultants to undertake this work. Cllr Alford asked if this could be completed before the start of the Autumn term?	To be removed from next tracker	
j)	Issue 9-23-2 – Great Hinton – request to replace a wooden stile	Issue submitted by Great Hinton Parish Council	Works Complete. Awaiting final billing. Area Board to note.	MR



	with a Kissing Gate to create better access to a number of local Footpaths	Work has been delayed due to late delivery of the new gate. Gate has now arrived and installation is to be undertaken by the ROW team.	To be removed from next Tracker	AB to note
k)	Issue 9-23-3 – Beanacre Westlands Lane – request to prohibit parking at the access to the new water pumping station.	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  Parking would need to be restricted on both sides of the lane, from the A350 to the new access.  Refer to Item 4i of the agenda.  https://www.google.com/maps	Mark Stansby to include this location as part of Site included in parking review under Issue 9-23-5. Update for next meeting	MR AB to note
1)	Issue 9-23-4 Bus Gate at Semington Road – request for Camera Enforcement.	Issue submitted by Semington Parish Council  Wiltshire Council has a camera available, and the Parish have asked if this could be installed for enforcement. Semington have liaised with Melksham Without who are supportive of this proposal.  Since the last meeting, the road markings have been refreshed and the signs inspected for compliance to enable enforcement by the Police. Maintenance of the metal gate is the responsibility of the local highways office and defects should be reported using the MyWilts App.  Having considered the suggestion of relocating the gate, it is officers' recommendation to maintain the gate where it is, and to undertake a traffic survey to guage the level of non-compliance prior to committing to any expenditure.  Parish is content for the survey to take place.	Currently awaiting metro-count survey.(Est. Jan 24)  Andy Cadwallader has inspected the gate and has indicted the gate whilst damaged, is serviceable. The current padlock is locked shut with no key and cannot be used. New Padlock to be acquired and keys provided to authorised permit holders in due course  Email received from Melksham without Pc 11/10/23 re. informal monitoring data submitted by Semington PC.  Mobile Site has been put forward for possible mobile enforcement by ANPR camera, however approval for the necessary powers from the DfT not expected until spring 24. (site would require local consultation)  Fixed ANPR camera will require costs to	MR AHE



		https://www.google.com/maps/	relocate existing camera (Salisbury) approx. £10,000 and annual running costs £10,000. Cost would have to be borne by LHFIG less any fine revenue.  Member agreed that given the commitment from the police to undertake enforcement, the forthcoming Jan 24 metro count and imminent removal of the Staverton road closure to review the situation at the Feb 24 meeting.	
m)	Issue 9-23-5 – Bowerhill various sites – request for Parking Review	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council.  Parking concerns have been raised at the following sites at Bowerhill:  1. Pathfinder Way 2. Westinghouse Way 3. Lancaster Road  Refer to Item 4i of the agenda.	Mark S has commenced review. Update to be provided at next meeting.	MR AB to note
n)	Issue 9-23-7 Melksham various roads – request for Parking Review	Parking concerns have been raised at the following locations:  1. Union Street – could parking be permitted to create chicanes?  2. The City / Alms Houses – request for residents parking scheme  3. Cranesbill Road – issue at school times  4. Skylark – no details submitted.	Highways to write to Town Clerk. 2. The City / Alms Houses request for residents parking scheme to be removed from list.  Mark S has commenced review. Update to be provided at next meeting.	AB to note MS



		Highways to request further details of these issues from Town Council, prior to the review.		
0)	Issue 9-22-21 – Melksham Snarlton Lane,	Issue submitted by Cllr Sankey and Melksham Town Council	Works complete awaiting final account (Order M00364).	
	Crossing point from Nightingale Close – request for coloured road surface due to safety concerns	View of the crossing is often restricted due to vegetation and a warning sign was previously funded through the CATG / LHFIG process. The hedgerow is protected by a preservation order and will receive a flail cut as part of the routine maintenance programme.	Melksham TC to be invoiced.	
		It was agreed to pursue an estimate to provide a coloured high friction strip to highlight the crossing area to motorists. Highways have suggested the use of a buff coloured material which will provide sufficient contrast against the regular road surface.		
		The area to be treated is just under 28 square metres and the estimate to undertake this work £2,909.15, which includes legal fees for a temporary road closure. A provisional date to undertake this work has been agreed with the Contractor as 30 <sup>th</sup> August, in time for the start of the new school year.		
		Following a discussion the group were in agreement to take this forward. Town Council are content to make a 50% contribution.  Recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is added to the Priority Schemes list, and to allocate a sum of £1,454.58		



5.	Non LHFIG Funded Schemes (Section 106, Active Travel etc)			
	Melksham Dunch Lane – funded by Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens development	Consultation on full closure over rail bridge or one way operation from east to west and new parking controls to be carried out by the Town Council.  Town Council to undertake consultation in the New Year (2023). Section 106 moniesExpires 1/11/2026	Ongoing discussion re. consultation for Dunch Lane to be held with Melksham Town council.  Consultation on options for Dunch Lane anticipated during Deb 24	Melksham TC
	Issue 9-22-10  Berryfield Semington Road – request to install 2 bus shelters	Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  There is a Section 106 fund of £20,662 to provide 2 x shelters with seating, high access kerbs with RTI facility (or to be ready for RTI installation.  Design work is underway with a start date for installation now confirmed as 27/11/23.	Delay to implementation due to issues relating to power supply to facilitate future RTPI. Cut out boxes for future electrical supply to be installed. Currently no RTPI is planned as part of works  Order for Civils work placed (£6305.60 M00485), with bus shelter order to follow (Note: 8 week lead in for shelters) Issue with adopted highway extent that will need to resolved. Update at Feb 24 Meeting.	AB to Note
	A365 Shaw Bath Road Footway improvements – funded by Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens development.	Due to the cancellation of a project this scheme had been brought forward in the work programme and work on the ground has now been completed. Highways are awaiting bills from the contractor.  Representatives from the Town Council questioned why they were being asked for a contribution with the work having been carried out within Melksham Without's area. Officers reported that this had been agreed at a previous	Final account agreed £25,249.91  Funding via Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens development = £20,000.00 and Melksham AB = £7,000 (deposited)  No requirement for contribution from Melksham TC. Confirmed via email  S106 Monies transferred to LHFIG Budget.	AB To note



	Active Travel Scheme - Si promote use of shared use routes in town		LHFIG meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023, although the Town Council have yet to confirm their contribution (£1,500).  Scheme to be funded from a third tranche of Section 106 money from the George Ward Gardens development. There are funds remaining (£13,034.35) specifically to improve cycleway signing within the town.  Town Council to submit a list of locations for signing improvements.	Remove from next tracker.  MR to work with Melksham TC to look at sites within the town for cycle signing improvements. Likely early 2024.	MR / Town Council
6.	New Requests and ongo	ing Issue	es		
a)	Issue 9-22-15 — Melksham junction of Church Street and High Street and Lowbourne — request for audible warning at signal controlled crossing points	Highwa Consult Town C on the c why the enabled Most las The "Cos are very the safe visually in	ys have commissioned their Traffic Signal ants (Atkins) to investigate this matter.  ouncil were content with the previous response lisablement of the audible warnings, but asked crossing by Costa had the audible warning?  St update from Atkins read:  Ita" crossing bleepers are audible at the junction but quiet. Usually we would say switch them off to be on side but considering the issues identified by the impaired pedestrian (which are quite significant and by resolved by other means i.e. second push button) we get to propose a second site visit with Telent (the signal)	Audible signals at both crossing now switched on. Sites to be monitored for issues. MR to email Melksham TC.  Remove from next tracker.	



		engineers) to turn the bleepers down at the crossing and switch on the bleepers at the junction (at their lowest level) and review if the bleepers can be heard between the two sites. If they can't be heard, then we will leave the crossing ones on and switch the junction ones on too, which would be a great benefit to the resident. If the bleepers can be heard at the lowest setting then we will likely switch the crossing ones off and leave the junction ones off too.  We will programme in a visit with Telent and provide more feedback when completed. Sorry this isn't a more definite answer. The crossing ones have been left on for now as they are only just audible and the risk of confusion is low especially for those familiar with the sites.  We now await their findings of a second visit to the site with their contractor.		
b)	Issue 9-23-8 Melksham Bank Street – request for railings and / or other measures to improve safety	Issue submitted to Melksham Town Council  The unprotected high pavement offers a risk of falling, particularly for those who are visually impaired.  Suggestion is for railings and / or tactile paving.  This has been explored before and it was requested that Highways circulate previous information concerning this, for further discussion. Please refer to Appendices 4 and 5 for background information. Appendix 6 indicates work previously undertaken on behalf of this group in 2014.  Whilst noting the previous actions and reports, the Town Council asked that this matter be given further consideration. Highways suggested that this be passed to their consultants who are considering various	Request made to Atkins to include Bank Street for feasibility work as part of A3102 Safer Roads Study. Awaiting update.  Cllr Sankey has asked that ideas for improvement are considered away from Safer Roads study. MR to examine options and report back to Feb 24 meeting.	AB to note  MR



		measures as part of the A3102 Road Safety Study, and that no costs would be incurred by the LHFIG.  The LHFIG were content to follow this suggestion.		
c)	Issue 9-23-9 Speeding traffic on A365 Shaw and Whitley Corsham Road – request for SLOW road markings	New issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Coiuncil  Request is for SLOWs to be painted at;  • Folly Lane, Shaw nr Beltane Place (inbound)  • Shaw Hill just after signals (outbound)  • Whitley Corsham Road near Mavern House  Following a discussion it was agreed that Highways should investigate and formulate a proposal with ball park costings, ahead of the next meeting.	Speeding concerns.30mph roundels not possible. Amended request for 3no. SLOW markings at locations indicated.  Cost Estimate.  - Establishment = £509.00  - 3no. SLOW markings = £136.44  - Stop /Go 2 hours = £60.00  Total = £705.00.  Group agreed to move to progress sites without need for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party contribution. Agreed to combine with other LHFIG sites required lining work to reduce establishment costs.	MR
d)	Issue 9-23-10 — A350 Beanacre — request to review the signs which indicate the weight limit on Westlands Lane	New issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council  Request for signing review.  Following a discussion it was agreed that Highways should investigate both ends of the lane, and formulate a proposal with ball park costings, ahead of the next meeting. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/A350">https://www.google.com/maps/A350</a> <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/">https://www.google.com/maps/</a>	Proposal presented to group. Estimated cost including 20% contingency. £3134.00 (western end only)  Advance signing already in place at Corsham Road end of Westlands Lane.  Additional advance signs B3353 on likely to cost an additional £800-£1,000.  Group agreed to move to 'Live priority schemes' subject to confirmation by MWPC	MR



e)	Issue 9-23-11	New issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish	Proposal presented to group.	MR
	A365 Bowerhill, Devizes Road junction with Hornchurch Road – request to introduce	Council  Concerns have been raised of vehicles overtaking through and around the ghost island.	Option 1 - Kerbed traffic islands x 2 with internally illuminated 'keep left' bollards Cost estimate incl. 20% contingency. = £11,325.00	MWPC
	double white line system to prevent overtaking.	Highways reported that solid white lines are not considered appropriate for speed limits below 40 mph. Other options, such as the placement of an island to deter overtaking could be considered.	Option 2 - Rediweld 'Redipave' bolt down rubber traffic islands x 2 with solar powered rebound bollards (no ducting) Rediweld install. Cost estimate not including continency £14,062.44	
		Highways to investigate and formulate a proposal with ball park costings, ahead of the next meeting. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/">https://www.google.com/maps/</a>	Melksham without PC to consider options and report back to Feb 24 meeting.	
f)	Issue 9-23-12 Steeple Ashton, Sandpits Lane – request for signing measures and SLOW marking	New issue submitted by Steeple Ashton Parish Council  Concerns over speed of vehicles in the vicinity of access into playing field, which is also a ROW. The speed limit at this point is National Limit.	Request for Village gateway sign, SLOW markings, pedestrians in road signs Refer to proposal.  Cost Estimate including 20% contingency = £1077.14.	MR
		Following a discussion it was agreed that Highways should investigate and formulate a proposal with ball park costings, ahead of the next meeting. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/">https://www.google.com/maps/</a>	Group agreed to move to 'Live priority schemes' subject. SLOW marking to be picked up alongside Issue 9-23-9 to reduce establishment cost.	
g)	Issue 9-23-13 Steeple Ashton Sandpits Lane – request to improve access / egress into the playing field	New issue submitted by Steeple Ashton Parish Council Request for hard standing and footpath surface improvements into playing field access. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Highways	Refer to proposal Plan - New steps constructed using timber, stakes, type 1 sub base and compacted road plannings. Non-scheduled work so standalone price will be required - Wessex Tree Care Estimate £2.5k - £3.5k	MR Steeple Ashton PC
		should investigate and formulate a proposal with ball park costings. This will require a more detailed study and Highways requested that this be added to the Priority	NOTE: Investigate option to create new entrance in playing field via existing footway	



		Schemes List (without funding at this time) for consideration when staff resources become available. The group were content to follow this process.https://www.google.com/maps/	east of current entrance.  Steeple Ashton PC to consider option including new entrance into field and report back	
h)	Issue 9-23-14 Steeple Ashton Common Hill / Newleaze – request for pedestrian barrier at exit of children's play area	New issue submitted by Steeple Ashton Parish Council  The play area is a thoroughfare for residents accessing Common Hill and a barrier would give protection for children who are witnessed running from this area towards th main road.  Following a discussion it was agreed that Highways should investigate and formulate a proposal with ball park costings, ahead of the next meeting. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps">https://www.google.com/maps</a>	Existing path from play area 1.0m wide. Width insufficient for provision of pedestrian barrier. Main footway only 1.2m wide which is insufficient to accommodate barrier at 450mm offset.  Option 1 - Provide splay at end of existing footpath to maintain through width and install single pedestrian railing 1.0m wide on existing footway. Cost approx. £1800.  Group agreed to move to live priority schemes subject to confirmation from Steeple Ashton PC	MR Steeple Ashton PC
i)	Issue 9-23-15 Halifax Road Bowerhill  'H' Bar Marking request.	New issue submitted by MWPC. Following a request via LHFIG, dropped kerbs have recently been installed on Halifax Road to enable those with wheelchairs/mobility scooters to access facilities on Bowerhill, such as Tesco and the Pub. However, vehicles are regularly parking in front of the dropped kerb and therefore stopping anyone with mobility issues crossing the road at this point. https://www.google.com/maps/	Group agreed to move to live priority schemes with no requirement for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party contribution.  H bars x 3 to be picked up alongside Issue 9-23-9 and 9-23-12 to reduce establishment cost.	MR
j)	Issue 9-23-16 Magister Road, Bowerhill Request for 'Children at play sign'	Residents had previously sought a change in the grass- cutting regime from wildflower cut on the green at the bottom of Magister Road, in order to create a play area at the front part of the green for children to play and kick a ball etc. Subsequently residents had contacted Wiltshire Councillor Nick Holder with concerns that drivers were not necessarily aware that children may be playing on	Group agreed to move to 'Live priority schemes'  Estimated Cost £100.00	MR



		the green and therefore not aware of the potential for children to run out into the road, chasing a ball for instance. <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/">https://www.google.com/maps/</a>		
k)	Issue 9-23-17  Mitchell DR, Bowerhill Estate, Market Place Melksham	The installation of Realtime Information (RTI) on Mitchell Drive, Bowerhill and Market Place x 2 bus shelters.  https://www.google.com/maps/Mitchell Drivehttps://www.google.com/maps/Market Place	Approx cost per site £6000.  Group agreed to move to 'Live priority schemes' for RTPI at 3 sites, Market Place Street, Melksham x2, Mitchell Drive, Bowerhill with match funding (50%) where necessary.  MR to speak to passenger Transport for sites to be assessed. Not financial commitment at this time. Update at Feb 24 meeting.	MR
6.	Other items			
a)	Pavement and Footway Improvement Schemes (pre-LHFIG)	There was no footway patching carried out in 2022, therefore the work at Philips Close remains outstanding.  Major Maintenance report that there are no resources available to progress the Ebenezer Chapel footway between Union Street and King George V playing field. The footpath is due to be inspected again to determine whether it can remain open for the time being.  For the sites approved for footway reconstruction, Corfe Road, Melksham has been completed and Sherwood Avenue Melksham remains outstanding.  No update was available for the Footway Slurry sites at  Ashley Close, Whitley	AC's update presented to group. MR to update Cllr Holder Re. Birch Grove	AB to note



		<ul> <li>Tower Road, Melksham including cul-de-sac off Blackmore Road</li> <li>Sherwood Avenue/Savernake Avenue, Melksham</li> <li>Wellington Drive, Bowerhill</li> <li>Birch Grove, Bowerhill</li> <li>Elm Close, Bowerhill</li> <li>Blackmore Road Cul-de-sacs, Melksham</li> </ul>			
b)	Deadline for submitting LHFIG Requests	All requests are to be submitted two weeks prior to a meeting taking place. Requests received after the deadline will be deferred until the following meeting.  Requests to be sent to LHFIGrequests@wiltshire.gov.uk  The deadline for our next meeting is 25th January 2024	All to note	All	
7.	Any other business				
	Parking bay at the - Email relating to parking bay on Union Street - S Renfrew (Local Highways) entrance to Union S				
8.	Dates of future meetings  8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024.				



Melksham Local Highways & Footway Improvement Group

**Highways Traffic Officer - Martin Rose** 

Area Highway Engineer - Andy Cadwallader

#### 1. Environmental & Community Implications

1.1. Environmental and community implications were considered by the LHFIG during their deliberations. The funding of projects will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of environmental, social and community wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

#### 2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. All decisions must fall within the Highways funding allocated to Melksham Area Board.
- 2.2. If funding is allocated in line with LHFIG recommendations outlined in this report, and all relevant 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions are confirmed, Melksham Area Board will have a remaining Highways funding balance of: £41,424.83

#### 3. Legal Implications

3.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

#### 4. HR Implications

4.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

#### 5. Equality and Inclusion Implications

5.1 The schemes recommended to the Area Board will improve road safety for all users of the highway.

#### 6. Safeguarding implications

6.1 There are no specific Safeguarding implications related to this report.

#### 7. Recommendations to Melksham Area Board

7.1 To add the following Issues to the Priority Schemes List with funding



- Issue 9-23-9 Speeding traffic on A365 Shaw and Whitley Corsham Road SLOW road markings (£300 100% LHFIG)
- Issue 9-23-12 Steeple Ashton, Sandpits Lane signs / road markings (£1077.14 100% LHFIG funded)
- **Issue 9-23-14** Steeple Ashton Common Hill / Newleaze request for pedestrian barrier at exit of children's play area (£1,800.00 75% LHFIG, 25% PC)
- **Issue 9-23-15** Halifax Road Bowerhill 'H' Bar Marking request (£300 100% LHFIG)
- **Issue 9-23-16** Magister Road, Bowerhill Request for 'Children at play sign' (£100 100% LHFIG)

#### 7.2 To add the following Issues to the Priority Schemes List without funding at this time

- Issue 9-23-17 RTPI at Mitchell Drive, Bowerhill Estate, Market Place Melksham x 2

#### Melksham LHFIG EXPENDITURE 2023 / 24

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (as of 15/11/23)

LHFIG Budget 23/24 £24,338.00

Carry F/wd 22/23 £51,247.70 £75,585.70 A

Projected Spend 23/24 £105,513.35 B

Balance -£29,927.65 C (A-B)

3rd Party Contributions (Details below) £71,083.19 D

Current Balance £41,155.54 E (C+D)

SCHEME	ORIGINAL ESTIMATE	LHFIG COMMITMENT	EXPENDITURE TO DATE 23/24	PROJECTED SPEND 23/24
1 Broughton Gifford Traffic Calming – bollards	£1,060.00	£1,060.00	£0.00	£1,200.00
2 A365 Shaw / Dunch Lane Footway imp	£29,177.93	£0.00	£25,249.91	£25,249.91
3 Melksham Sandridge Rd / Maple Cl Footway	£20,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
4 Bowerhill Halifax Road – drop kerbs / Footway Imp	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£6,452.73	£6,452.73
5 Bowerhill Portal Road – Village Gateway	£3,000.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,710.79
6 Melksham The Crays – drop kerb	£2,500.00	£1,250.00	£2,388.78	£2,388.78
7 A350 Beanacre – Gateway treatment	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£6,600.00
8 Keevil Martins Road Footpath improvements	£10,650.00	£7,987.50	£1,752.77	£13,200.00
9 Shaw Corsham Road - Traffic Signal Louvres	£750.00	£375.00	£0.00	£500.00
10 Great Hinton - ROW Kissing Gate	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
11 Berryfield Semington Road – 2 x Bus Shelters	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
12 Melksham Snarlton Lane Crossing Point	£2,909.15	£1,454.58	£0.00	£1,000.00
13 Sandpits Lane Signing and Lining	£1,077.14	£1,077.14	£0.00	£1,077.14
14 Ashton Common Hill/ Newleaze pedestrian barrier	£1,800.00	£1,800.00	£0.00	£1,800.00
15 H bar markings Halifax Road Bowerhill	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
16 Magister Road Children warning sign	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
17 A365 Shaw / Corsham Road SLOWs x 3	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
18 RTPI Sites Melksham / Melksham without	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
19 A350 Beanacre – Weight limit ADS	£3,134.00	£3,134.00	£0.00	£3,134.00
	£109,424.22	£26,127.08	£35,844.19	£105,513.35 B

Invoice request raise

N/A N/A

30/10/23 15/11/23 01/11/23

3rd party Contributions	Contribution	Notes
A365 Shaw / Dunch Lane footway	£20,077.54	Section 106 funded
A365 Shaw / Dunch Lane footway	£7,000.00	Melksham AB
Melksham Sandridge Rd / Maple Cl Footway	£10,000.00	Melksham TC (50% subject to confirmation)
Bowerhill Halifax Road Drop kerbs / Footway Imp	£3,226.37	Melksham without (50% invoice upon completion)
Bowerhill Portal Road Gateway	£855.40	Melksham without (50% invoice upon completion)
Melksham The Crays Drop kerb	£1,194.39	Melksham TC (50% invoice upon completion)
A350 Beanacre Gateway Treatment	£3,300.00	Melksham without (50% invoice upon completion)
Keevil Martins Road Footpath	£2,662.50	Keevil PC (25% invoice upon completion)
Shaw Corsham Rd Signal Louvres	£250.00	Melksham TC (50% invoice upon completion)
Berryfield Semington Road – 2 x Bus Shelters	£20,000.00	Section 106 funded
Melksham Snarlton Lane Crossing Point	£500.00	Melksham TC (50% invoice upon completion)
Sandpits Lane Signing and Lining	£0.00	
Ashton Common Hill/ Newleaze pedestrian barrier	£450.00	Steeple Ashton (25% invoice upon completion)
A350 Beanacre – Weight limit advance signs	£1,567.00	Melksham without (50% invoice upon completion TBC)
	£71,083.19	