

Town Council Report to Area Board January 2016

1. POLICY

1.1 Community Governance Review (CGR) – (Agenda item 7) At the extraordinary meeting held on 24th November 2015 Wiltshire Council resolved:

That decisions on the proposals numbered 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 26 for changes to the areas of Trowbridge and surrounding parishes be deferred for further consideration and consultation by the Working Group and that there also be consultation on proposal 24 (Lady Down Farm), proposal 25 (Hilperton Gap South), proposal 27 (West Ashton Road Employment Land), proposal 28 (Ashton Park Urban Extension) and proposal 29 (White Horse Business Park).

This means that further consultation will be undertaken on all of the proposals made by Trowbridge Town Council. Wiltshire Council also resolved to write to all households in areas which are proposed for transfer to a different parish. To summarise the situation with regard to the proposals made by Trowbridge Town Council is:

Area 1. Shore Place, Kingsley Place and Chepston Place currently in Wingfield Parish. (WC proposal 21). This proposal was made by the town council because the current boundary runs through the middle of residential properties and splits streets in two. These streets are part of the Broadmead estate and are remote from Wingfield village. This proposal would therefore improve both community identity and efficient and effective community governance, utilising an excellent natural boundary.

Area 2. Land to the South of the Canal currently in Holt Parish. (WC proposal 24). This proposal was made by the town council because; the current boundary is poorly defined, the existing three residential properties can only be accessed via Trowbridge and are within a few metres of properties in Trowbridge, across a bridge over the river Biss; the Canal, river Avon and railway line are all barriers without bridges between this area and Holt village, making this area and the residences within it remote from Holt. This proposal would therefore improve both community identity and efficient and effective community governance, utilising an excellent natural boundary. The government guidance says “83. *As far as boundaries between parishes are concerned, these should reflect the “no-man’s land” between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways.*”

Area 3. Land to the South and West of Elizabeth Way (the new Hilperton Gap Relief Road) and the A361/Hilperton Drive including properties in Wyke Road and Paxcroft Mead. (WC proposals 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 & 25). This proposal was made by the town council to resolve the anomaly; of properties either side of Wyke Road being in different parishes and properties in Paxcroft Mead being built on the parish boundary. The only acceptable natural boundary which accords with the government guidance is the line of the modern main roads, which is clearly defined and is unlikely to change over time. This proposal would therefore improve both community identity and efficient and effective community governance, utilising an excellent natural boundary. The government guidance says, “*This can often lead to existing parish boundaries becoming anomalous as new houses are built across the boundaries resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours. In such circumstances, the council should consider undertaking a community governance review.*”

The Wyke Road section has been subject to consultation, with an alternative proposal from Hilperton Parish Council also being consulted on. The Hilperton proposal does not utilise a suitable



natural boundary, proposing that neighbours would be in different parishes with no natural boundary between them.

The Paxcroft Mead section has been subject to consultation, with an alternative proposal from Hilperton Parish Council also being consulted on. The Hilperton proposal does not utilise a suitable natural boundary. The government guidance states “*For instance, factors to consider include parks and recreation grounds which sometimes provide natural breaks between communities but they can equally act as focal points.*” Paxcroft Brook is proposed as the boundary by Hilperton Parish Council, but is at the centre of an extensive area of Open Space which acts as a focal point for the whole community, with play areas, benches, cycle paths and bridges. In addition properties in Painter’s Mead would still be split between two parishes.

The central section, bounded by the new Elizabeth Way has not so far been subject to consultation. This new road would make a much clearer and more permanent natural boundary between the town and the parish, compared to the existing boundary which crosses the middle of some of the gardens on Albert Road.

Area 4 Land to the south of the town including existing developments at Old Farm and the White Horse Business Park, permitted developments at the West Ashton Road Employment Allocation and all of the Trowbridge Urban Extension at Ashton Park approved in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. (WC proposals 26, 27, 28 & 29). This proposal was made by the town council to reflect the existing and agreed expansion of the town’s urban envelope which retains the green buffer between the Urban Extension and the villages of West Ashton, Yarnbrook and North Bradley. The outer extent of the development will provide a good natural boundary, following the line of mature and ancient natural woodland and the river Biss, as well as the White Horse Business Park itself. This proposal would therefore improve both community identity and efficient and effective community governance, utilising excellent natural boundaries.

The Old Farm area, was latterly included in the previous consultation, but other than the direct communication from the town council the residents of the estate would not have known that a proposal affecting them was being consulted on. No alternative proposals for the Old Farm area have been presented as part of the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION: That Trowbridge Town Council continues to seek the approval by Wiltshire Council of all of the proposals for boundary changes made by the town council and in doing so continue to communicate with Wiltshire Councillors to ensure that they have the information which enables them to reach a decision which safeguards the future of Trowbridge; and continue to communicate with the residents of Trowbridge to seek the support of the town for the changes.

Wiltshire Council have indicated that their timetable is still seeking to make a decision by the end of July so that all changes can be undertaken for implementation on 1st April 2017 in time for the elections in May that year.

2. FINANCE

2.1 Budget 2016/17 (AGENDA ITEM 8) - The proposals show a reduction in total net expenditure of £14,683 from £1,521,856 (2015/16) to £1,507,174 (2016/17).



2.1.1 Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant – Wiltshire Council has advised that this will reduce from £93,876 (2015) to £16,898 (2016) and that it will reduce to £0 in 2017.

2.1.2 Council Tax Base – This is expressed as ‘Band D’ Equivalents, any changes account for additional houses constructed in the town in the past year, single person discounts and other adjusting factors, and has increased by 4.4% from 10226.12 (2015) to 10671.89 (2016). This generates an additional £62,296 which in part covers the loss of Council Tax Support Grant.

2.1.3 Inflation – The September Consumer Prices Index (CPI) was -0.1% and the Retail Prices Index (RPI) was +0.8%. It is therefore recommended that the Band D Council Tax Charge should stay the same in 2016/17 as it has been in 2015/16. This results in a proposed Band D Council Tax Charge of £139.64 which is unchanged from 2015-16.

The 2016-17 salaries are based on the employer’s final offer, taking account of the national living wage, ranging from 6.6% on the lower grades to 1% on grade 18 and above. Also included are increased employer pension contribution rates from 20.1% to 21.1% and increased employer National Insurance contributions due to the abolition of contracting out in April 2016.

LEISURE SERVICES – a decrease in net expenditure of £3k.

CIVIC BOARD –

Building; an increase of (£5k)

Venue; a decrease of £3k.

DIRECT SERVICES - a decrease of £9k.

POLICY & RESOURCES –

Democratic; an increase of (£6k) The main increases are marketing/publicity (£9k) and Investors in People (£2k),

Establishment; a decrease of £5k. The 2016-17 establishment budget includes the planned changes in finance along with the inclusion of an apprentice.

Mayor, Projects and Grants; all unchanged.

MUSEUM - a decrease of £1k despite the 10% cut in conservation funding of £1,310

Museum Project; The 2016-17 budget staffing level includes the Museum Manager. The professional fees are for architects and consultancy fees. Other fees are listed and assume funding through the HLF development grant and other grants.

RESERVES - The planned contribution to reserves is unchanged.

Earmarked Reserves	31 st March 2015	30 th Sept 2015
Museum Project	£101,925	£54,460
Recreational Play Areas	£6,000	£6,000
Civic Centre	£0	£10,000
Historic Buildings	£2,400	£2,400
E. Trowbridge	£258	£240
Sports Pitch Development	£7,000	£7,000
Total Earmarked	£117,583	£80,100
General Reserve	£250,526	£250,526
Total	£368,109	£285,297

The 2015-16 current half year deficit is (£29,233)

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS:

i) That the Committee approves the Revenue Expenditure Budgets for 2016/17 as detailed on the budget spreadsheets, totalling

£1,442,174



ii) That the Committee approves Project Budgets for 2016/17 totalling	£35,000
iii) That the Committee approves a contribution to General Reserves as recommended by the Responsible Finance Officer to enable General Reserves to return to minimum 3 months general expenditure and that this contribution be	£30,000
iv) That the Committee recommends to Council therefore a total budget requirement of	£1,507,174
And that this is funded in part through a grant from Wiltshire Council of	-£16,898
leaving a net precept requirement for 2015/16 of	£1,490,276
which results in no change to the Trowbridge Town Council 'Band D' Council Tax Charge, of £139.64 which is less than £2.69 per week	

2.2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – No receipts have been advised yet. The Town Clerk has responded to the current national review of CIL with information regarding the local situation, with particular reference to the issue that the Town Council is not incentivised to support growth if the neighbourhood CIL element is paid to neighbouring parishes for an urban extension approved in the Core Strategy.

2.3 Electronic Banking – The finance department is still testing this.

2.4 Risk and Audit Panel – Met on Tuesday 5th January 2016 to consider the Appointment of Auditors (as per Report item 2.6 below) and budget, and other matters (copy attached).

2.5 Localisation of Council Tax Support – A national review is currently being undertaken by Eric Ollerenshaw on behalf of the government. The Town Clerk has responded to the consultation with information regarding the local situation, including the view of the Town Council that moving to a zero support grant from Wiltshire Council in 2017 will return town and parish councils to the situation of financial independence and that the Town Council is satisfied with this.

2.6 Appointment of Auditors (AGENDA ITEM 9) - When the government abolished the Audit Commission, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) expressed concerns about the impact this would have on the workload of local authorities. They persuaded the government to let them procure audit services. The new arrangements will be established in 2016 to procure audit services for parish and town councils and other smaller authorities from 2017/18 onwards. Please see attached 'New Audit Regime' factsheet. From the start of the 2017/18 financial year smaller authorities, including parish and town councils and internal drainage boards, can choose to have an auditor appointed to them by this new 'sector-led body' or they can decide to procure their own. It is intended to call this procurement body the Smaller Authority Audit Appointment Authority Limited (SAAAAL). Further details are available from the Responsible Finance Officer, Richard Mills on request. The RFO makes the following **RECOMMENDATION**:

That Trowbridge Town Council is content with the arrangements being put in place for a Sector Led Body to appoint the Town Council's external auditor from 2017/2018 onwards and therefore chooses NOT to opt out of the scheme.

2.7 Grants – An update report from the Scouts regarding their Jubilee Wood camp project between Green Lane and Biss Woods was circulated recently and will be added to our web-site.

3. PERSONNEL

3.1 Leavers

Liam Milburn, Sports Coach left on Monday 14th December



Amy Knowland, Leisure Services Administrator left on Friday 18th December.

Lee Mounty, Sports Coach Team-leader left on Friday 18th December.

3.2 Starters

Christina Connor – Leisure Services Administrator, full time, started 4th January 2016

Richard Rees – Sports Coach 30 hours a week, started 11th January 2016

Sam Smith – Sports Coach 30 hours a week, started 11th January 2016

3.3 Job Evaluation – South West Employers completed the Job Evaluation with a pay and grading structure in July. Once the future financial position of the council is clearer, following progress with the Community Governance Review, we will be in a position to implement the review. Most of the changes have been incorporated into the budget.

3.4 LGA leadership development training event - As Trowbridge is one of the first LGA associate members from NALC's super council network, the Mayor is to attend a 2 day training event in Coventry from 10th – 12th March 2016.

4. SERVICES

4.1 MUSEUM & TOURISM – The next committee meeting is 22nd March at 6:30pm

4.1.1 Museum Project – the Museum Curator, Clare Lyall was pleased to receive confirmation from the Heritage Lottery Fund that we have secured a first round pass (£100,000) for our Expansion Project – Onwards and Upwards. We have now entered the Development Phase of the project which will see us complete all of the statutory requirements such as planning permission and RIBA stage 2 for the architectural elements. Our full grant request was for £975,000 and we expect to make our round 2 submission in 2017, leading to a delivery/construction phase from early 2018 to 2020. The remaining funding will come from additional grant income from other sources and the town council's ongoing contribution of £25,000 per annum which will fund borrowing of over £400,000

4.2 LEISURE SERVICES - The next committee meeting is 22nd March at 7pm.

4.2.1 Sports Pitches Project – We are progressing negotiations on the purchase of additional land at Devizes Road now that further S106 funding has been received by Wiltshire Council.

4.3 DIRECT SERVICES – The committee next meets on 23rd February.

4.3.1 Civic Centre – The Civic Board next meets on 9th February 2016.

4.3.2 Town Park – We are developing a Park Management Plan to identify further opportunities for maintenance priorities and improvement.

4.3.3 Storage Facility at St George's Works – The owner's agents have received a positive response from Wiltshire Council to their pre-application enquiry. We are now awaiting detailed proposals from the agents for the alternative access into the storage area from the end of the post office yard access road, which will also provide a better access route for construction vehicles to the St George's Works redevelopment site.

4.3.3 Smoke-free play areas – Wiltshire Council are supplying signs for smoke-free play areas, in accordance with the adopted policy of the Town Council that children's play areas are designated smoke-free. We have asked Wiltshire Council to provide us with 80 to 100 signs, which will be sufficient to attach to all entrances for the 26 children's play areas and Multi-Use-Games-Areas (MUGA) in the town. Most of these are owned by Wiltshire Council but will be considered for asset transfer to the town council once the boundary issue has been resolved, so the town council will make appropriate arrangements for installation.

4.3.4 CCTV (AGENDA ITEM 10) - Following recent power cuts our CCTV system has experienced failures, whilst we are not sure if there is a direct connection between the power cuts and failure of the system and we are undertaking investigation through our contractors and insurers, to ensure necessary public protection we need to replace some of the hardware at a cost of up to



£10,000. Whilst some of this can be covered from budget the committee needs to approve expenditure greater than budget. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That in order to maintain public protection the Head of Direct Services is authorised to purchase replacement CCTV control equipment funded from reserves up to a maximum of £10,000.

5. MARKETING & EVENTS

5.1 Calendar of Events (please see attached at the end of the report).

5.2 Website – The Town Council web-site www.trowbridge.gov.uk provides information about all council activities and services as well as links to other Trowbridge web-sites. Our other web-sites are: www.trowbridgecivic.co.uk for information about the Civic Centre, events and activities & www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk for the Museum.

5.3 Magazine – Our marketing partners RACS have produced the winter magazine ready for distribution. The next edition will be published in the Spring, based upon quarterly issues.

6. TOWN DEVELOPMENT – Committee meets on 26th Jan and 16th February.

6.1 Town Centre Developments

St Stephen's Place - [//ststephensplacetrowbridge.co.uk/](http://ststephensplacetrowbridge.co.uk/) There is one remaining unit to let.

Cradle Bridge - mrmultd.co.uk/index.php/projects/cradle-bridge-retail-and-leisure-development
Marks & Spencer Food, Toby Carvery, 150 parking spaces, two retail units and a footbridge to St Stephen's Place is now under construction.

Bowyers – Morrisons are in discussion with a preferred bidder for a mixed use development.

County Hall East – Demolition work has now commenced on the site in Bythesea Road.

6.2 Housing – The following major sites are under development with houses for sale.

H9 Southview Park wainhomes.net/developments/Southview+Park+-+Trowbridge/

H11 Castle Mead persimmonhomes.com/castle-mead-2206 Leap Gate - W Ashton Rd link now open. Eastern extension application due following recent presentation at the Civic Centre.

H8c The Pastures abbeynewhomes.co.uk/PASTURES%20Trowbridge/home.html

Baron's Park, Green Lane greensquarehomes.com/baronspark/index.htm

Ashton Park – Mainly in West Ashton and North Bradley parishes, an outline application (15/04736/OUT) for 2,500 houses, employment, 2x local service centres, 2x primary schools, site for secondary school, ecological visitor facility, open space and A350 West Ashton and Yarnbrook improvement is being assessed. The Town Council responded with particular issues relating to cycle and pedestrian routes. An application for 120 homes on a small area of the strategic site off Drynham Lane (East of railway) by Wain Homes has been refused.

Former District Council Offices, Bradley Road – now for sale.

www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-52305502.html;jsessionid=F5B960418BC80FD348A95015BB92576A

6.3 Wiltshire Local Development Framework

6.3.1 Housing Site Allocations Plan – The process will recommence and include a full public consultation by Wiltshire Council in 2016. The Town Clerk has held further meetings with the proposers of the Elm Grove Farm site off Drynham Lane.

6.4 Bus Services – The Town Council has written to the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Royal United Hospital Trust, Bath asking them to provide an appropriate level of funding in partnership with Wiltshire Council to ensure that the Connect 2 (Hopper) service continues in 2016 and the long term. A reply from Brian Stables (RUH) has been circulated.

6.5 Business Improvement District – Workshops to present the BID to town centre businesses are being held at the Civic Centre on 14th and 15th January. This will be the start of the official BID campaign, which is due to go to ballot in May/June and if successful would then commence later in the year. Each business will be provided with clear information setting out how much they would



pay and what the BID would pay for and invest in. The ballot will be conducted by the Electoral Reform Society.

7. TROWBRIDGE PARTNERSHIPS

7.1 Transforming Trowbridge (AGENDA ITEM 11) – transformingtrowbridge.org.uk

Transforming Trowbridge has for many years focussed on regeneration of town centre sites and economic development, bringing together councils, businesses and others, with Wiltshire Council providing administrative and officer support. Wiltshire Council withdrew support in 2014, but the partners believed that there was a need to continue. Whilst the focus remains economic, it has drawn on links to other aspects which influence and are influenced by the economy such as Leisure, Culture and Education. At the same time TCAF ceased their more wide-ranging brief due to the loss of their Wiltshire Council funding, and as a result incorporated some of this activity within the new Transforming Trowbridge group. Transforming Trowbridge appointed Jeff Ligo (former Chief Exec of West Wilts DC) as its chairman and has retained representation from a range of businesses and other partners during a year of re-establishment and refinancing. Wiltshire Council has now agreed to provide £2,000 and this has been match funded with contributions from local businesses of £5,000 which Transforming Trowbridge has asked is supplemented by funding from the Town Council. The Town Projects budget (as detailed in 8.1.2) can support this. They are working to support the town council's boundary proposals, recognising that if Wiltshire Council is not going to promote Trowbridge as a place to do business then a town council for all of the town, including the White Horse Business Park, the employment allocation at West Ashton Road and the new commercial element of the Ashton Park Urban Extension should be included in the town boundary. The owner of White Horse Business Park, Tony Barker is a member of the group. The money will be used to cover reasonable expenses of the group, undertake promotional activity and reinvigorate the web site, which is being passed across by Wiltshire Council. Their next meeting is on the 21st January at Apetito. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the town council provides funding of £2,000 from the 2015/16 Town Projects budget to Transforming Trowbridge.

7.2 Trowbridge Community Area Future (TCAF) <http://tcafuture.wordpress.com/> Lindsey Millen and Julie Baptista are the TCAF officers. The proposed budget for 2016/2017 retains a cash contribution of £7,100 in addition to in-kind contribution of accommodation etc. TCAF will be bringing forward a proposal to demonstrate how it will deliver in 2016/17 with reduced grant income. This will be based upon working closely with the Area Board, Community Area Manager, Youth Services and the Town Council to address priorities identified in the Joint Strategic Assessment and in particular in localities in the 10% (Studley Green) and 20% (Seymour/Adcroft and Longfield) most deprived communities nationally. The grant will be released to TCAF this year, subject to satisfactory agreement on the work programme and overall funding plan.

7.3 Trowbridge in Bloom – (AGENDA ITEM 12) – the group has been facilitated by TCAF during 2015, with grant support from the Town Council. Following discussions with members of the TiB committee we are proposing that we make a direct cash grant to the TiB committee in 2016/2017 to support their activities in addition to providing meeting room space, printing facilities and a contribution towards holding the Awards Evening at the Civic Centre. The cash grant would be used by the TiB committee to support the work of other groups related to horticultural excellence and environmental improvement in the town as well as to support their own costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the town council provides funding of £4,000 from the budget in 2016/2017 to Trowbridge In Bloom to support their independent administration and to provided them with the resources to offer grants to partner organisations which offer horticultural excellence and environmental improvement in Trowbridge.



7.4 BA14 Culture – The cultural coordinating group continues to meet with representation from Trowbridge Museum.

7.4.1 Trowbridge Arts – The Council provides a grant to Trowbridge Arts to support their activities and the Trowbridge Arts Festival. trowbridgeartsfestival.co.uk/events.html

7.4.3 Town Hall Trust – Has now approved the way forward for the building as a professional Arts Centre, they have recently opened a retail outlet.

7.4.4 Bridge House – Professor Anita Taylor has received permission for partial conversion to residential, arts workshop and education space. Prof. Taylor has agreed to become chair of the BA14 Culture group.

7.4.5 ARC Theatre, Trowbridge College – Rich Wigley is the new Theatre Manager, which is again providing a venue for professional performance as well as for community groups. I have asked BA14 Culture to make links with the ARC through Rich and Jill Foreman the Tutor.

7.5 Chamber of Commerce – Emma Roberts is President of the Trowbridge Chamber.

7.6 Cockhill Solar Farm Community Fund (AGENDA ITEM 13) - Wiltshire Community Foundation (WCF) have now confirmed receipt of the first year's contribution from the owners of the solar farm. WCF will receive £15,000 per annum for 25 years up-rated annually by the UK Retail Prices Index. There will be £13,500 (after admin charges) in the first year to be distributed to applicants from Trowbridge. It is proposed that applications for grants of up to £3,000 will be invited, with the potential that WCF could supplement this from their other funds. Whilst formal decisions will be made by the WCF main grants panel, they will be based upon recommendations received from serving town councillors, appointed each year. Communications will all be undertaken electronically. The Council needs to appoint these councillors to advise the WCF on distribution of the funds. **RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:**

That the Council appoints a panel of three members to advise Wiltshire Community Foundation on the distribution of the Cockhill Solar Farm Community Fund.

8. WILTSHIRE

8.1 Wiltshire Council - The parish newsletter is now published weekly and is circulated to members. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/parishnewsletterhome.htm

8.1.1 Area Board – The next meeting is on 14th January at County Hall. The Community Area Web Site is at www.trowbridge.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk The Community Engagement Manager for Trowbridge is Mary Cullen.

8.1.2 Community Area Transport Group (CATG) – Met on Monday 14th December

20mph Zones, College Estate - The Town Council has committed a contribution of £1,250, subject to a decision from Selwood Housing to make a contribution in 2016.

Cycle Path, Wingfield Rd - The Town Council has agreed to provide £5,000 towards implementation of a cycle path between John of Gaunt and Lambrok Road along the south side of Wingfield Road, with the majority of funding coming from Wiltshire Council's major project fund.

Dropped Kerb, Green Lane – The Town Council has committed £1,000 to match fund this.

This leaves £3,000 in the Town Projects budget for 2015/16, allowing the committee to make a contribution of £2,000 to Transforming Trowbridge as indicated in 7.1 above.

Waiting Restrictions - The Town Development Committee on 26th January will prioritise all requests including Residents Parking Zones and identify a top ten list to be progressed by CATG/Highways Network Management.

Freight Management – As it appears that no further weight restrictions or other freight management changes are being considered automatically following the opening of the Hilperton Relief Road (Elizabeth Way) and the introduction of two way traffic to Hill Street/Upper Broad Street/Conigre is some time off the CATG in considering a number of potential locations in the community area has prioritised the following two: Seymour Road and The Down/Islington.



8.1.3 Local Youth Network – Sarah Holland, Wiltshire Council’s Youth Network Officer is working with groups to identify service gaps and projects which may apply for grants. The LYN Management Group is recommending approval for a number grant application including ones from Active Trowbridge and the Skatepark group supported by TCAF to the January Area Board.

8.1.4 Trowbridge Area Wellbeing Centre (Campus) – The Working Group is progressing discussions on options and timetable.

8.1.5 Market Towns Network – The last meeting was held in the Civic Centre on 16th September. Next meeting is in Melksham on Thursday 28th January.

8.1.6 Asset & Service Delegation – Discussions are on hold as far as Wiltshire Council is concerned until progress with the package for Salisbury has been concluded and as far as the town council is concerned until a positive decision on the Community Governance Review is reached. We have expressed a wish to consider the potential transfer of car-parking, recreation grounds, open spaces, children’s play areas and bus shelters. With a positive boundary review decision we would be able to take on management of assets and services and invest in these services.

8.1.7 Children’s Centre’s – Wiltshire Council is now proposing to retain both Studley Green and Longmeadow buildings to be operated as a single Children’s Centre. This still appears to provide significantly greater levels of funding to Chippenham and Salisbury, despite them having lower level of deprivation.

8.1.8 Wiltshire Good Neighbours Scheme – Wiltshire Council has announced that they will be providing this funding via Area Boards from 2016, rather than via Community First.

8.2 Police and Community Safety – Inspector James Brain reports regularly to Full Council.

8.2.1 Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – Wiltshire Council has worked with the Town Council and other partners to develop a proposal for a PSPO to be implemented to cover a variety of anti-social activities across the town; prohibition of urinating and defecating in public and also limitations on consumption of alcohol in public (including the park and recreation grounds). The proposal is that the restrictions should apply to the area covered by the current DPPO with the addition of Studley Green. The alcohol restrictions will include no-alcohol consumption in public places between 9pm and noon each day.

8.3 Wiltshire Fire & Rescue – Further information is available in their QM magazine and www.wiltshire.gov.uk/qm . Merger with Dorset commences on 1st April 2016, however the Call Centre remains at Potterne House.

8.4 Health Services – No information on likely construction of the new Bradcroft surgery.

8.5 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) – Newsletters are regularly circulated or available on their website www.wiltshire-alc.org.uk

8.6 Trowbridge Drop in Centre for the homeless - On 26th November, the Drop in Centre previously run by ‘Action on Homelessness’ and then by ‘Alabaré’, closed due to the landlord wishing to sell the property. ‘Breakthrough Trowbridge’ has taken over running the activities. A temporary venue, provided by the Salvation Army on Castle Street opened on 30th Nov each Monday & Tuesday 10.00–13.00hrs. Suitable premises in the town are urgently required to allow this vital service to continue. This Re-Sited Drop-In Centre will be known as ‘Breakthrough Trowbridge Drop in Centre.’ If you would like to make a donation, help in any way or would like further information, please contact Rev. Barrie Dearlove, dearlove_12@hotmail.com

8.7 Care Quality Commission – The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is now carrying out the final stage of consultation on its strategy for 2016-2021. The 2016-21 strategy will set out their proposals for developing the way they work to make sure they are flexible and responsive to the changing health and social care landscape, and continue to serve the interests of people who use those services. Following the publication of the strategy consultation document on 11 January, they will be seeking the views of members of the public and representatives from public organisations at



a number of events including on Wednesday 27 January (1-4pm) at Bristol. Visit their event page for more detail <http://www.cqcstrategy-publicevents.glasgows.co.uk/>.

9. CIVIC & DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES

9.1 Council Meeting Dates. Council and committee meetings for the next few months are:

Tuesday 12 th January	Policy & Resources
Tuesday 19 th January	Full Council
Tuesday 26 th January	Town Development
Tuesday 2 February	NO MEETING
Tuesday 9 th February	NO MEETING
Tuesday 16 th February	Town Development
Tuesday 23 rd February	Direct Services
Tuesday 1 st March	Policy & Resources

9.2 Dates for your 2016 diary:

Trowbridge Civic Dinner – Saturday 5th March

Raising the Commonwealth Flag Ceremony – Monday 14th March at 10am

Annual Town Meeting and Town Gathering – Tuesday 12th April

Trowbridge Civic Service – Sunday 17th July

Trowbridge In Bloom Awards evening - Thursday 22nd September subject to date of SWIB Awards Remembrance Sunday – 13th November 2016.

9.3 CIVIC AWARD 2016 (AGENDA ITEM 20) - The committee will consider nominations received and make a recommendation to Full Council.

9.4 Twinning

9.4.1 Leer/Germany – Letters of invitation to the Mayor’s Civic Dinner have been sent to the Mayor of Leer, and the Chairman of the Trowbridge/Leer Partnerschaft Verein. Meetings have taken place between members of Dorothy House and the Mayor and Chairman of the Trowbridge/Leer Twinning Association with a view to making a link with Hospice Huus in Leer. The AGM is to be held on Friday 18th March 2016 at 7pm.

9.4.2 Charenton/France – via the Secretary of the Trowbridge/French Twinning association, our Mayor was able to express the sadness and sympathies of Trowbridge Town Council to all victims and their families, following the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13th November 2015. The AGM is due to be held on Friday 4th March 2016 at 7.30pm – venue tbc. The French twinning members are planning a visit to Trowbridge from 5 - 8 May 2016.

Lance Allan, Town Clerk
Trowbridge Town Council,
The Civic Centre,
St Stephen’s Place,
TROWBRIDGE,
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#DiscoverTROWBRIDGE
www.trowbridge.gov.uk
www.trowbridgecivic.co.uk
www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk

