

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL  
MELKSHAM AREA BOARD**

16<sup>th</sup> January 2016

---

## **Melksham ‘Our Community Matters’**

### **Local priorities for action**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To update members on the outcome of the ‘Our Community Matters’ Joint Strategic Assessment event held on 18 January 2017 and to recommend that the Area Board endorses the outcomes.

#### **2. Background**

The Melksham ‘Our Community Matters’ event was held on 18 January 2017 at the Melksham Assembly Hall. Over 100 members of the public and partner agencies attended and participated in the event, which focused on the data set out in the [Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment 2016-17](#).

The JSA brings together the results of research conducted by the major agencies and public sector bodies in Wiltshire over the last six months. The project was initiated by the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Wiltshire Assembly. These bodies will use the priorities emerging from the events to focus and support strategic projects, activities and services across Wiltshire.

Participants at the events used the data to inform themed roundtable discussions and to identify local priorities underpinned by the research. All participants had the opportunity to vote on the priorities and the results are set out in this report. Following agreement on the priorities, the themed roundtables then looked at practical community-led actions that could be taken to address the issues identified.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Gain a consensus around priorities for the area
- Provide the basis for community-led action and projects over the next two years
- Develop a community plan for the area
- Provide the Council and partners with a clear focus for local actions

The Area Board is now invited to review the priorities and agree how it wishes to initiate and coordinate action working with partners, community groups and the public.

### 3. **Priorities identified**

The following documents set out the outcomes of the meeting and the priorities identified:

- Online video - achievements over the last two years:  
<https://animoto.com/play/I6GMLc2IUvQ7HKMgOjMFgg>
- Appendix 1 - summary of issues identified by the research
- Appendix 2 - priorities agreed at the event
- Appendix 3 - potential projects identified

### 4. **Moving forward with community-led action**

To address the priorities, the Area Board will need to use its strategic influence and delegated powers to shape the delivery of local services and actions. It will also need to use its delegated resources to facilitate and support community-led projects. Some of the actions will be easier to address than others and it is important to target areas where tangible outcomes and progress can be delivered. This will help to capitalise on the enthusiasm and momentum generated by the event.

It will be up to the Area Board whether it wishes to champion a particular issue or theme over the next year and to target resources to support community-led initiatives around these themes and issues.

### 5. **Recommendations**

- (1) That the Area Board adopts the priorities identified by the 'Our Community Matters' event and works to facilitate local action to tackle those priorities.
- (2) That the Area Board requests the Local Youth Network, the Health and Wellbeing Group and the Community Area Transport Group (and any other local task groups established by the Board) to adopt and take forward the priorities identified in the relevant theme areas.
- (3) That the Area Board requests the Community Engagement Manager to work with key partners, agencies and community groups to coordinate action around the priorities identified.
- (4) That the Board considers whether it wishes to champion a particular theme or priority and to earmark funding to promote, initiate and support community-led action around the selected priorities.

- (5) That the Board considers appointing a lead member to champion the priorities adopted.
- (6) That reports are submitted to the Board on progress made to address the priorities to ensure that positive outcomes are delivered and that this be made a regular item on future Board meetings.
- (7) The Area Board expresses its thanks to the people who gave their time to participate in the event.

---

Report Author: Rhys Schell - Melksham Community Engagement Manager  
Tel: 01225 716752  
E-Mail: [rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk)