



Melksham Area Board

End of Year Report

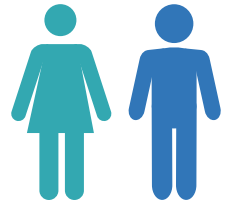
May 2021 - March 2023

Melksham Area Board

Melksham Community Area is made up of Melksham and 11 parishes

The Area Board is Melksham's local cabinet for Wiltshire Council, bringing local decision making into the heart of the community area. The Area Board is made up of 6 unitary councillors, 3 of whom are also members of Melksham town Council. The Councillors are the voting members of the board, and all those who engage in the board's work are equal members, able to influence decisions, shape and deliver on local priorities.

The community area has a rich range of physical and human resources, including vibrant and active community, cultural and sporting hubs, a range of voluntary and community sector support organisations and a collaborative town council.



**Total
Population
30,867**

Area Board Investment

The Area Board invests in local community projects and initiatives that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. The Area Board aims to work in partnership to achieve maximum value for its investment. They take a long term view to invest in prevention and early intervention, focusing on tackling inequalities and improving social mobility.

Total Area Board Investment

£63,985	£27,813	£15,178
Community	Youth	Older and Vulnerable Adults
Total Community Contribution		
£217,695	£59,626	£60,066

The total amount invested in projects through additional community contribution, from fundraising, grants, services in kind or volunteering

Local Priorities

The Melksham Area Board reviewed available local data and evidence and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes. The Area Board has undertaken a series of more specific local actions to positively address them, including the key achievements below:

Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities



Melksham Area board supported Broughton Gifford and Holt Youth Club to buy materials for their winter activity of building soap boxes to race in the summer

Addressing environmental issues

The Area Board supported the Blue campaign to encourage all Britain's gardeners to become more insect and wildlife friendly through measures such as using peat free compost, abandoning pesticides, allowing an area of garden to become more overgrown and wild



Reducing isolation and loneliness



In partnership with Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council the Area Board has funded Age UK to employ a part time support worker to continue the Melksham Community Support project to support older people to resolve practical difficulties, access information and advice, and to become better connected with their communities

Supporting low income individuals and families

Melksham Free diners provided 31 electric blankets for members of their dining club. Staff went and fitted the blankets and the diners were impressed how cost effective they were, which really helped them at a time when many of them were struggling with the cost of living. One gentleman with dementia who lives alone came in for lunch with a thumbs up, a massive smile and said 'toastie'



Reducing anti-social behaviour



The Area Board funded a camera which was installed in Bath Road. This focus's on the skatepark and will to dissuade anti social behaviour and provide added assurance to uses of the park and skatepark.

Community-led projects



The Melksham Area Board has developed a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, organisations and residents in the town and surrounding parishes. The Board recognises the talents, expertise and knowledge of the local community and empowers and facilitates community led action to co-deliver local services.

A shining example of the type of support and change that area boards can drive forward through community-led action is the support in the cost of living crisis.

Melksham Area board supplied slow cookers and liners, these were then distributed by the local Foodbank. A recipe book and food went with them. This gave families a chance to use food bank food in an energy efficient way, saving themselves money and reducing their carbon footprint.

This project supports three of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan key aims; 'We live well together', "We are on a path to being carbon neutral " and "We get the best start in life". The meals are nutritious and support children to have the best start in life as residents can cook cheaper, leaner cuts of meat at a lower cost. The cookers are also easy to use and convenient, improving their frequency of use and by extension regularity of meals in busy families. The slow cookers are more energy efficient cutting emissions and cost

Engagements

The Melksham Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include the town council, voluntary and community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs and local charities.

The Area Board wouldn't be able to achieve what they do without these partners working on the ground with them. The Area Board hosts regular business meetings, engagement activities, events, surveys and working groups to stimulate and support local community action.

**Area Board
Business meetings**

8



Attendances

261

**Area Board
working groups**

7



Attendances

98

**Engagements/
events/ activities**

40



Attendances

582

**Area Board
surveys**

1



Responses

102

Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group

The LHFIG is a sub group of the Melksham Area Board, which deals specifically with highway issues. They aim to find solutions for local transport issues, such as road repairs, traffic problems, road layouts and parking.

The amount allocated is dependent on the geographical size and population for the community area and the funding allocation is for capital expenditure and can be used to provide new and improved highway infrastructure.

Melksham LHFIG invests more than £25k per year into local highways and footpaths improvements.

LHFIG Projects 2022/23

- Semington Littlemarsh - Road Markings
- Melksham various sites - signing of cycleways
- Melksham Westbury View – access protection bar marking
- Melksham Hazelwood Rd to St Michael's Road footway link – pedestrian lighting
- Melksham Sandridge Road – direction signs to lead HGVs to Snarlton Farm
- Melksham Spa Road / Wharf Court – Road Markings
- Berryfield – Direction signs to village hall
- Steeple Ashton – Road Markings

Investments included contributions from local council and Section 106 (developer) funding. A number of projects have been identified and prioritised for 23/2

LHFIG meetings

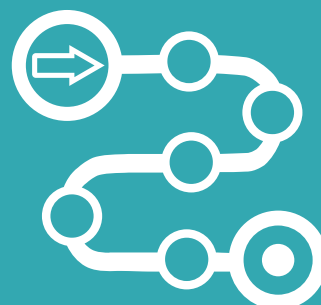
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Attendances 44

LHFIG projects completed

8



Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2023/24

By agreeing and delivering to local priorities, the Area Board is able to proactively address issues by focusing its resources and working in partnership with local organisations, volunteers and residents. To effectively select local priorities it is important that there is a regular review of the evidence available and the views of the residents are sought. To aid Councillors to agree their priorities, the list below provides some of new sources of data and evidence:

- **JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence**: The 2022 Wiltshire JSNA presents data on the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Wiltshire
- **Census 2021 results**: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- **VCSE research - Wessex Community Action**: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- **Annual report - Wiltshire Citizens Advice**: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022
- **Needs Analysis for Wiltshire and Swindon** Wiltshire community foundation Annual Review 2021-22

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors through the development of the Area Board local action plan.

Based on the work undertaken in 2022/23 and the new evidence available, some of the key priorities that the Board may wish to consider are as follows:

- **Youth engagement, employment and positive activity opportunities**
- **Addressing climate change and reversing biodiversity loss**
- **Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation**
- **Supporting under represented groups**
- **Improving transport and access**

It is recommended that for each priority selected, an area board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the Area Board on progress. The Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.