

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (2)

**Meeting:** Devizes Area Board

**Place:** [Online](#)

**Date:** Monday 6 September 2021

**Time:** 6.30 pm

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**The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 26 August 2021. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.**

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 6 September 2021
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## **National Grid VIP Project**

### **Devizes Area Board – Going underground in Devizes update**

National Grid is making good progress as it forms its plans to remove up to 13 pylons and around 4.5km of overhead electricity line on Roundway Hill. Putting the electricity cables underground will significantly enhance the landscape and views north of Devizes.

From April 2021 to June 2021, National Grid conducted a variety of surveys just south of Roundway Down, about 2km north of Devizes. The surveys don't mean construction has begun. There's lots still to do and National Grid still need to get planning permission from Wiltshire Council before work can start.

Prior to submitting its planning application, National Grid are planning a mixture of events, both online and in person. The team will be meeting with the local Parish Councils again, and will be available at Devizes Market on Thursday 30 September and Thursday 7 October to answer any questions about the project. The team also plan to hold public webinars. More information about these will be available on the project website - <https://northwessexdowns.nationalgrid.co.uk/>

All being well, National Grid is aiming to start construction in 2023 and the people of Devizes and the surrounding area can look forward to a pylon free skyline on Roundway Hill from 2024.



## **Market Lavington Library – Area Board briefing Monday 6 September 2021**

The library in Market Lavington is currently based in a Grade II listed building owned by the 1st Lavington Sea Scout Group. The library closed in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic and remains closed due to long term issues with damp. The landlords are seeking an alternative location for the Sea Scouts who use the majority of the building and Wiltshire Council have been researching new premises for the library as a result.

We're now pleased to announce we are considering a move to the Old School House, a community facility owned and managed by Market Lavington Parish Council. Relocating here would provide better public access and improved facilities for customers and volunteers, encompassing an adjacent car park, kitchen, toilets and disabled access. For those familiar with building, the library would be situated in the John Reid Room and provide a flexible space with moveable shelving for group visits and increased activities when volunteer support is available. The location is a 4-minute walk from the current library and central to the village.

A recent public consultation meeting in the village was attended by 34 residents who were unanimously in favour of the move. Positive comments were made about the location, facilities, additional space and opportunities to develop the building as a community hub and library for the residents of Market Lavington and the surrounding villages.

The Parish Council is meeting to discuss the library move to the Old School House on 7<sup>th</sup> September. This move presents an opportunity for both councils to work together, with local residents, in closer partnership to deliver a vibrant library at the heart of the community.

We hope to have further information about this project in the coming weeks.



## Cycle Friendly Devizes

- Cycle Friendly Devizes started in November 2020 after a [survey](#) by Sustainable Devizes which found that the majority of people responding were put off cycling by fear of aggressive and careless drivers and the lack of safe traffic free cycle routes.
- Cycle Friendly Devizes is a sub group of Sustainable Devizes which is a member of the [Transition Network](#) that aims to develop sustainable and resilient communities.
- So far, Cycle Friendly Devizes has created a facebook page with 300 members, a twitter feed with 51 followers and members attend the Area Board and Town Council meetings.
- Currently Cycle Friendly Devizes is working to:
  - Identify safe cycling routes, improve them and promote them to the people of Devizes and villages. We have mapped an alternative [London Rd route](#) and submitted to the Air Quality Group and are working to identify a route from villages.
  - Encourage cycling through cycle rides open to all abilities along these safe routes and inviting Councillors to join us.
  - Work with the Town Council to improve cycle parking within the Town.
  - Attend events such as the Wellbeing day to talk to people about cycling.
  - Mends bikes as part of [Repair Cafes](#) where we have seen that local repair services have been overwhelmed by demand.

Cycle Friendly Devizes will continue to identify and improve safe pleasant cycling routes, get people out on their bikes and improve facilities for cycling. If anyone who would like to work with them please get in touch.

Cycle friendly Devizes on Facebook  
@cycleDevizes on twitter  
[lizread@mikeread.org](mailto:lizread@mikeread.org)





## Devizes Gateway Station – Update

In May 2020, Wiltshire Council, working with the Devizes Development Partnership, was successful in being awarded funding (up to £50,000) from the Department for Transport's (DfT's) Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for Devizes Gateway Station.

The SOBC is the first stage in the DfT's business case process and sets out the case for change and the strategic fit (how the project would further local priorities and wider government ambitions). It also includes more limited information on the other four required elements of business cases: financial; economic; commercial; and management.

Following discussions with the DfT and a period of project mobilisation, in February 2021 Wiltshire Council commissioned its term consultant, Atkins, and Logictree Consulting Ltd to develop the SOBC. In addition to the DfT grant (referenced above), funding has been utilised from the Devizes Area Board, relevant S106 agreement(s) and Wiltshire Council.

The draft SOBC was produced in May 2021 and submitted to the DfT for comment. The DfT (with Network Rail) provided their comments on the draft SOBC in mid-July. While welcoming the progress made in developing the strategic case (the most important of the cases at this stage) and the level of stakeholder engagement, the DfT and Network Rail asked for further details on the following matters:

- Operational feasibility:
  - Train service specification
  - Freight services uplift
- Economic case:
  - Capital costs
  - Demand forecasting

The DfT requested that the above issues should be addressed to strengthen the SOBC and to provide the necessary confidence “...*that there is a viable, value-for-money option that could deliver the considerable benefit the project promises*”.

Given the above, Wiltshire Council has liaised with Atkins to develop a proposal to address the DfT and Network Rail comments. This is currently being considered in the context of available budgets and funding opportunities. Ultimately, it is anticipated that a revised SOBC will be submitted to the Devizes Gateway Station Steering Group for approval prior to submission to the DfT by the end of October 2021 at the latest.

If the SOBC submission is successful through the Restoring Your Railway process, the DfT will fund up to 100% of further development costs for schemes (i.e. for the development of the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case). In stating this as ‘up to 100%’, the DfT is encouraging scheme promoters to contribute to these costs through financial contributions or work in kind. The DfT has also emphasised that any local contributions made through the development stage will be taken into account when considering whether a scheme should proceed to delivery.

In the event the submission is not successful, the development of a strong SOBC will enable the Council to more readily take advantage of other funding opportunities as they arise.

