

MINUTES

Meeting: Calne Area Board
Place: Calne Hub and Library, The Strand, Calne SN11 0JU
Date: 12 June 2024
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.40 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Area Board Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney (Chairman), Cllr Ian Thorn (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Robert MacNaughton, Cllr Ashley O'Neill and Cllr Tom Rounds

Also in Attendance:

Cllr Ross Henning

Wiltshire Council Officers

Ros Griffiths – Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager
Dom Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer
Matt Hitch– Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 28

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
15	<p><u>Election of Chairman</u></p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer called for nominations for the position of Chairman for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley O’Neill nominated Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, which was seconded by Cllr Robert MacNaughton.</p> <p>There were no further nominations.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>To appoint Cllr Pearce-Kearney as Chairman for 2024/25.</p>
16	<p><u>Election of Vice-Chairman</u></p> <p>The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley O’Neill nominated Cllr Ian Thorn, which was seconded by Cllr Robert MacNaughton.</p> <p>There were no further nominations.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>To appoint Cllr Thorn as Vice-Chairman for 2024/25.</p>
17	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>Members of the Area Board introduced themselves.</p>
18	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
19	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Tom Rounds, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the last properly constituted meeting held on 5</p>

	<p>December 2023 as a true and correct record.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Ashley O'Neill, seconded by the Chairman, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 as a true and correct record.</p>
20	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
21	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave thanks to Watch Manager Tom Burns, who had retired on 7 June after 35 years' service in in Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and, from 2016, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. The Chairman noted that Tom attended thousands of shouts over the years, missing many family occasions and Christmas gatherings, so wished him all the best for his retirement.</p>
22	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman informed the Area Board that a short list of projects was being drawn up as part of the Wiltshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and that a series of public engagement event would be held in July. He noted that further consultation events would be held in November and December.</p>
23	<p><u>Wiltshire Road Safety Partnership</u></p> <p>Perry Payne from Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership gave a detailed overview of their organisation. He explained that the group was partnership led, being comprised of a number of organisations including Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and the South West Ambulance Service, concentrating on three key areas of work, engineering, education and enforcement. During the update, points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering work was primarily carried out by local authorities and Highways England. • There were a number of schemes designed to educate people about road safety including, bikability training for school children and the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign for year 11s. • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue undertook checks on child seats in cars and found that 70 percent were not fitted correctly. • It was stressed that Community Speed Watch was primarily about education and not speed enforcement, although it did help to inform where speed enforcement activity took place.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Calne area, between July 2020 and 8 May 2024, 367 letters had been sent to drivers and 155 watches had been carried out. • Two traffic surveys had been carried out between January 2022 and 30 April 2024, with neither requiring further action. • Across Wiltshire, between 1 January 2023 and 8 May 2024, 10,667 people had gone on speed awareness courses, 1,450 had received points and 144 had been referred for court action. In the same period 20 people in Calne had been sent on speed awareness courses and one person had received points. • Five more officers had joined the Road Policing Unit. • A joint operation had recently been run on the M4 by Wiltshire Police and other police forces, leading to 12 vehicles being seized in Wiltshire. <p>During the discussion, points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Board thanked Mr Payne for his update and welcomed the additional work being done to combat speeding in the area. • The perception of danger based on the size of vehicles was discussed. • A local driving instructor highlighted the issue of abusive behaviour towards learner drivers. • In response to a query from Isabel McCord from Bremhill Parish Council about what could be done to educate drivers about changes to the Highway Code requiring a gap of five feet when overtaking cyclists at 30mph, Mr Payne offered to speak to them about the challenges on rural roads. He explained that Operation Close Pass was being run to tackle the issue, although they were required to bring in a horse from a neighbouring police force to complete a demonstration. • A Community Speed Watch was usually set up after a traffic survey had been undertaken by Wiltshire Council to identify the level of speeding. • It was possible for Community Speed Watch to be set up in a residential estate if required. • The Chairman followed the Road Policing Unit on X (formerly Twitter).
24	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Written updates were available in the agenda pack from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police, pg. 43 - 51 • Community First, pg. 53 - 60 • Healthwatch Wiltshire, pg. 61 • BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Together – Integrated Care Board, pg. 63 - 64 • Age UK, pg. 65 – 77 • Hilmarton Parish Council, pg. 79

- Calne Town Council, pg. 81 - 83
 - Pig Parade pg. 85
 - Joseph Priestley's discovery of oxygen, pg. 87

The following partners also provided verbal updates:

Wiltshire Police

Inspector Pete Foster gave an update on behalf of Calne Neighbourhood Police Team. Key points included:

- Members of the neighbourhood team supplemented Wiltshire Road Policing Unit in carrying out speed enforcement activity and had been trained how to use speed guns.
- There had been no personnel changes to the team since the last Area Board meeting.
- The team had carried out 274 engagement events in the past three months, including attending Calne Pride and a Facebook Live event.
- Chief Constable Catherine Roper, Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson and Police Community Support Officer Mark Cook had visited the youth club in Calne with the Open Blue Bus and Rise Trust. Chief Constable Roper had been very complementary about the work undertaken as part of the Blue Bus project.
- There had been two recent arrests in Calne for drug supply offences. Four children had become unwell after taking drugs.
- Police cadets had been assisting in proactive operations to purchase vapes and knives. Unfortunately, a number of premises were found to have agreed to sell knives to under-18s and training had been put in place.
- Training had also been provided to hoteliers as part of the Hotel Watch scheme.
- Crime figures in the community area were generally lower than during the same period last year. There had been a slight increase in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents linked to a specific individual, who had been arrested a number of times.
- There had been an increase in car thefts using a keyless system, due to the key signal being copied. It was possible to prevent the signal being copied by purchasing a Faraday Pouch.
- The CCTV van funded by Calne, Chippenham and Corsham Area Boards in 2014 was due to have its CCTV equipment replaced using funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. The new equipment was due to be installed in around a month's time. Once updated, the van would be available for use in the three Area Boards that helped to fund the van and it would also be deployed to support large events, such as

football matches, in other areas.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- The Area Board thanked Inspector Foster for his update.
- When asked about how coming out of special measures was impacting Wiltshire Police day-to-day, Inspector Foster explained that His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services now had greater confidence in the service being provided. Wiltshire Police were in a 'scan phase' with the Chief Constable attending a quarterly scrutiny panel.
- It was the Chief Constable's ambition to make Wiltshire Police an outstanding force and getting out of special measures was only the first stage of the recovery.
- The current crime recording system was introduced two years ago and definitions of burglary had changed to distinguish between their location in the home or in outbuildings. Earlier figures would be unrepresentative of general trends as they were impacted by Covid-19.

Calne Town Council

Alan Hill from Calne Town Council provided the following updates:

- The town council had been working with officers from Wiltshire Council to help to open up access along the footpath from Cherhill View estates to Kingsbury Green Academy.
- There had been a delay to the proposed Lidl development in the town.
- Part of the river Marden, near to Marden House and the old library, that was the responsibility of Wiltshire Council, was in very poor condition.
- A Grade II* listed building on Curzon Street was in need of attention.
- There were issues with bin collection at the nearby underpass.
- There had been a fire at the Hill's facility in Lower Compton.

The Vice-Chairman reported that discussions were being held with Wiltshire Council's Waste Management Team and housing associations about the bins. He also observed that efforts had been made to get funding for the improvement of the area around the river Marden. He noted that Cllr Robert MacNaughton had, along with other volunteers, helped to pull buddleia plants from the riverbank.

The Chairman noted that the fire at Lower Compton had been caused by a battery and that education about fire prevention had been provided by Wiltshire Council. Cllr Ashley O'Neill reported that he had held conversations with officers about the fire on Monday and that Hills mitigated against the risk of fire by separating different types of waste.

Celia Stevens from Calne Town Council reported that they had been working with the Grant Application and Planting Support Team at Wiltshire Council to plant trees on green space, owned by either council, in the town.

Bremhill Parish Council

Isabel McCord, Chairman of Bremhill Parish Council, provided an update, including:

- They had held their annual parish council meeting on 14 May where issues such as speeding, the condition of verges, passing places and the difficulty of getting young volunteers for community groups, were discussed.
- They had been working with other parishes led by Calne Without Parish Council to ensure the smooth transfer of responsibilities when the changes made under the Corporate Governance review were implemented in 2025.
- It was important that damage caused by the additional traffic diverted to avoid Lyneham Banks was repaired and that steps were taken to ensure that Bremhill was not used as a rat run.
- They had a vacancy in their East Tytherton Ward following the resignation of Jessica Pillow.

Calne Without Parish Council

Doug Price, Vice-Chairman of Calne Without Parish Council, provided an update. Points included:

- The parish council were continuing to push for road improvement projects through Studley and were also working on a defibrillator project.
- The parish council had helped to distribute sandbags following flooding in the area and were working on a revised flood plan.
- Their draft neighbourhood plan had been passed to Wiltshire Council for reg 15 approval.
- They were working to distribute assets to their successor councils to implement the changes in the Community Governance Review from 2025.
- The right of way issue that they had raised at the previous Area Board was due to be looked at, and a consultation on the proposals was due to close on Thursday.

Cherhill and Yatesbury Parish Council

Andrew Sadler-Smith from Cherhill and Yatesbury Parish Council provided the

following update:

- Thanks were given to volunteers that had helped to re-chalk the Cherhill White Horse.
- A chief architect had been appointed by the National Trust to oversee the restoration of the Lansdowne Monument. Initial tests to assess the condition of the monument had been carried out in April and further tests would be undertaken over the winter. It was planned to start work in 2025 and it would be carried out by the same steeplejacks that had refurbished Salisbury Cathedral. Funding for the project would be provided by the National Trust.
- Glenis Ansell from Calne Town Council had been campaigning hard to help drive forward the restoration of the Lansdowne Monument.
- There had been a delay to refurbishing the Lansdowne Monument as attention had been focussed on repairing the Wellington Monument.

Older Person's Champion

Diane Gooch, the Area Board's Older Person's Champion, made the following points:

- The reconnecting group that met every Tuesday had at least 50 members and was oversubscribed. Members of the reconnecting group particularly enjoyed visits from Wiltshire councillors and found that it was a good forum to hear about policy changes.
- Wiltshire Council adjusted the waiting time at the traffic lights near Calne Hub and Library to allow people with impaired mobility more time to cross the road.
- Chief Constable Roper would be visiting Calne Reconnecting Group on 1 October.
- A 73-year-old resident had tripped over paving in the Heritage Quarter Car Park on 10 June, at 3:30pm, and had had to wait until 10:30pm for an ambulance. Unsafe Paving was an issue on paths in the town.
- She was in the process of organising the 2024 Wellness Day.

The Area Board passed on its best wishes to the resident that has tripped over. Cllr Tom Rounds noted that he had raised the issue of traffic light waiting times with officers at Wiltshire Council. The red traffic light continued for an additional 10-15 seconds after the green pedestrian crossing light went out to allow for a safe crossing time.

Calne Fairtrade Fortnight

Stan Woods from Fairtrade Calne gave an update about their plans to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the introduction of the fairtrade mark in the United Kingdom. He reported that Patrick Kaberia, a tea producer from Michimikuru in

	<p>Kenya, would be visiting Calne in September 2024. Over £5,000 of funding had been raised to allow Mr Kaberia to visit and letters of support had been sent from local councillors for support of his visa application. Mr Kaberia, a charismatic speaker about fairtrade and climate change, would be speaking at an event in Calne Town Hall on 9 September. Further information was available at calnefairtrade.org.uk.</p> <p><u>Spurgeons Children's Charity</u></p> <p>Lilly, the charity's organiser for North Wiltshire highlighted that they had a contract to run family hubs across Wiltshire and that they wanted to be visible in the community. She explained that they aimed to be in Calne every week to signpost young people to events and offer outreach support. As part of their community outreach, they were in discussions with the manager of Calne Hub and Library to run parenting courses from the building.</p> <p>In response to a query from the Vice-Chairman about the difference between the service offered by Spurgeons and the children's centre at Priestley Primary School, the charity organiser explained that that centre was run by the RISE Trust. Through family hubs, Spurgeons provided parental and family support for children up to 19, or up to 25 with special educational needs. They would run stalls at events to promote their services and work with schools. When asked by Cllr MacNaughton about whether they received referrals from Northlands Surgery and Beversbrook Medical Centre, the charity organiser noted that they did receive referrals from other organisations at a lower level.</p>
25	<p><u>Area Board End of Year Report</u></p> <p>The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager (SEPM), Ros Griffiths, give an overview of the progress that the Area Board had made towards its priority goals over the past year. She highlighted that the Area Board had been very successful in targeting its grant funding to the parts of its community area in the quintile with the greatest levels of deprivation. The SEPM then went on to provide further details about specific projects in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocating £39,029 through the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG). • Helping to co-ordinate energy cafes throughout the community area to offer advice to residents about how to stay warm over the winter. • Helping to organise a dementia awareness day for residents, including a dome giving insights into how people with dementia might experience the world. • Working with Calne Foodbank and helping support summer holiday activities for children from lower income families through the FUEL Programme. • Assisting in road safety by funding speed limit reviews at Studley Crossroads, installing an advisory crossing point on Sand Pit Road and

	<p>carrying out resurfacing work at Quarr Barton.</p> <p>During the discussion, the Area Board thanked the SEPM for her report and welcomed the progress that had been made towards their priority goals over the past year.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman stated that he would welcome additional safety measures on the White Heart junction on the A3102, as it was used by schoolchildren heading to Kingsbury Green Academy. He recalled that the junction had been discussed by the LHFIG's predecessor organisation, the Community Area Transport Group (CATG). Cllr Ashley O'Neill explained that the data collected had shown that the junction was deemed to be safer than other junctions along the A3102 where safety improvements were planned. However, he provided reassurance that the junction would remain on the LHFIG agenda, and they would continue to review options. Alan Hill from Calne Town Council explained that he felt that the issue was being taken seriously by the LHFIG and that he had great faith in the group. He praised the Quemerford footpath improvements but requested that the hedge along the footpath be cut back to allow for better access.</p> <p>Cllr Robert MacNaughton reported that skate park events in Marden Park had been very successful and had been attended by 80 people. The SEPM confirmed that the Area Board had made a financial contribution towards that event.</p>
26	<p><u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The Area Board agreed to defer the update about the Community Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), so that it could devote more time to considering it at a future meeting.</p>
27	<p><u>Area Board Priorities - Looking Ahead</u></p> <p>As the meeting was running rather short of time, the Area Board agreed that they would defer consideration of their priorities for the forthcoming year to a future meeting. The Vice-Chairman did emphasise that he felt that engaging with the Integrated Care Board and pressing for a new medical centre in Calne should be amongst their priorities. Cllr Ashley O'Neill reported that Mr Chris Caswill and he had been lobbying Cllr Richard Clewer, the Leader of Wiltshire Council and Co-Chair of Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board, about the proposed medical practice. The Vice-Chairman also noted that the Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council was a board member of the Integrated Care Board and that every possible avenue of lobbying should be pursued.</p>
28	<p><u>Appointment of Representatives 2024/25</u></p> <p>The Area Board were invited to appoint representatives to outside bodies and working groups not directly linked to their priority areas from the previous year. They were also invited to confirm Diane Gooch as the Area Board's Older</p>

	<p>People’s Champion and to note the terms of reference of the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG). During the discussion, Diane confirmed that she was happy to carry on for a further year and the Area Board thanked her for her work in the community.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Ashley O’Neill, seconded by Cllr Tom Rounds, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>a. To appoint members as lead representatives to outside bodies, working groups and to the LHFIG, as set out at Appendix A;</p> <p>Outside Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Cllr Tom Rounds • Calne Marden House – Cllr Ian Thorn <p>Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calne Area Parish Forum – Cllr Ashley O’Neill • Calne S106 Working Group – Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney • LHFIG – Cllr Ashley O’Neill <p>b. To note the Terms of Reference for the LHFIG as set out in Appendix B.</p> <p>c. To reaffirm Diane Gooch as the Older People’s Champion for the Area Board.</p>
29	<p><u>S106 Working Group - Meeting Update</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred the Area Board to the minutes of the last meeting of the S106 Working Group, held on 27 March 2024, on pages 111 and 112 of the agenda pack.</p>
30	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the budgets remaining for allocation at the meeting. Representatives were given the opportunity to give a brief overview of their projects and answer any questions by the Area Board.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Ashley O’Neill, seconded by Cllr Tom Rounds, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To award Calne Pocket Park £750 towards celebrating 250 years since Joseph Priestley Discovered oxygen in Calne. • To award Castlefields Canal and River Park Association £930 towards an eco-bug house. • To award Calne Pocket Park £2,000 towards replacing tree planters. • To award Calne Bike Meet £1,688.12. • To award Calne Town Football Club £1,000 towards a hardship fund for eight youth memberships • To award the RISE Trust Youth £5,000 towards Calne Youth Safe Spaces. <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The applications met the 2024/25 grant criteria.</i></p>
31	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the recommendations of the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting held on 26 April 2024.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley O'Neill praised the work of the LHFIG in conducting speed limit reviews and funding dropped kerbs to make pavements more accessible.</p> <p>During the discussion, it was queried whether it would be possible to have a breakdown of the balance of LHFIG funding spent in Calne and in surrounding parishes in the Area Board. It was noted that this information was not recorded but that LHFIG adopted a priority system for the whole Area Board area. Alan Hill from Calne Town Council praised Cllr O'Neill for his chairmanship of the LHFIG.</p> <p>In response to a query from local resident, Cllr Ross Henning, it was clarified that the LHFIG was able to fund Speed Indicator Device (SID) related infrastructure, such as posts, but was not able to fund SIDs.</p> <p>Celia Stevens, from Calne Town Council, requested that Issue 3-23-17, which was recommended to be closed by the LHFIG, was kept open for further discussion. Cllr O'Neill reported that engineers had raised concerns about sight lines and a loss of parking were the project to install a crossing on London Road to go ahead, but he agreed that the issue should be kept open for further discussion. Cllr Tom Rounds said that he was minded to support a new crossing on London Road to improve access for school children.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Rounds, it was resolved to approve the recommendations of the LHFIG on 26 April 2024, subject to an amendment keeping Issue 3-23-17 Calne London Road Crossing open for further discussion.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p>

	<p>To allocate funding to Issues already on the Priority Schemes List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-23-3 Foxham Speed Limit £9,800 • 3-23-8 Sandy Lane Gates & Signs £3,150 • 3-23-12 Studley Village Speed Limit Review £2,030 • 3-22-20 A4 Cherhill £1,966.32 (additional funding) <p>To add the following Issues to the Priority Schemes List with funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-23-14 Hilmarton & Goatacre SID Posts £1,050 • 3-23-16 Tytherton Lucas Warning Signs £350 • 3-23-22 Stockley & Broads Green Speed Limit review £2,030 • 3-23-18 Calne Without Parish SID Infrastructure £1,260 • 3-23-23 Bremhill Parish SID Infrastructure £1,260 <p>To close the following Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel A3102 Calne Silver Street • 3-23-4 Bremhill Parish Village Gates • 3-23-20 East Tytherington Maud Heath Causeway • 3-20-9 Quemerford Footway Improvements • 3-21-13 Calne Sandpit Road Footway Improvements • 3-22-14 Calne Prince Charles Drive / Ramsay Road Drop Kerbs • 3-22-9 Mile Elm Safety Measures • 3-22-16 Compton Bassett Edge Lines • 3-22-17 Calne The Strand Direction Signs • 3-23-7 Ratford Bremhill Lane Horse Warning Signs • 3-23-9 A342 Old Derry Hill Road Narrows Sign • 3-23-10 A4 Old Derry Hill Safety Barrier • 3-23-21 Calne Wood Street / Phelps Parade Zebra Crossing • 3-24-01 Calne London Road Pedestrian Barrier <p>To keep the following issue open for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-23-17 Calne London Road Crossing
32	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
33	<p><u>Close and Future Dates</u></p> <p>The date of the next Area Board was confirmed as 10 September 2024, 6:30-8:30pm at Calne Hub and Library.</p> <p>Further meetings would be held on:</p>

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 November 2024• 18 February 2025 |
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Meeting details, agendas and minutes can be viewed [here](#).