

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Bradford on Avon Area Board  
**Place:** St Margaret's Hall, St Margaret's St, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1DE  
**Date:** 13 September 2023  
**Start Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 9.00 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Johnny Kidney (Chairman), Cllr Trevor Carbin and Cllr Tim Trimble (Vice-Chair)

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Caroline LeQuesne, Area Board Delivery Officer  
Dominic Argar, Assistant Multimedia Officer  
Ben Fielding, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
David Redfern, Director - Leisure Culture & Communities

### **Town and Parish Councils**

Bradford on Avon Town Council

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police – Chief Constable Catherine Roper  
Wiltshire Police – Inspector Andy Lemon

**Total in attendance: 22**

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<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
31	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Gibson.</p>
32	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023 were presented for consideration and it was;</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023.</b></p>
33	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of disclosable interest.</p>
34	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman stressed the importance of the local plan review with a consultation set to begin on 24 September 2023.</p>
35	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Area Board made the following announcements, which were contained in the agenda pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community First</li> <li>• Healthwatch Wiltshire</li> <li>• Update from BSW Together (Integrated Care System)</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council Information Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wiltshire Local Plan Review</li> <li>○ Climate Emergency update - <a href="https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw">https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
36	<p><u>Youth Update</u></p> <p><b>George Tomlinson, Community Engagement Development Officer provided an update on Bradford on Avon Skate Park and Holiday Club. The update covered the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council had been awarded a grant towards a summer holiday club, which ran in August and offered half-day sessions for £5.</li> <li>• The sessions included a variety of activities including arts, sports and cookery and looked to promote inclusivity and respect.</li> <li>• 13 sessions took place and benefitted over 20 families.</li> <li>• The Town Council received funding from the Area Board towards the</li> </ul>

skatepark which opened in August and has been in constant use since, with an opening ceremony on Saturday 9 September.

- The Town Council also organised skate and skoot lessons, which were ran using Area Board funding to support younger or less experienced people to gain confidence to use the skatepark.

After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:

- Feedback was received that the event at the skatepark had been enjoyable and that there was hope for it to be an annual event.
- The Chief Constable stated that the event sounded positive and that the Police would welcome an invite to support such events.

**Caroline LeQuesne, Area Board Delivery Officer provided an update on behalf of BOA Youth and David Lloyd. The update covered the following points:**

- The centre is managed and owned by Bradford on Avon Town Council, with two part time youth workers and an intern youth worker.
- The vision for the centre was outlined, with an aim for young people to have fun, develop friendships and relationships with trusting adults to bridge gaps between young people and communities.
- An overview of recent work completed by the centre was outlined, including improvements to the centre and activities.
- Plans for the centre were outlined, including a Thursday Café for teenagers, activities for UK Parliament week and a BOA Youth Friendly initiative.

**Jim Lynch provided an update on behalf of BoACAN, regarding Mental Health First Training at St Laurence School. The update covered the following points:**

- A brief overview of the history and work of BoACAN was provided and the way in which they work with small steering groups set up for community projects.
- BoACAN received funding from the Area Board and other sources to support a project called Young Futures following the pandemic, which aimed to support the wellbeing of young people.
- It was noted that it had been difficult to get groups of young people together following the pandemic, however a lot of meetings have taken place, with successful relationships formed between Westwood Social Club and Purple Noise (Music Education), with further music related projects set to take place.
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) was a national initiative and BoACAN received funding to offer the initiative to young people.
- Following a successful meeting with the Head of Sixth Form at St Laurence School, 42 students out of 140 wished to partake in the course, which could lead to a certificate valid for three years.
- Due to the success of the first course, a second course was able to be

	ran, with it hoped that a third would run in the October half term.
37	<p><u>Area Board Priority Updates</u></p> <p>The Area Board received the following verbal updates from Lead Representatives of the Area Board Priorities:</p> <p><b>Positive activities for young people – Cllr Trevor Carbin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the Area Board Delivery Officer is currently in the process of organising event.</li> </ul> <p><b>Loneliness and isolation – Cllr Johnny Kidney</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health and Wellbeing Board was now up and running again following the pandemic with a meeting set to take place at 10.30am on 25 September 2023 at the Town Council offices.</li> <li>• Work has been done including outreach to the boating community.</li> <li>• Parishes and groups operating within villages were welcomed to attend.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting the local economy focussing upon the Local Plan – Cllr Sarah Gibson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that there was set to be a workshop information session in Bradford on Avon on 2 October 2023 in relation to the Local Plan; taking place from 3pm-7pm in the library.</li> </ul> <p><b>Improving access and transport – Cllr Tim Trimble</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A traffic modelling exercise was currently underway with W.S Atkins on how the traffic management of the town centre might be altered. This could potentially entail a one-way system with the primary driver to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. It was noted that the results might be received by late October or November.</li> <li>• Work was being undertook to start building a strategic outline case for a new, safer pedestrian crossing over the river following the future of transport consultation.</li> <li>• An application had been made to Wiltshire Council for bus service improvement plan funding to set up an electric bus service around the town to complement the existing town bus service.</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council was currently drafting an air quality action plan, with Bradford on Avon one of 8 air quality management areas within the county.</li> </ul> <p><b>Addressing climate change – All Cllrs</b></p> <p>It was noted that Bradford on Avon Area Board was the first in the county to hold a climate change specific Area Board meeting; with it hoped that another could be organised soon.</p>
38	<p><u>Partner and Community Updates</u></p> <p>Updates were received from the following partners:</p>

- **Climate Friendly Bradford**

Andrew Nicolson member of Climate Friendly Bradford and Wiltshire Climate Alliance addressed the Area Board. The following points were raised:

- Wiltshire Climate Alliance would be keen to provide a presentation to the Area Board about topics of their concern, to which it was agreed that they would be welcome to present at the Climate themed Area Board meeting that would be organised in the future.
- Mr Nicolson took the time to ask some questions of the Area Board, which were answered by the Chairman.

- **Streets Ahead**

The Area Board received the following verbal update which covered the following matters:

- Streets ahead had responded to the air quality action plan as well as providing other feedback.

- **Health and Wellbeing**

The Area Board received the following verbal update from Cllr Johnny Kidney, which reiterated that the Health and Wellbeing Group was now up and running again with the next meeting set to take place on 25 September 2023 at 10.30am.

- **Bradford on Avon Town Council**

The Area Board received the following verbal update from Cllr Katie Vigar on behalf of Bradford on Avon Town Council. The update covered the following matters:

- The Town council had held a business forum in July, which had been ran by a professional independent advisor, with over 30 local businesses having attended to discuss the challenges they faced and how they might be addressed.
- Having now finished the skatepark, consultations were underway for improving the play park at Poulton with initial designs provided by a company.
- There would be time before the October Full Council meeting to discuss the redevelopment of the pavilion on Culver Close, with architect designs set to be displayed half an hour before the meeting, followed by a vote.

- **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

The Area Board noted a written updates attached to the agenda. In addition, Inspector Andy Lemon provided a verbal update which covered the following points:

- An overview of the neighbourhood policing team was provided as well as their priorities and vision for the community.

- An outline of some of the recent work conducted by the team was provided, with it noted that next week the team would be supporting local rural crime with farmers.
- The team had recently supported two operations – Op AIDENT (modern slavery and human trafficking) and Op SCEPTRE (knife crime).
- Data was provided in relation to recent incident statistics, with it noted that there had been a spike in shoplifting, with work set to take place with shops to encourage more active reporting to catch offenders.
- The following five priorities for neighbourhood harm reduction were outlined:
  - Child centred policing
  - Evidence based policing
  - Burglary
  - Public confidence
  - Anti-social behaviour

After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:

- Lorry watch in Bradford on Avon was discussed, with it noted that Wiltshire Council had consulted on taking responsibility for the town bridge with the potential of installing an ANPR system in the next year.
- It was also noted that within the air quality action plan, Wiltshire Council had included the potential of reducing the weight limit on the bridge from 18 to 7 tonnes, which would potentially cause more offenders to cross the bridge.
- It was noted that information would be passed through the Chairman in relation to how helmet cam footage might be used to report cars passing too closely to cyclists as well as how pedestrians might report motorists not using seatbelts or using mobile phones whilst driving.
- The Chief Inspector agreed to check data and engagement levels for previous iterations of Operation Close Pass.

- **Wiltshire Police Chief Constable**

The Area Board received an update from Wiltshire Police Chief Constable Catherine Roper which covered the following points:

- The responsibility of the Chief Constable was to deliver against the PCC plan, with Wiltshire Police placed into special measures “engage” in summer 2022.
- As part of being placed into “engage”, it was highlighted that Wiltshire Police had an insufficient strategic framework, they weren’t investigating to an effective standard and were not providing effective support for victims.
- As part of the work to rectify these issues, business as usual work was separated from the response to “engage”, as though the Police were

	<p>busy, they had not driven things in the right way, with a need to get the fundamentals right and improve public trust, visibility and transparency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve transparency the Chief also produces an open letter to the PCC to provide an update of what work has been completed.</li> <li>• The Chief Constable attends a performance oversight group in London every 6 months, where she presents to the HMI and Home Office. The next meeting is next week and the update from this will be publicly available.</li> </ul> <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information was provided about the “Right Care Right Person” initiative, which was set to be rolled out by the Police as a review to how the Police responds to people in crisis, with an opportunity for partner organisations to step in and provide mental health support with the possibility for freeing up Police resource for other tasks.</li> <li>• The importance of carbon neutrality and climate emergency within Police policy was stressed, with it noted that the Chief Constable would review the policies in place.</li> <li>• A point was made in relation to officer morale, to which it was noted that a target operating model review was set to take place to better improve the Police shift system and resilience. Further reference was also made to how the demands on student officers had now been scaled back to improve morale.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</b></li> </ul> <p>The Area Board noted a written updates attached to the agenda.</p>
39	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the following applications for funding:</p> <p><b><u>Community Area Grants:</u></b></p> <p>Winsley Cricket Club - £5,000 towards 2 Artificial Practice Runways and Protective Netting.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Bradford on Avon Area Board agreed to award £2,000 to Winsley Cricket Club for 2 Artificial Practice Runways and Protective Netting.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Johnny Kidney</b>  <b>Seconded – Cllr Trevor Carbin</b></p> <p>Westwood Social Club - £5,000 towards Conversion of Storage Area to Disabled</p>

Toilet.

**Decision**

**Bradford on Avon Board agreed to award £5,000 to Westwood Social Club for Conversion of Storage Area to Disabled Toilet.**

**Moved – Cllr Johnny Kidney  
Seconded – Cllr Trevor Carbin**

The Mount Pleasant Centre Ltd - £5,000 towards Refurbishment of Social Club Roof and Toilet Block.

**Decision**

**Bradford on Avon Board agreed to award £3,470 to The Mount Pleasant Centre Ltd for Refurbishment of Social Club Roof and Toilet Block.**

**Moved – Cllr Johnny Kidney  
Seconded – Cllr Trevor Carbin**

**Youth Grants:**

Bradford on Avon Community Area Network - £1,650 towards Mental Health First Aid.

**Decision**

**Bradford on Avon Area Board agreed to award £1,650 to Bradford on Avon Community Area Network for Mental Health First Aid**

**Moved – Cllr Johnny Kidney  
Seconded – Cllr Tim Trimble**

**Delegated Funding:**

The Area Board ratified the following grants which had been awarded Delegated Funding Process, by the Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager, between meetings due to matters of urgency:

**Youth Grant**

Bradford on Avon Town Council - £4,000 requested towards Summer Holiday Club (£1,000 awarded).

**Youth Grant**

Bradford on Avon Playing Field Association – £875 awarded towards Beginners Skateboarding and Scooting Coaching.

40	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced the minutes and recommendations from the LHFIG meeting held on 24 July 2023.</p> <p>After which, it was;</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p><b>The minutes of the Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group meeting held on 24 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record as well as approving the spending recommendations within.</b></p>
41	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
42	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 1 November 2023.</p>

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