

MINUTES

Meeting: Pewsey Area Board
Place: Bouverie Hall, Goddard Road, Pewsey, SN9 5EQ
Date: 27 November 2023
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.10 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Stuart Figini Senior Democratic Services Officer, (Tel): 01225 718221 or (e-mail) stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman), Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr Stuart Wheeler

Cllr Nick Botterill (Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Sam Howell – Director Highways and Transport
Craig Campbell – Streetscene Area Manager
Adrian Hampton – Head of Highway Operations

Partners

Perry Payne – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Total in attendance: 105

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
94	<p data-bbox="336 376 807 414"><u>Highways and Transport Matters</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 443 1485 517">The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Area Board meeting and introduced officers and members.</p> <p data-bbox="336 555 1485 808">Cllr Nick Botterill – Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning introduced the event highlighting that Wiltshire was a large rural county and roads were an integral part of the county infrastructure and economy. This represented the Council’s largest and most valuable public asset with a replacement value of over £5 billion. He noted that it was difficult to mitigate some of the more adverse factors in rural areas compared to urban areas with greater availability of public transport.</p> <p data-bbox="336 846 1485 920">The officer presentation highlighted the Wiltshire Context and in particular the following more detailed areas:</p> <ul data-bbox="395 958 1342 1422" style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management – some numbers • Investment in the network • The Local Transport Plan • Public Transport Review – consultation • Local Issues to Pewsey • Highways Maintenance - inc. benchmarking • Reasons for the number of potholes and how these are repaired • Innovation and the defect dashboard • Flood prevention • The Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group • Parish Steward Scheme • Verge and litter clearance – extra funds <p data-bbox="336 1460 1485 1758">The Cabinet Member and Director of Highways and Transport – Sam Howells referred generally to investment in the Wiltshire network and funding for highway maintenance, the additional funding received for potholes, bus service improvements, an amount to improve electric vehicle charging, all topped up by resources from Wiltshire Council. It was noted that in 2023 there was an additional £5m to replace signs, £5m towards litter picking along rural highways, cleansing car parks, removal of flyposting and in 2024 an additional £10m for preventative maintenance and resurfacing.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1796 1485 1899">The Area Board noted that the additional sums highlighted during the presentation would help to alleviate some maintenance backlogs and general degradation.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1937 1485 2011">The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for their informative presentation and welcomed comments and questions from the public and Area</p>

	Board members.
95	<p data-bbox="336 349 772 387"><u>Question and Answer Session</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 421 1485 524">The Chairman then invited questions and comments from those present. It was noted that questions submitted in advance of the meeting would receive written responses in a document attached to the minutes.</p> <p data-bbox="336 566 1485 636">The following questions were raised during the meeting with responses provided by the Panel:</p> <ol data-bbox="384 674 1485 891" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="384 674 1485 891">1. Potholes – general issue in the Pewsey area and in particular roads in Woodborough, Pewsey, Grafton and Easton Royal, reporting through the MyWilts App and request for information about timescales for repair. Investigate the use of new technologies to fix potholes including preventative action and assess and fix potholes en-route to planned maintenance. <p data-bbox="432 931 1485 1406">Response – Officers explained that they were very alert to the challenges of potholes in rural areas. They commented on the impact of the weather on road surfaces resulting in potholes. It was noted that due to the increase in potholes generally across the country the demand for materials to repair potholes had increased to the point that it was difficult to source some of the materials necessary to make suitable repairs. On occasions interim repairs are undertaken for road safety purposes. Officers acknowledged that the MyWilts app required an update which was currently underway, with an improved system for reporting issues expected to be available in the New Year. Officers confirmed that the Council was keen to use new technology in dealing with highway issues. They also confirmed that operatives were encouraged to fill small potholes on the way to planned maintenance.</p> <ol data-bbox="384 1447 1485 1516" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="384 1447 1485 1516">2. Signage for the railway bridge in Pewsey and impact on HGV’s following recent incidences. <p data-bbox="432 1556 1485 1704">Response – It was suggested that on occasions HGV drivers may either miss signs or simply ignore the signs. Cllr Oatway reported that the LHFIG had recently agreed funding for new railway bridge signage, and this had been put up on the approaches to the bridge.</p> <ol data-bbox="384 1744 1485 1814" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="384 1744 1485 1814">3. Parish Stewards Scheme – concern that in certain parish areas resourcing for Parish Stewards is lacking. <p data-bbox="432 1854 1485 2002">Response - Officers explained that the Highway Contract had recently been let to a new contractor and this had led to a number of challenges as with all new contracts. The Area Board noted that the new contract had afforded increases in available resources and investment in the</p>

Scheme. Officers explained that conversations about the work of Parish Stewards had taken place directly with the new contractor and improvements had been seen across the county. Officers agreed to investigate the issues further.

4. Lack of Freight Strategy and impact on local communities.

Response – Officers reported that the Freight Strategy is part of the current Local Transport Plan review process. It was suggested that there would be new engagement early on in 2024.

5. Obstructions in Wilcot near the Kennett and Avon Canal bridge and problems for boat owners parking cars.

Response – Officers would provide a response after the meeting.

6. The quality of road repairs.

Response – Officers explained that the Council co-ordinate certain aspects of repairs undertaken especially by utility companies and the expectation is that roads are reinstated to an acceptable standard. The public were encouraged to report issues to the Council so that concerns are addressed.

7. Diversions and road closures – concern about signage and potential damage to verges when traffic is diverted along alternative routes due to accidents or planned road works, in particular HGV traffic using unsuitable routes. The public asked if officers approved diversion routes for planned works by utility companies.

Response – Sometimes the diversion of traffic is unavoidable especially along narrow rural roads. Officers indicated that they would investigate the concerns further, although ultimately it was the drivers responsibility to drive according to road conditions and speed limits.

8. Verge cutting policy – concern about overgrown verges in Wootton Rivers along the three roads through the village causing access issues when vehicles wish to pass each other.

Response – The Area Board noted that the Grass Cutting Policy was being reviewed. Officers reported that the frequency of grass cutting has not changed, although when the grass is cut has changed to allow for natural flowering and biodiversity reasons.

9. Concerns about white lining issues, and maintenance issues across the county not being equal and Pewsey having the highest identifiable need.

Response – Officers confirmed that they were in dialogue with a number

	of residents about highway issues in the Pewsey area.
96	<p><u>Session Summary and Next Steps</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their questions and comments during the meeting and officers for attending and responding to resident concerns and issues.</p>
97	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies.</p>
98	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
99	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
100	<p><u>Information Items and Updates</u></p> <p>The following written updates and information items were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Priorities Update • Community First • BSW Together Integrated Care Board • Healthwatch Wiltshire
101	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered two applications for Community Area Grant funding and one application for Youth Grant funding. The Chairman invited a representative of each application to give a brief overview of their project to the Area Board.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>To approve the following grant funding:</p> <p>1. Community Area Grant funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Bouverie Hall – to award £1152.36 towards replacement of florescent lighting with led panels. b. Manningford Memorial Hall – to award £1929.00 towards Village Hall New UPVC Facias soffits and guttering.

	<p>2. Youth Grant funding:</p> <p>a. Upavon Parish Council – to award £1500.00 towards Blue Bus monthly services.</p>
102	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpaths Improvements Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Oatway QPM, it was resolved:</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To add Issue 10-23-11 Oxenwood Speed Limit Assessment £2,320 (with funding) to the Priority Schemes List: • To add funding to schemes already on the Priority Schemes List: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10-20-9 Chirton Speed Limit Assessment £2,320, ○ 10-22-10 North Newnton Footway Phase 3 £8,000 ○ 10-23-2 A4 Froxfield Speed Limit £5,000 • To close Issue 10-23-3 A364 Leigh Hill • It was noted that Issue 10-21-2 Woodborough C261 extend kerbing and / or footway would be subject to a substantive Fund bid.
103	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the following future meeting dates (7.00-9.00pm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 March 2024 • 17 June 2024 • 23 September 2024 <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.</p>