

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** DEVIZES AREA BOARD  
**Place:** Devizes Hub and Library, Sheep Street, Devizes  
**Date:** 13 May 2019  
**Start Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.30 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Tara Shannon (Democratic Services Officer), on 01225 718352 or [tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk).

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Simon Jacobs (Chairman), Cllr Laura Mayes and Cllr Philip Whitehead (Vice-Chairman)

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Andrew Jack (Community Engagement Manager)  
Tara Shannon (Democratic Services Officer)

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Devizes Town Council  
All Cannings  
Market Lavington  
West Lavington

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police  
Lavington School  
Devizes School

**Total in attendance: 40**

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<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
32	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Councillors present to introduce themselves.</p>
33	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigel Carter, Devizes Town Council</li> <li>• Acting Inspector Pete Foster, Wiltshire Police</li> </ul>
34	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019.</b></p>
35	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Anna Cuthbert declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11, the youth grant application from Devizes School, as her children went to the school. She declared she would consider the application with an open mind and would still vote on the item.</p>
36	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Led Housing Project</b> Wiltshire Council, in partnership with Community First and Wiltshire Community Land Trust, had set up a partnership project to advise and support communities to address their housing needs.</li> </ul> <p>It was stated that community led housing was about local people playing a leading and lasting role in solving local housing problems, creating genuinely affordable homes and strong communities in ways that are difficult to achieve through mainstream housing.</p>

- **Homeless Strategy Consultation**

The Chair announced that a consultation had been launched on how we can prevent homelessness and help those who are homeless to find a home.

Wiltshire Council was asking for views on its new strategy which set out priorities and actions to work with those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, to help them secure and keep a good home. The consultation could be accessed at:  
<https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=155240979642>.

The meeting was encouraged to take part.

- **The Extended Consultation on Vision for Special School Provision**

The Chair announced that this consultation had now finished. However, details of this (alongside a briefing paper) could still be accessed online at:

[http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/education/special\\_schools\\_consultation\\_extension](http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/education/special_schools_consultation_extension).

- **The Big Pledge 2019**

The Chair announced that the Big Pledge challenge would be running again this year from 3 June - 14 July. A short video was shown to the meeting with details on the challenge.

Cllr Simon Jacobs and Cllr Philip Whitehead stated that they would be signing up and the meeting was encouraged to sign up.

- **The Maltings and Central Car Park Masterplan Consultation**

The Chair stated that Wiltshire Council was consulting on a draft masterplan for the redevelopment of The Maltings and Central Car Park, Salisbury. Once the masterplan had been endorsed by Wiltshire Council it would provide a clear approach for how the site is to be redeveloped over the coming years.

The documents were available on the Wiltshire Council website at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy). Comments were invited on the draft masterplan until 5:00pm on Friday 24th May 2019. Comments could be made online via the council's consultation portal: <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal> or by email to [majorprojects@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:majorprojects@wiltshire.gov.uk).

- **North Wessex Downs Walking Festival**

The Chair announced the first North Wessex Downs Walking Festival. Which would run from 8th to 23rd June, many of the walks would be free of charge and ranged from a pushchair-friendly stroll to a navigation skills workshop.

### Partner Updates

Written updates were available in the agenda pack from Healthwatch Wiltshire and the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

In addition to the written updates, the following verbal updates were given by partners present:

- **Wiltshire Police**

Sgt Rob Milne responded to a question from the Chair regarding drug dealing in Devizes and whether county lines, which had been in the press a lot of late, was an issue in Devizes.

Sgt Milne stated that the issue of county lines caused a lot of confusion. County lines drug dealing was far more organised than normal drug dealing and generally involved much higher levels of violence. It was often assumed that as there were drug users in a community that there must be an issue with county lines. However, the current intelligence in Devizes was that this was not the case. There were vulnerable people and drug users in Devizes who may be susceptible to 'cuckooing', (where dealers from county lines gangs may set up in their property), however, there was no evidence to support that this was happening currently. There were hot spots in Devizes that the police were aware of and there were often warrants and operations undertaken that did not get publicised.

In response to a question from the Board it was stated that people who had served their prison sentence had paid their debt to society and therefore were entitled to move back to the area.

Cllr Cuthbert thanked the police for their work in schools, as it was positive that children could be confident of the police and not afraid of them.

Sgt Milne stated that due to a slight raise in the police precept there was a new community coordinator, who had better oversight and that education and outreach was now working more effectively.

The Board mentioned an evening that had been held at Potterne Youth Club with the police firearms team, around 20 young people had been in attendance and the event was a success, raising the awareness of the dangers of weapons.

In response to a question from the audience regarding a group of youths hanging around a car park near Stanford Court and being noisy, it was stated that the police do try to minimise anti-social behaviour by patrolling. There had to be a balance, young people had to go somewhere and teenagers had been doing this sort of thing for years.

However, if their behaviour tipped over into true anti-social behaviour or criminal activity then the police would act. The Chair stated that this was a Wiltshire Council car park and that actions had previously been taken by the council to try to minimise problems. He offered to try to find out more to see if any actions could be taken.

The Chair thanked Sgt Milne for his report and hard work.

- **Health Services**

The Chairman read a written statement from the CCG updating on the urgent care centre in Devizes.

The design and build contractor had been appointed and design work was underway. The outline business case was at an advanced stage and was expected to be submitted for a decision in summer 2019, and if approved they were targeting spring 2020 for the completion of the full business case. Looking ahead, if the project proceeded through these decision stages along this timeline, it was estimated that construction could be complete in late 2021.

The Chairman stated that he would like further information and requested the Democratic Services Officer try to obtain an update for the next Area Board.

- **Schools Update**

Sarah Lowkis, Headteacher, Lavington School gave an update. A new multi academy trust consisting of 5 primary schools and Lavington School went live on 1 April 2019. Lavington School were working with Devizes School on the satellite sixth form. It was hoped that by working together all age groups of education will improve across rural Wiltshire. One of the pupils was to take part in a cross channel swim, raising funds for a pupil at the school with Leukaemia.

Phil Bevan, Headteacher, Devizes School gave an update the sixth form collaboration with Lavington School had received ministerial approval, so there would now be a 6th form over 2 sites for about 200 pupils, which they were looking to increase to 300 pupils. This was fantastic news and the schools were very pleased. The school had received a good outcome on their Ofsted report.

Cllr Whitehead advised the meeting of a new, better version of the HomeRun app. The purpose of the app was to encourage parents to share cars on the school run, reducing congestion and pollution. It was reported that in some areas the app had reduced school run traffic by 14%. Parents were encouraged to download and use the app.

The Chairman stated that hoping to organise a careers fair for year 13 pupils in late September or early October. They were looking at around

	<p>15-20 local employers (public and private sector) taking part and were trying to build links between town and plain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Town and Parish Councils</b>  Simon Fisher, Devizes Town Council clerk gave an update to the meeting. Focus groups were being held regarding the Market Place and future of Devizes, everyone wanted Devizes to prosper. The plans for would be back from designers very soon and these would then go out to consultation. After the consultation DTC would formulate a plan, and were working towards implementation in June, for a year trial at which time they would come back to Wiltshire Council to advise whether more or less parking spaces were needed in the Market Place. </li> </ul> <p>Regarding neighbourhood planning DTC had met with the strategic planning team at Wiltshire Council. They would be meeting with the parishes and villages as well to discuss matters early. Parishes were encouraged to get in touch so that they could attend the meeting about the neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.</p>
38	<p><u>Homestart Kennet</u></p> <p>Sheree Whorlow, a Trustee from HomeStart Kennet gave a presentation about how the organisation supports families from the Devizes area.</p> <p>HomeStart Kennet provide practical and emotional support to families with children under 5 who are struggling. Challenges to parents could be isolation, being new to the area, having no support network, separation, domestic violence, post-natal depression amongst many others. They promoted family resilience during difficult times and build the families ability to cope, preventing family stress becoming a family crisis.</p> <p>Examples of the support provided were weekly non-judgemental support sessions in the home, presentations, talks and group sessions for military families.</p> <p>HomeStart Kennet was founded in 1987 and was part of HomeStart UK which had 250 independent branches across the UK. They did not receive any government funding so relied on raising their own funds. As well as supporting Devizes, HomeStart Kennet also supported Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Marlborough and Tidworth.</p> <p>The support provided to families was free, and families could self-refer or be referred by partners such as Doctors and Healthcare visitors.</p> <p>The home visiting team delivered support to families in their homes for 2-3 hours</p>

	<p>a week, for about 6 months (depending on the situation). Parents were supported as they learned to cope.</p> <p>Last year in Wiltshire HomeStart Kennet helped 107 families (116 children) and 90% reported a positive outcome.</p> <p>Volunteers were very important to HomeStart Kennet. Volunteers needed empathy, a caring nature, good listening skills, parenting skills or relevant life skills/experience, to be non-judgemental and the ability to commit 2 hours a week. Volunteers would receive 40 hours training including safeguarding, listening skills and confidentiality. They would also have an enhanced DBS check. The next training course in Devizes would be running in October 2019.</p> <p>The meeting was encouraged to spread the word about HomeStart Kennet to families and healthcare professionals and also to those who may volunteer.</p> <p>Sheree thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Sheree and congratulated her on their good work.</p>
39	<p><u>Trading Standards - Buy with Confidence Scheme - This item has been cancelled</u></p> <p>The Chairman announced that agenda item had been cancelled.</p> <p>Cllr Gamble stated that the buy with confidence scheme was shared with other local authorities and included a directory of approved traders, however there were hardly any traders from Devizes in there. He urged those with local business connections to sign up for the directory.</p>
40	<p><u>Open Floor</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited residents to ask questions.</p> <p>An audience member stated that they were delighted to see that Wiltshire Council had passed the climate emergency bill and hoped to hear a presentation in the future on what the council proposed to do about it. The fact that some area boards were banning the use of single use plastics was mentioned.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that once the current cups were used up we would be changing to recyclable cups and people would also be encouraged to bring their own “keep cup” to the meeting. He also encouraged anyone with green initiatives to bring these to the attention of the board.</p>

41	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group (CATG)</u></p> <p>The minutes of the CATG were noted.</p> <p>Cllr Philip Whitehead stated that there was continuing good attendance at the CATG and they received good ideas from the parishes. The CATG achieved as much as any other area board in Wiltshire in terms of completed, successful plans.</p> <p>Cllr Whitehead advised that there had been a spate of accidents on Cain Hill, and therefore a design review was underway. The designs would be modelled for impact on surrounding roads and areas. Funding had not yet been allocated and would have to found. It would probably be at least 2 years before any works were undertaken.</p>
42	<p><u>Local Youth Network</u></p> <p>Paul Wickens, representing Devizes School, spoke in support of their application.</p> <p>The application for Youth Grant Funding were considered by the Board and it was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To grant Devizes School, £1,800.00 towards their Camp Xtra 2019 project.</b></p>
43	<p><u>Health and Wellbeing Group</u></p> <p>Members of the Health and Wellbeing group gave an update to the meeting. The Health and Wellbeing day on 15 June 2019, at 11.00am was promoted to the meeting. Last year it had been aimed at the over 55's, this year it was aimed at all over the age of 18. Around 40 different groups would be represented there. The meeting was encouraged to attend the Health and wellbeing meetings. Once the Health and Wellbeing day had passed, the group would focus on volunteering.</p> <p>The Board considered the application for Health and Wellbeing funding and it was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To grant Devizes Rotary, £1,680 towards Devizes Community Area Health and Well Being Day 2019.</b></p>

44	<p><u>Community Engagement Manager Update</u></p> <p>Andrew Jack, Community Engagement Manager gave an update to the meeting.</p> <p>As he was fairly new to the area Andrew gave the meeting his contact details: tel - 01225 713109; mobile - 07769 917270 and email: <a href="mailto:andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk">andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> and invited people to contact him.</p> <p>Details were given regarding National Armed Forces Day which would be taking place in Salisbury on 28, 29 and 30 of June 2019 in Salisbury. It would be a ticket event however the tickets would be free and could be obtained online.</p> <p>Devizes Royal British Legion would be taking part and were hoping to visit as many war memorials as possible between Devizes and Hudson's Field in Salisbury. At each memorial there would be a small act of remembrance.</p> <p>Mr Jack gave details regarding the different types of grant funding available to community groups and encouraged people to contact him regarding any grant applications.</p> <p>Details were given regarding the Our Community Matters website, <a href="http://ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/">http://ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/</a>. The website had been revamped and was now a lot more user friendly. It was a really valuable resource for the community and community groups and people were encouraged to register. A newsletter would be sent every Friday with information from the site and reached over 1000 people.</p> <p>A representative of the Men's Shed stated that Wiltshire Council used to run a first aid course for volunteers and that it would be really useful if they could start running it again. Mr Jack said that he would look into this for them.</p> <p>Cllr Anna Cuthbert left the meeting due to a prior engagement.</p>
45	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>Representatives of Devizes Park Run, Devizes Town Youth Football Club, Market Lavington Parish Council, the Devizes Canoe Club and All Canning Village Hall spoke in support of their applications for community area grant funding. Cllr Richard Gamble spoke in support of the West Lavington Parish Council application.</p> <p>It was also explained that West Lavington Parish Council had reduced the amount of funding applied for to £1,200.00 as opposed to £2,064.00, as they had received a lower quote for the works.</p> <p>The All Cannings Village Hall application was considered during the Chairman's Announcements as their representative had to leave the meeting early.</p>

	<p>The Board considered the applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme as detailed in the agenda and above. It was;</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To grant Devizes Park Run, £2,500.00, towards a new parkrun for the Devizes area.</li> <li>• To grant Devizes Town Youth FC, £750.00, towards a defibrillator for the Club.</li> <li>• To grant Market Lavington Parish Council, £1358.00, towards CCTV for Old School Community Building.</li> <li>• To grant West Lavington Parish Hall, £1,200.00, towards a new integrated P.A. system for the hall.</li> <li>• To grant Devizes Canoe Club, £3818.62, towards strength and conditioning training equipment.</li> <li>• To grant All Cannings Village Hall, £1,900.00, towards new Audio-Visual equipment.</li> </ul>
46	<p><b><u>Urgent items</u></b></p> <p>The following item was considered as an urgent item:</p> <p><b>Air Quality Update</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last Air Quality Group Update had been published online as an agenda supplement.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Evans updated the meeting. The amount of cars left idle in the town centre and outside schools was raised as an issue. The pollution caused was an issue and it set a bad example to children. Therefore the air quality group were going to ask heads to remind parents to turn off engines when picking up their children. The group had also spoken to bus companies who had stated that drivers were meant to switch off engines when stopped.</p> <p>Cllr Philip Whitehead requested that details of the HomeRun App also be passed on to the schools as this would help to improve air quality. Cllr Evans confirmed that they could do that.</p> <p>Cllr Evans stated that there had been a slight improvement to air quality at Shane’s Castle. However, at the nursery levels were still high and the cause was trying to be established.</p>
47	<p><b><u>Close</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and announced that the next ordinary meeting of the Area Board would be held on 15 July 2019 at 6.30pm at The Shambles in Devizes.</p>