

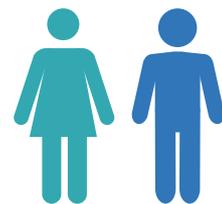


**Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade
Area Board
End of Year Report
May 2021 - March 2023**

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area includes a wide range of communities from Hook with a few dwellings to the four major settlements including the two market towns of Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade, as well as Purton and Lyneham. The community area is mainly rural, although easy access to the M4 provides direct links to both Bristol and London. The nearby town of Swindon is the economic generator for the area.

The Area Board is the local cabinet for Wiltshire Council, bringing local decision making into the heart of the community area. The Area Board is made up of 6 unitary councillors. The Councillors are the voting members of the board, and all those who engage in the board's work are equal members, able to influence decisions, shape and deliver on local priorities.



**Total
Population
32,596**

Area Board Investment

The Area Board invests in local community projects and initiatives that meet local priorities and deliver exceptional outcomes for residents. The Area Board aims to work in partnership to achieve maximum value for its investment. They take a long term view to invest in prevention and early intervention, focusing on tackling inequalities and improving social mobility.

Total Area Board Investment

£48,714	£13,670	£5,944
Community	Youth	Older and Vulnerable Adults
Total Community Contribution		
£154,575	£47,990	£34,179

The total amount invested in projects through additional community contribution, from fundraising, grants, services in kind or volunteering

Local Priorities

The Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area reviewed available local data and evidence and integrated this with local knowledge and community conversation to agree the following local priority themes. Throughout 2021 and 2023, the area board has undertaken a series of more specific local actions to positively address them, including the key achievements below:

Young people's Mental Health & Wellbeing and Positive Activities



The area board has successfully run a Youth Forum and after break whilst there was a change in support staff, the Forum re-started in 2023. Plans include developing a new Taster Day for young people working with the area's many sports clubs to deliver a day of activities when local young people can try out any of the sports available to them by having a bit of fun without committing. The area board has good links with the Army Welfare Service based at MoD Lyneham and the youth club run there.

Environment

The area board has also grant funded RWB Environment Trust to buy an Infra-red camera. This heat-seeking camera is available to all and allows homeowners and others to see where heat is escaping from their properties in order to make appropriate changes to insulation, etc. to make properties be more energy efficient and cheaper to run.



Older People: Isolation and access to services



In a community area with two market towns, two other large villages and many smaller villages with lots of services and activities going on, the Community Care Group, a working group of the area board, felt there needed to be better publicity about what's going on. Drawing on the knowledge and experience of members of the group and the wider area, they created a new directory of what's going on in the area, especially for older people. This was the first time information about groups, clubs, activities and health services in the area has been pulled together and be available in a printed format from places such as libraries and GP surgeries.

Economy

The area board has supported the town of Cricklade to boost tourism through helping to fund a new trail throughout the town. This created 40 new information boards around the town and out to the nearby countryside, including North Meadow. These, and the accompanying leaflet, take visitors on a tour around the town, seeing the highlights and understanding more about the historic settlement.



Community-led projects



The Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Board has developed a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, organisations and residents in the towns and villages. The board recognises the talents, expertise and knowledge of the local community and empowers and facilitates community led action to co-deliver local services.

An example of this is the monthly Community Safety Group meeting held. Whilst not a working group of the area board, it takes place because of the networks and connections with the community developed by the area board and its members. With representatives of local Neighbourhood Watch groups, town and parish council and other interested organisations, the group is able to provide regular updates from police and fire partners and hear about ongoing matters such as changes in personnel or news on specific local police incidents or recruitment campaigns.

In recent meetings the group has focused on issues like rural crime in the area and how it is policed, what it takes to become a retained firefighter and help respond and keep your community safe or the services and advice to our residents from the Bobby Van Trust. When there are active concerns, such as a spate of graffiti in Royal Wootton Bassett, the Community Safety Group is able to respond and call upon partners for news about the situation and their response to it. From these meetings, group members can share information with their own communities.

A key mission of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan is to help Wiltshire be a place where 'We are safe', and it aims to help support communities to be more resilient in the face of challenging times and setbacks and to help to ensure we stay safe and work in close partnership with Wiltshire Police helps to tackle crime.

Engagements

The RWB&C Area Board works alongside other organisations to make things happen in the local community. These groups include the town and parish councils, voluntary and community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs and local charities.

The Area Board wouldn't be able to achieve what they do without these partners working on the ground with them. The Area Board hosts regular business meetings, engagement activities, events, surveys and working groups to stimulate and support local community action.

Area Board Business meetings

8



Attendances

242

Area Board working groups

20



Attendances

260

Engagements/ events/ activities

2



Attendances

63

Area Board surveys

3



Responses

631

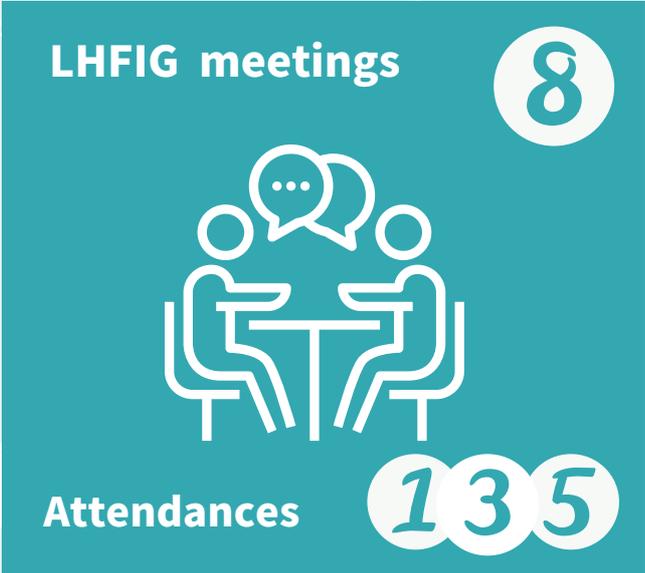
Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group

The Local Highways and Footpath Infrastructure group (LHFIG) is a sub group of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, which deals specifically with highway issues. It aims to find solutions for local road safety concerns, traffic problems, improving footpaths and pavements and small scale parking issues.

The amount allocated is dependent on the geographical size and population for the community area. It is suitable for schemes that improve safety, increase accessibility and sustainability by promoting walking, cycling and public transport and improve traffic management.

LHFIG Projects April 2021 - March 23

- Purton, Church Lane – pedestrian crossing improvements.
- Royal Wootton Bassett, Garraways – waiting restrictions.
- Cricklade – dropped kerbs.
- Water Eaton – Speed limit review.
- Purton, Crosslanes experimental order.
- Lydiard Tregoze – Issue at Sally Pussey’s Inn.
- Broad Hinton, Elm Cross – safety measures.
- Cricklade – Belisha Beacon upgrades at 4 no crossings.
- Royal Wootton Bassett – Longleaze safety measures.



Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2023/24

By agreeing and delivering to local priorities, the Area Board is able to proactively address issues by focusing its resources and working in partnership with local organisations, volunteers and residents. To effectively select local priorities it is important that there is a regular review of the evidence available and the views of the residents are sought. To aid Councillors to agree their priorities, the list below provides some of new sources of data and evidence:

- **JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence**: The 2022 Wiltshire JSNA presents data on the current and future health and wellbeing needs of people in Wiltshire
- **Census 2021 results**: results from the 2021 census are being released in a phased manner, which started in June 2022
- **VCSE research - Wessex Community Action**: state of the Wiltshire voluntary and community sector 2022
- **Annual report - Wiltshire Citizens Advice**: Wiltshire Citizens Advice annual report 2022

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors through the development of the Area Board local action plan.

Based on the work undertaken in 2022/23 and the new evidence available, some of the key priorities that the Board may wish to consider are as follows:

- Young people's Mental Health & Wellbeing and Positive Activities
- Environment
- Older People: Isolation and access to services
- The Economy

It is recommended that for each priority selected, an area board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the Area Board on progress. The Engagement and Partnerships team will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.