

CHIPPENHAM COMMUNITY AREA PARISH FORUM

Wednesday 25th September 2024
7.00pm

in The Kington St Michael Village Hall, Stubbs Lane, Kington St Michael SN14 6HX

NOTES OF MEETING

ATTENDEES:	Wiltshire Cllr Howard Greenman	Kington Division (Chair of Forum)
	Wiltshire Cllr Ross Henning	Chippenham & Villages Community Area Board
	Wiltshire Cllr Nick Botterill	By Brook Division
	Perry Payne	Wiltshire & Swindon Road Safety Partnership
	PC Jessica Swanborough	Chippenham Neighbourhood Policing Team
	Vivian Vines (Meeting Clerk)	Langley Burrell Without Parish Council (Clerk)
	Alison Butler	Chap, Rural Rep and Carers Champion
	Cllr Di Webb	Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council
	Cllr Fred Winup	Castle Combe Parish Council
	Cllr Stephen Eades	Chippenham Without Parish Council
	Cllr Howard Ham	Chippenham Without Parish Council
	Cllr Stephen Depla	Christian Malford Parish Council
	Cllr Alan Lawer	Kington Langley Parish Council
	Cllr Gerry Gamble	Kington St Michael Parish Council
	Cllr Mike Barber	Seagry Parish Council
	Cllr Daniel Errington	Sutton Benger Parish Council
	Cllr Alistair Parker	Yatton Keynell Parish Council

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES:

Wiltshire Cllr Howard Greenman welcomed all to the Forum Meeting. He thanked the Kington St Michael Parish Council for hosting the Meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Cllr Adam Carwardine (Sutton Benger PC), Cllr Julie Hoskins (Langley Burrell Without PC), Cllr Fiona Plowman (Yatton Keynell PC), Sergeant Jamie Ball (Wiltshire Police), Inspector Peter Foster (Wiltshire Police) and Ian Plowman (Yatton Keynell PC Clerk).

2. NOTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Notes of the Parish Forum Meeting held on the 19th June 2024 in the Christian Malford Village Hall, Station Road, Christian Malford SN15 4BL were received and noted.

3. ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING:

There were no matters raised.

4. AREA BOARD MEETING:

The Chippenham and Villages Community Area Board had last met on Monday 2nd September 2024 at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QN. The draft minutes had been published. There was no further update.

5. WILTSHIRE & SWINDON ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP:

Perry Payne of the Partnership was in attendance and provided a presentation highlighting the work of the Partnership between Wiltshire and Swindon Councils, Highways England, Wiltshire Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, the South West Ambulance NHS Trust and the Ministry of Defence. The Safety Partnership had 3 main workstreams, known as the "3 E's", (Engineering/Education/Enforcement). He explained that:

Engineering, involved collaboration between Wiltshire Council, National Highways and Swindon Borough Council who carried out investigations to decide if an engineering solution was required in response to road accidents using STATS 19, to be replaced by a new system called STATS21. To identify any sites there was a "cluster analysis" to check to see if there had either been 3 traffic accidents in every 3 years or 10 in 10 years. This would then lead to consideration if an engineering solution may be found. He highlighted that only injury accidents and not damage-only accidents were analysed although collision rates along certain routes are also analysed by Wiltshire Council to National Standards. National roads are analysed by Highways England.

Education, involved the FATAL5 campaign. This covered Careless Driving, Drink/Drug Driving, Not Wearing a Seatbelt, Distraction and Speeding. Perry provided a statistic that over a quarter of road deaths involving drivers of cars were not wearing seat belts. There is fine of up to £500 for a driver not wearing a seatbelt and this also includes any passenger over the age of 14, as it is their responsibility to wear a seat belt.

Wiltshire Council/Police play a role in "education" by attending public engagement events, primary school children trained in walking safely, Scootability, Bikeability levels 1 to 3, older drivers assessments and workshops. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service also assist in young driver education, car seat checks, road safety community events and drink and drive campaigns.

Community Speed Watch, play a significant role and has proven to work through the "community working on behalf of the community". Perry commented that it was worth noting that often those receiving warning letters were "local". He emphasised that CSW was evidence based and a community led educational initiative. It did not result in speeding fines, licence points or Court action but it did influence future Police enforcement activity. Those identified as speeders by a CSW Team can receive up to 3 letters increasing in severity but can be only advisory.

Traffic surveys can also be requested by all Parish Councils through LHFIG, sometimes free but with a potential charge of £120 to £200. These include detailed data to include traffic volumes, traffic speeds, times and vehicle types. The end result being that it will provide the evidence that a Community Speedwatch Team can be formed to receive the necessary Police clearance and training.

He referred to the fact that there were 5 approved types of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) that provide data upload that was now automatically analysed to inform enforcement activity. He indicated that Wiltshire had decided not to accept Autospeedwatch Device data.

Perry provided some statistics for the Chippenham Community Area covering the period July 2020 to August 2024. A total of 799 CSWatches had been completed resulting in 3,391 letters sent out.

Enforcement, was covered by 3 Community Road Safety Officers and 3 Community Speed Enforcement Officers in Wiltshire. Since January 2023 until August 2024 they had been active in 909 locations resulting in 13,530 speed awareness courses, 1,803 fines and points and 184 Court cases in Wiltshire. Figures for specific activity in the Chippenham Community Area where activity in 64 locations resulted in, 432 speed awareness course, 58 fines and points and 3 Court cases.

He suggested that if there are any concerns the Wiltshire Police website should be used to report crimes providing CCTV Dashcam using Op Snap. Op Snap was a digital portal that allowed the public to upload footage from dashcameras and Go-Pro's etc., but it must show moving images of potential traffic offences and not traffic accidents. After uploading there was an email acknowledgement that there would be no further contact unless the matter went to Court. As a result of Op Snap, Perry reported that in 2024 there had been 47 prosecutions, 106 courses offered and 60 warning letters sent. The web portal is <https://nextbase.co.uk/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/>

Perry reported that the Roads Policing Unit (Traffic Cops) can't be everywhere, they could be anywhere but that they are "always somewhere" and that during the period May to July 2024 they issued 1551 tickets for road related offences. The statistics covered "Endorsable Offences" with 185 No insurance, 163 Excess speed, 157 Mobile phone, 83 Careless of dangerous driving, 78 Licence offences, 56 Tyre offences, 53 Dangerous condition, 5 MOT related and 4 Red light signal related. The statistics over the same period for "Non-Endorsable Offences" were 230 Weight offences, 62 MOT related, 59 Seat belt related, 29 Tint offences, 14 Tachograph offences, 7 Tax related, 2 No Right turn related and 11 Vehicles registration mark related.

In closing, Perry advised that there were emerging issues and that the Safety Partnership carried out continuous analysis of what was happening in Swindon and Wiltshire, one of which was pedestrian distraction, particularly due to mobile phone use where people were walking into roads without proper thought and being distracted by their mobile phone use. He suggested that it would be helpful if all could mention the issue to family and friends and ask them to be vigilant at all times.

Following questions, particularly relating to the Wiltshire Police attitude to Autospeedwatch Devices that were acceptable in other local Counties, the Chair of the Forum and all present thanked Perry for his attendance and presentation. A copy of the presentation would be circulated to Forum Members.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL & OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

The Agenda item related to issues raised and information received by Parish Councils from Wiltshire Council and other Organisations since the last Forum Meeting.

- a) **Neighbourhood Policing.** The Chippenham and Rural Villages Neighbourhood Community Police Officer, Jessica Swanborough, was in attendance and provided a presentation that highlighted that the Community Policing Rural Beat Team, being PC Jess Swanborough, PC Aimee Jenkins and PC Paul Croft, were committed to engagement with residents in local villages and talking about the issues that were affecting those living and working there. Their aim being to work with local people and local agencies to tackle concerns and to improve their quality of life. Each of the 3 PCs had been given a rural geographical area of responsibility. They can be Emailed at chippenhamareacpt@wiltshire.police.uk She emphasised that when a crime was in progress then a 999 emergency call should be made, otherwise to contact or to report a crime or incident call 101. If anyone wished to give anonymous information about a crime they should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. The NP Team was headed by Inspector Pete Foster and Sergeant Jamie Ball and all have a "Mission" to Keep Wiltshire Safe with priorities being, Safer Public Spaces, Violence and Burglary with a "Community Commitment" to: Engage regularly with communities by holding face to face events, Engage regularly through online channels, Increase and broaden engagement across need to reach communities, Publish information on the local team, local priorities and update on activity and Consult and engage with communities on key decisions. As part of this there are Rural Engagement Sessions with new "exhibition vehicles" offering residents the opportunity to discuss issues affecting them with partners such as the Wiltshire Rural Crime Team and the Office of the Crime Commissioner joining them. The NP Team regular patrol local villages and Jess advised that there had been a recent rise in rural burglaries with rural and remote properties north of the A420 being targeted. Anyone noting large vehicles parked in laybys that they did not recognise should treat as an emergency and call 999. During rural engagement visits they are able to offer crime prevention advice including distributing Seclecta DNA kits and also mark cycles using Bike register kits. She provided an update on Chippenham Rural Crime and Incident Statistics showing a comparison between 1st June to 31st August 2023 and 2024. Also figures for 1st June to 31st August 2024 for their 3 "Mission to Keep Wiltshire Safe" priorities. In closing, Jess emphasised the invitation to get involved and to get to know the Community Policing Team and advised that people could keep up to date with latest news and alerts by signing up for the Community Messaging services by registering online at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

Following questions, the Chair of the Forum and all present thanked Jess for her attendance and presentation. A copy of the presentation had been circulated to Forum Members.

- b) **Neighbourhood Policing- Neighbourhood County Parish Forum (NCPFs).** The Forum was reminded that the first Policing Forum had been held via TEAMS in April of this year that delivered an update from each Neighbourhood Policing Inspector on issues in their area and a Q&A session. The next one was to be held in person at Police HQ, Devizes at 6.00pm until 8.00pm on Wednesday 20th November 2024. Inspector Peter Foster had asked for an idea of numbers and that he was looking for just one representative from each Parish Council. Queries and questions could be submitted to Inspector Peter Foster at peter.foster@wiltshire.police.uk
- c) **Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Unit - StreetSafe.** The Crime Prevention & Community Scrutiny Officer had asked for the StreetSafe Wiltshire scheme to be promoted to encourage people to log places and locations where they have felt unsafe. Details had been circulated to Forum Members.

- d) **Wessex Water – Flood Warden Summer Newsletter 2024.** Of importance to those suffering from “flooding” the Newsletter focused on the Flood Warden Role and upcoming Flood Warden training support with sessions planned until November 2024. In addition the Environment Agency had produced updated information on Watercourse Rights and Roles. Details had been circulated to Forum Members.
- e) **Wiltshire Council - Gypsies and Travellers pre-submission draft Development Plan - Consultation.** The Wiltshire Council was consulting on the proposals that once adopted would become a material planning consideration in meeting the accommodation needs for Gypsy and Traveller communities in Wiltshire. The Consultation ran from Tuesday 20th August until Friday 4th October 2024 with in person events and webinars planned. The issue elicited a number of questions regarding the manner in which sites had been identified, the potential for reducing the need for new sites following the granting of a number of planning approvals since the original draft Plan figures had been published and whether the Parish Councils could have been more involved in the process. Wiltshire Cllr Nick Botterill advised that the process had involved a call for sites some while ago that had very little response and so Officers had needed to produce a draft Plan that identified existing sites that could be expanded and a limited number of new locations to meet the required need. Wiltshire Council had a duty to prepare the G&T Plan and proper process was being followed that allowed public participation.
- f) **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – Consultation.** The Government was proposing to update the NPPF and was carrying out a Consultation on the proposed changes.

7. FORUM MEMBERS ISSUES:

- a) **Traffic Speed Management - Community Speed watch – Installation of Autospeedwatch and SDs.** Item 6 (a) above refers.
- b) **Wiltshire Highways and the Chippenham Local Highway and Footpath Group (LHFIG).** Wiltshire Cllr Ross Henning (LHFIG Chair) briefly updated the Forum and reminded all that, sadly, there were financial constraints, that there was a lot of catching up still to do which was not helped by the restriction on Officer time.
- c) **Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership (Chap).** Alison Butler highlighted issues relating to raw sewage entering watercourses and Wessex Water status for water quality, in addition underground water leakages. She also commented on recent USA studies on the damaging effect of fluoride and chlorine usage.
- d) **Chippenham Older People’s Forum and Chippenham Health & Well-being Group.** Alison Butler reported that there were many concerns over the loss of £300 fuel allowance particularly for vulnerable and single people in the rural villages and areas where the potential for “Warm Spaces” to be provided was restricted. In regards to Chippenham Town the possibility of “Warm Space” provision would need to be considered.
- e) **Local Youth Network Chippenham Area (LYN).** Wiltshire Cllr Ross Henning reported that the possibility of another Teen Takeover event was under consideration, supported by Persimmon Homes funding, and that it was hoped that the first, tending to be Chippenham centric, could be overcome with more involvement with the whole Community Area Parishes. He reminded that Youth Network funding remained available for Village Youth Projects through the Area Board.
- f) **Local Highway Services etc.** There was no update on this occasion.
- g) **Fly-Tipping – Portable CCTV.** There was no update on this occasion.
- h) **Chippenham Gateway-Junction 17 M4.** St Modwen Park-Phase 2. There was no change in circumstances in regards to the outstanding planning application. There were concerns expressed over the lack of solar gain provision on roof areas. It appeared that there were letting difficulties and that there was a demand for smaller units possibly with differing use classes potentially changing the character of the development.
- i) **Wiltshire & Swindon Tree Warden Scheme.** The possibility of a representative being invited to a Forum Meeting to provide more information continued to be pursued.

- j) **Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).** This was an ongoing exercise and following stakeholders involvement to produce a useable LNRS to decide on what needed to be done to aid nature's recovery, areas had been mapped to suggest future nature improvement projects. An online survey was to run from Monday 23rd September to Friday 11th October 2024 when all responses would be used to make improvements to the map before it was subject to full consultation. An online webinar was to be held on Monday 30th September 6.00pm to 7.30pm.
- k) **Lime Down Solar Park.** The EIA Scoping consultation had ended on the 14th August 2024. The Secretary of State would determine any planning application. There was no further update at this time.
- g) **Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association.** The WNHWA Annual General Meeting would take place on Saturday 5th October 2024 10.00am until 12noon at Wiltshire Police HQ, Devizes SN10 2DN.
- h) **Community First AGM 2024.** The Community First AGM was to be held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 6.00pm in Devizes Town Hall.

8. FORWARD PLAN:

The Forum had previously raised the issue of forward planning, relationship/s with Parishes and other Bodies, a review of the Forum and arrangements for future Forum Meetings. Previous suggested topics for consideration were: Guest Speaker/s from Carer Support/Age Concern Wiltshire, a "Planning" themed session, the Local Nature Strategy Recovery, the Wiltshire & Swindon Tree Warden Scheme and also from St Modwen in regards to M4 Jct 17. It was now understood that Wiltshire Planning felt that a County wide "Planning" theme session was more appropriate rather than a single Community Area. These possibilities would continue to be investigated.

9. AREA BOARD AGENDA PLANNING MEETING:

The next Chippenham and Villages Area Board Meeting was scheduled for Monday 4th November 2024. Notes of Forum Meeting should be submitted to become an Agenda item under the Partner and Community Updates.

10. AOB:

Cllr S Eades (Chippenham Without PC) was concerned with river water quality and that this might be investigated further including Wessex Water permits etc.

There were no further issues raised.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Forum Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 7.00pm in The Goss Croft Hall, Upper Seagry SN15 5HD