

MINUTES

Meeting: Calne Area Board
Place: Calne Hub and Library, The Strand, Calne SN11 0JU
Date: 12 November 2024
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.26 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney (Chairman), Cllr Ian Thorn (Vice-Chairman) and
Cllr Robert MacNaughton

Wiltshire Council Officers

Ros Griffiths – Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager
Dom Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer
Matt Hitch – Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 24

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
47	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ashley O'Neill • Cllr Tom Rounds • Dave Grafton - Cherhill Parish Council
48	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, seconded by Cllr Robert MacNaughton, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 as a true and correct record subject to the removal of the following sentence from minute item 42.</p> <p><i>Cllr Tom Rounds observed that Calne Town Council had a high precept and that this might have been a contributory factor to cost of living pressures, such as the high number of children eligible for free school meals in Calne.</i></p>
49	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Ian Thorn, noted that he had received a dispensation in relation to an Other Registerable Interest by virtue of being a trustee of Marden House. The dispensation allowed him to remain in the room in his capacity as a councillor during the debate on Marden House's grant application, to ensure that the meeting remained quorate. The Vice-Chairman noted that he would not participate in the discussion, or vote on, the grant application.</p>
50	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman highlighted that the Area Board had grant funding remaining in the financial year, so encouraged groups to submit applications.</p> <p>The Chairman also noted that it was planned to reopen Calne High Street to vehicular traffic in January.</p>
51	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman reminded the Area Board that they could have their say about issues on Wiltshire Council's consultation portal. Crime figures for Calne and the</p>

	<p>surrounding areas were also available online.</p>
52	<p><u>Chief Constable Update</u></p> <p>Inspector Pete Foster gave an update on behalf of the Neighbourhood Police Team. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were given to Police Constable Jon Bourke for his contribution to the Neighbourhood Team over the past two years. • Police Constable Nick Dorey had joined the Neighbourhood Team and was described by Inspector Foster as enthusiastic and hardworking. • 386 engagements had been carried out over the past three months, including patrols, school visits and a drop in event held earlier that day. • Over the same period, they had submitted 472 intelligence reports, carried out 12 stop and searches and made 23 arrests. 11 people had been sent to court and six warrants had been issued. • A retail working group had been established to enable retailers to share their concerns. The group had held its first meeting on 20 September and the next meeting was due to be held on 22 November. • The latest round of Operation Scorpion, a national initiative to tackle knife crime, had taken place the previous week and had included a weapons sweep in Castlefields. • Hare coursing had been tackled through Operation Galileo. • Calne had a relatively low level of offending compared to other areas of Wiltshire. The level of reported crime had reduced since 2023. • The Formal Action Taken (FAT) rate for the force had improved since the previous year, from around 13 or 14 percent, to 17.5 percent. In the Calne area the FAT rate was 16.4 percent, but it had increased by six percent since January 2024. • The FAT rate of the Neighbourhood Team, which also covered Chippenham and Corsham, was 31.5 percent, so almost double the force average. • Changes within Wiltshire Police over the past 18 months had meant that they were heading in the right direction. <p>During the discussion, the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Board thanked Inspector Foster for his presentation. • When asked about examples of change within Wiltshire Police, Chief Constable Catherine Roper explained that she had set three priorities, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduce violence and serious harm. ➤ Tackle crimes that matter most to local communities. ➤ Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice. • The Chief Constable was held to account by an elected official, Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson. Wiltshire Police had also produced a series of community commitments to ensure that the public

received a consistent service.

- Inspector Foster explained that the recent restructure of police response teams had contributed to improving performance. He explained that previously he was responsible for multiple teams, whereas now he could focus exclusively on the Neighbourhood Team.
- Chief Constable Roper had initiated the change in the structure of the response teams. She explained that in 2014 Wiltshire's response teams had merged with neighbourhood teams to create community police teams. The recent restructure had reversed this change.
- Inspector Foster noted that shoplifting was often seen as a victimless crime, but it impacted small and large businesses.
- Perry Payne, Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership Manager, explained that a trial was taking place to use artificial intelligence in speed cameras. He noted that the technology was in its infancy, so was quite expensive, but had potential. Further work needed to take place to review the back-office support that would be required for the artificial intelligence cameras.
- Wiltshire Police had been put in the ENGAGE 'special measures' process in 2022 following a Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection. The Chief Constable was pleased to report that the force had come out of the ENGAGE Process in May 2024, following their most recent PEEL inspection. The results of the latest inspection were published in August and showed the significant improvements that had been made since 2022. A copy of the press release and report were available [online](#).
- Improvement measures put in place included introducing a clearer performance framework.
- In August Wiltshire Police had been the second worst police force out of the 43 forces in England and Wales in terms of the time it took to answer 999 calls. By September 2024 they had risen to the thirty third best and they were now seventeenth best. The call abandonment rate had also improved.
- Another recent inspection into how Wiltshire Police was responding to reports of serious sexual offences had found that the force had delivered on a series of recommendations made during a previous inspection.
- Progress was being made to tackle stalking.
- Wiltshire Police were bringing out a new diversity and inclusion strategy.
- In response to a query whether police call centres were able to answer silent calls to extract information, the Chief Constable confirmed that they were.
- A member of the public noted that it was possible to dial 55 after a 999 call to confirm that it was a genuine emergency if a person was unable to speak on the 'phone.
- Operation Scorpion was a joint operation run between forces in South West England to tackle county lines. A proactive operation was being planned for the week after next.
- Thanks were given to the Chief Constable by the Area Board's Older

	<p>People's and Carer's Champion, Diane Gooch, for attending Calne Reconnecting Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to a written question from Celia Stevens, from Calne Town Council, about whether it would be possible to have an enquiry desk open at Calne Police Station at certain times, Inspector Foster explained that it would not be financially viable as data suggested there would not be an operational need. He highlighted that it was easier than ever to contact the police and that enquiry desks tended to have very limited footfall. In addition to emails, social media and Wiltshire Police's website, there was a yellow telephone outside the station to enable people to talk to the police.
53	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Written updates were available in the agenda pack from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police – Neighbourhood Team, pg. 13 - 23 • Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership, pg. 25 - 34 • Community First, pg. 35 - 43 • BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Together – Integrated Care Board, pg. 45 - 46 • Hilmarton Parish Council, pg. 47 • Bremhill Parish Council, pg. 49 • Calne Without Parish Council, pg. 51 • Calne Town Council, pg. 53 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Explore Wiltshire App, pg. 55 ➢ Twinning with Eningen Unter Achalm, pg. 57 – 61 ➢ Warm Spaces, pg. 63 <p>The following partners also provided verbal updates:</p> <p><u>Older People's and Carer's Champion</u></p> <p>The Area Board's Older People's and Carer's Champion, Diane Gooch, provided an update, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calne's Big Get Together had been a successful, multigenerational, event. • Calne Reconnecting Group continued to be popular and were planning events, such as a Christmas jazz concert on 4 December. • The Forwards Carers group were helping people to apply for carer ID cards. • A session was run where people could visit a dementia bus. • Calne Health and Wellbeing Forum had recently received updates from Carers Together and Alzheimer's Support and had held discussions about setting up a Neighbourhood Collaborative. <p>Following the update, the Area Board watched video highlights of Calne's Big</p>

Day Out. The Area Board and members of the Reconnecting Group gave thanks to Diane and her team for their work in the community. It was noted that communities such as Calne relied on a small number of individuals and that without them it would not be the place that it was. The Area Board's Older People's and Carer's Champion was then given flowers by the Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Ros Griffiths. The Champion also received a warm round of applause.

Bremhill Parish Council

Isabel McCord, Chairman of Bremhill Parish Council, gave their update. Points included:

- Road safety was a top priority especially given the amount of standing water on the roads.
- Two new Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) had been installed, one at Tytherton Lucas and the other at East Tytherton. The cameras were already providing useful data, with a car captured travelling at 58 miles per hour in the 30 mile per hour zone in East Tytherton.
- The parish council were running training sessions showing how to operate their newly purchased defibrillators.
- Thanks were given to Police Community Support Officer Mark Cook for agreeing to visit two locations in the parish on 10 December.
- Wessex Water were due to carry out roadworks between Dumb Post and the M4 between 19 November and 21 March.
- David Wood had led a project to bring to life the voices of Great War veterans that had connections with Bremhill. Recordings of their stories had been made available on an [app](#), with many being voiced by relatives of the veterans themselves. The greeting message on the app had been recorded by Lady Lansdowne.
- Mr Wood played a recording about Tom Ponting who had gone to school in Bremhill. Mr Ponting was conscripted into the Royal Field Artillery and had died in September 1918 when he was serving in Greece, aged 39.

Calne Without

John Barnes, Chairman of Calne Without Parish Council, provided an update, points included:

- The speed limit reductions, to 40 miles per hour at Studley Crossroads and 50 miles per hour towards Norley Lane, were welcomed.
- The path between Studley and Derry Hill was to be resurfaced to improve access to facilities for residents in Studley Gardens.
- A large project was underway to install defibrillators in several locations in Calne Without, including in Lower Compton and Sandy Lane.
- Discussions were underway about creating a play park in Derry Hill as, despite being a large village, no such facility existed. A proposal to install

	<p>play equipment in open space in the village had received 76 percent backing in a survey and unanimous support at a recent council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work was ongoing to implement the new community governance arrangements by the May 2025 elections. • Over £50,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy money would be transferred from Calne Without Parish Council to Calne Town Council and Bremhill Parish Council. • The Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group did not have funding available in the current financial year for two proposed bus shelters near Studley Gardens. Agreement to provide match funding equivalent to half of each bus shelter had been secured. <p><u>Hilmarton Parish Council</u></p> <p>Shawn Warren-Wilcox explained that Hilmarton had held a very popular pumpkin event. They were also considering funding a link to allow the police to access the data from their SID.</p> <p><u>Calne Town Council</u></p> <p>Jon Fisher, Mayor of Clane, gave an update on behalf of the town council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town council had put in an application to the Wiltshire Towns Fund for money towards regenerating the town centre. • The mayor was due to hold a meeting with the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, to discuss larger regeneration plans for the town. • There were plans to install a ninja park on the Recreation Ground. • The mayor had led a delegation to the town in Germany that Calne was twinned with, Eningen Unter Achalm. The visit had been valuable and had allowed them to share good practice in local government. They were also keen to open up the twinning arrangement to parishes. • A modernist picture of Calne’s first female mayor, Edith Spackman, who took up office in 1937, had been commissioned. • A picture of the late Cllr Tony Trotman would also be put up in the town hall. • Nominations were open for people to turn on the Christmas lights. <p>The Chairman noted that Calne was now on the Explore Wiltshire App and encouraged people to sign up.</p>
54	<p><u>Area Board Priority and Working Group Update</u></p> <p>Lead members gave an overview of the progress that had been made towards their priority areas since the previous meeting.</p> <p><u>Supporting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People</u></p>

	<p>The Chairman reported that he had held a productive meeting with the new headteacher of Kingsbury Green Academy earlier that day. He explained that they were keen to hold the next Local Youth Network meeting at the academy and highlighted that the notes from the previous meeting were available on pages 65-68 of the agenda pack.</p> <p>In response to queries about the support available for children that did not attend Kingsbury Green Academy and the activities on offer for older teenagers in the town, the Chairman explained that the Youth Forum supported all young people in the area. He observed that youth clubs were being run in the town by the Rise Trust, including the Blue Bus project on Friday evenings. The Evangelical Church were also running activities, such as Lazer Club at 7pm on Thursdays.</p> <p>Cllr Robert MacNaughton stated that youth events were being planned for 3 and 4 January 2025 by a group that had organised skate park events in 2024.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman observed that sending children to their bedroom used to be regarded as a punishment, but now they wanted to be in their bedroom so they could play computer games.</p> <p><u>Addressing Climate Change, the Environment and Natural Resources</u></p> <p>Cllr MacNaughton explained that Wiltshire Council’s officers were evaluating air quality in Calne to establish a baseline to use when assessing the impact of reopening the high street. He also reported that, with the help of Cllr Ashley O’Neill, he had introduced a motion to Wiltshire Council about the water quality in the county’s rivers. Wiltshire’s Full Council had resolved to work alongside, and hold to account, water companies.</p> <p><u>Promoting and Supporting Initiatives to Address Economic Inequalities</u></p> <p>The Vice-Chairman explained that Wiltshire Council had taken on business support functions from Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership.</p> <p>Mayor of Calne, Jon Fisher, sought assurances that Wiltshire Council would effectively coordinate central government grant funding. The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager explained that Wiltshire Council’s Corporate Services Team would be working hard to ensure that groups were aware of grant funding when it was available.</p>
55	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the budgets remaining for allocation at the meeting. They heard from representatives in attendance who gave a brief overview of, and were questioned about, their projects.</p>

Area Board Initiative

Safe Places Requesting £500

Genis Ansell from Calne Community Safety Forum spoke in support of the application. She explained that the scheme offered interim support to people that felt threatened. The money would be used to print promotional leaflets.

In response to queries about the safeguarding policy that would be in place and whether they would be working with a similar scheme being run in Salisbury, the representative explained that it would not be a joint scheme with Salisbury, but they were in communication. Appropriate measures would be put in place to ensure safeguarding.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Robert MacNaughton, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Safe Spaces £500.

Reason: The application met the Older and Vulnerable People's and Young People's Grant Criteria 2024/25. The funding would be taken equally from both funds.

Community Area Grants

Marden House Centre Requesting £5,000 Towards Garden Repairs and Installation of a Wheelchair Accessible Toilet

Andrew Jones, a trustee at Marden House explained that the garden project would involve the replacement of exiting steps and the repair of a pergola. Around £2,000 of the funding would go towards converting a storage room into an accessible toilet.

On the proposal of Cllr MacNaughton, seconded by the Chairman, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Marden House Centre £5,000 towards garden repairs and installation of a wheelchair accessible toilet.

Reason: The application met the Community Area Grant Criteria 2024/25.

The Vice-Chairman did not vote, or participate, in the debate about the application as he had declared an Other Registerable Interest.

Older and Vulnerable Adult's Grants

Calne Seniors Reconnecting Group Requesting £3,000

Diane Gooch spoke in support of the application, explaining that Calne Reconnecting Group offered a range of experiences to their 50 members. She noted that she would welcome a more user-friendly grant application process and thanked the Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager Ros Griffiths for her support in guiding her through the requirements.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Calne Seniors Reconnecting Group £3,000.

Reason: The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adult's Grant Criteria 2024/25.

Information links: Area Board [Grants](#) and Grants [Criteria](#)

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Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

The Area Board considered the recommendations of the LHFIG meeting held on 1 November 2024.

The Chairman thanked Principal Engineer Manager, Mark Stansby, for typing up the meeting notes in record time.

On the proposal of Cllr Robert MacNaughton, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To allocate funding to issues already on the Priority Schemes List:

- **3-22-21 A4 Studley Speed limit (£1,750)**
- **3-22-2 Derry Hill Shared use path (£5,000)**
- **3-23-11 Derry Hill Traffic Management measures (£5,000)**
- **3-23-12 Studley 20 mph speed limit (£6,300)**

To add the following issues to the Priority Schemes List with funding:

- **3-24-06 Calne Sandpit Road Speed Indicator Device Infrastructure**

	<p>(£832.73)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-24-12 Compton Bassett Speed Indicator Device Infrastructure (£840) <p>To close the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-20-11 Calne Anchor Road 20 limit • 3-21-8 Compton Bassett speed limits • 3-22-5 Calne Bremhill View drop kerbs • 3-23-6 Derry Hill Devizes Road signs and markings • 3-23-14 Hilmarton and Goatacre Speed Indicator Device Infrastructure • 3-23-17 Calne London Road Crossing • 3-23-19 A4 / A342 Junction Old Derry Hill speed limit terminal signs • 3-24-02 Yatesbury Bus Stop flag, 3-24-04 Studley verge / wall protection • 3-24-08 Yatesbury byway / route 403 surfacing • 3-24-16 Calne Curzon St narrowing give way markings.
57	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Area Board's model pig was trapped in the heritage centre but he would try to rescue it and bring it to the next meeting.</p>
58	<p><u>Close and Future Dates</u></p> <p>Future Meeting Dates (6:30-8:30pm) in Calne Hub and Library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 February 2025 • 20 May 2025 (Extraordinary meeting on the rising of Full Council in Trowbridge) • 24 June 2025 • 9 September 2025 • 4 November 2025 • 3 February 2026 <p>Meeting details, agendas and minutes can be viewed here.</p>