

CHIPPENHAM COMMUNITY AREA PARISH FORUM

Wednesday 27th November 2024

7.00pm

In The Goss Croft Hall, Upper Seagry, Nr Chippenham SN15 5HD

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
	Cllr Jenny Budgell	Chippenham Town Councillor
	PC Jessica Swanborough	Chippenham Neighbourhood Policing Team
	Sgt Jamie Ball	Chippenham Neighbourhood Policing Team
	Insp Pete Foster	Chippenham Neighbourhood Policing Team
	Camella Town	Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared
	Chris Manual	Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared
	Ian Plowman (Meeting Clerk)	Grittleton Parish Council (Clerk)
	Cllr Di Webb	Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council
	Cllr Rachel de Fossard	Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council
	Cllr Fred Winup	Castle Combe Parish Council
	Cllr Stephen Depla	Christian Malford Parish Council
	Cllr Stephen Eades	Chippenham Without Parish Council
	Cllr Howard Ham	Chippenham Without Parish Council
	Cllr Gabrielle Horton	Stanton St Quinton Parish Council
	Cllr Mike Barber	Seagry Parish Council
	Cllr Ruth Gaunt	Sutton Benger Parish Council
	Cllr Fiona Plowman	Yatton Keynell Parish Council

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES:

Wiltshire Cllr Howard Greenman welcomed all to the Forum Meeting. He thanked the Seagry Parish Council for hosting the Meeting and Cllr M Barber's daughters in assisting with the preparation of the hall and noted that apologies had been received from Cllr Alan Lawer (Kington Langley PC), Cllr Julie Hoskins (Langley Burrell Without PC), Cllr Serena Parker (Stanton St Quintin PC) and Viv Vines (Seagry PC Clerk).

2. NOTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Notes of the Parish Forum Meeting held on the 25th September 2024 in the Kingston St Michael Village Hall, Stubbs Lane, Kington St Michael SN14 6HX were received and noted.

3. ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING:

There were no matters raised.

4. AREA BOARD MEETING:

The Chippenham and Villages Area Board held their last meeting on Monday 4th November 2024 at the Bowls Pavilion, Chippenham Sports Club, Bristol Road, Chippenham SN15 1NH. The Draft Minutes had been published. There was no further update.

5. WILTSHIRE & SWINDON PREPARED (LRF):

Camella Town & Chris Manual provided a presentation followed by a Q&A Session. Parish Councils had received communications from the LRF in 2023 requesting that their Parish Emergency Coordinator register with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and had held an LRF event in August 2023 at Tidworth. More recently Parish Councils had also received an invitation to sign up to the Emergency Contact Hubs scheme. The LRF was renewing contact to promote and enhance "community building" that focused on whole societal resilience and put the community at the centre of local emergency response, not just flooding but also other events that

might impact such as adverse weather and power outages. They wished to grow the network across the Wiltshire and Swindon footprint to ensure neighbouring communities were connecting with each other. It was hoped that Councils would review their own emergency planning situation to ensure it was fit for purpose. A copy of the presentation would be distributed 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) **Chippenham and Rural Villages Neighbourhood Community Policing.** The Chippenham and Rural Villages Neighbourhood Community Police Officers, Insp Peter Foster, Sgt Jamie Ball and PC Jessica Swanborough were in attendance and provided a presentation and update on local rural Policing matters. Following a question and answer session the Chair of the Forum and all present thanked Jess, Jamie & Pete for their attendance and presentation. A copy of the presentation would be circulated to Forum Members.
- b) **Neighbourhood Policing- Neighbourhood County Parish Forum (NCPF).** The Forum recalled that the first Neighbourhood Policing Forum was held via TEAMS in April 2024 that delivered an update from each Neighbourhood Policing Inspector on issues in their area and a Q&A session. The next one was to have been held in person at Police HQ, Devizes on Wednesday 20th November 2024. However, this had been postponed to allow further consultation with Area Boards and how this meeting links in with them.
- c) **Wessex Water – Flood Warden Autumn Newsletter 2024.** Councils' had received the latest Flood Wessex Newsletter. The Newsletter contained important flooding information and support together with Environment Agency News and Events, including Flood Warden Sessions.
- d) **Remote Meetings - Consultation.** Notification had been received that the Government was consulting on allowing Councils to hold remote Council Meetings. Members recalled that as an emergency measure during the Covid-19 pandemic authority had been given for Council's to meet remotely to allow business to continue. Parish Councils had taken advantage of this. Despite a National campaign to retain the measure, should Council's wish to do so, the previous Government had rescinded the powers in May 2021. The new Government was committed to allowing Councils to hold remote Council Meetings and had published a consultation paper. NALC would be responding and had encouraged all Parish and Town Councils, County Associations, individual Councillors and Clerks to participate in the essential consultation. This would continue to demonstrate the strong support for the flexibility to hold remote meetings, building on the momentum from the previous call for evidence. The Consultation closed on the 19th December 2024. The link to the consultation paper was <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting/consultation/subpage.2024-10-22.4587630148/>
- e) **Parish Council Elections – 1st May 2025.** A recent Wiltshire Parish Council Update Newsletter had been received that was the first news on the election timetable, close of nominations etc. Of particular concern was the issue of Election costs for both contested and uncontested Elections. This was the first occasion that Wiltshire Council were seeking to recover costs. Parish Councils would need to ensure that a suitable figure was included within their 25/26 budget to cover this additional cost.
- f) **Wessex Water Community Outreach Sessions.** Councils' had been advised of the drop-in sessions to allow customers to talk face to face. These were scheduled for Monday 20th January, 17th March and 12th May 2025 in Chippenham Library between 10am-12pm and 1pm to 2pm.

7. FORUM MEMBERS ISSUES:

- a) **Traffic Speed Management - Community Speed watch – Installation of Autospeedwatch and SIDs.** It was understood that there had been no change in Policy in regards to Autospeedwatch data collection, reporting and actions. It was agreed that the Wiltshire Chief Constable be invited to next Forum Meeting so that the policy regarding Autospeedwatch could be challenged
- b) **Wiltshire Highways and the Chippenham Local Highway and Footpath Group (LHFIG).** The next LHFIG Meeting was scheduled for the 9th January 2025.
- c) **Chippenham & Villages Area Partnership (Chap).** There was no update on this occasion.
- d) **Chippenham Older People's Forum and Chippenham Health & Well-being Group.** There was no update on this occasion.

- e) **Local Youth Network Chippenham Area (LYN).** There was no update on this occasion.
- 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.** There was no update on this occasion.
- i) **Lime Down Solar Park.** The Forum was advised that promoters were looking for locations to hold public consultation sessions in February/March 2025.
- j) **Forum Meeting Dates.** In the past the Forum had agreed that they should meet following Area Board Meetings to be able to consider decisions taken. There had been a suggestion that it might be more beneficial for the Forum to meet prior to an Area Board Meeting to be able to provide input. It was agreed that the cycle of future meeting dates should be reviewed after the Elections in May 2025.
- k) **Battens Farm – Solar Park.** Cllr Di Webb (Biddestone & Slaughterford PC) had asked for a discussion on the solar farm proposal on land at Battens Farm, Allington under planning reference PL/2024/09410. It was reported that the planning application had recently been considered by the Chippenham Without Parish Council who had determined that it was compliant with the NPPF. However, they had specific concerns relating to water and drainage run-off from the site and had requested that mitigation measures be incorporated within the scheme to ensure the development did not add to the current severe flooding problems in Fowlswick Lane.

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 and had suggested topics for future consideration. The Forum had earlier agreed that there was a need to challenge Wiltshire Police on their Autospeedwatch policy and was to invite the Chief Constable to attend the next Forum Meeting. The Forum also agreed that consideration of future meetings and relationship with the cycle of Area Board meetings should be reviewed after the elections in May 2025.

9. AREA BOARD AGENDA PLANNING MEETING:

The next Chippenham and Villages Area Board Meeting was scheduled for Monday 10th February 2025. Notes of the Forum Meeting would be submitted as an Agenda item under the Partner and Community Updates. Further Area Board Meetings were scheduled for 20th May and 2nd June 2025.

10. AOB:

- a) **Parish Council Elections – 1st May 2025.** The Parish and Unitary Council Election timetable will begin in mid-March with the close of nominations for election candidates being 2nd April 2025. It is possible that the next Forum Meeting will be the last held before the Council Elections and the present Membership considered that any decision on whether the Forum should continue when new Councils are in place.
- b) **Local Government Reform.** Wiltshire Cllr Nick Botterill raised the issue of the new Government's emerging proposals for Local Government reform and potential devolution to Combined Authorities or Mayoral Combined Authorities, which would potentially be separate legal bodies with their own funding from Government. All major Councils had been invited to express interest and Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset had indicated a preference for working together through a Heart of Wessex Combined Authority, keeping the door open for Swindon and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to join. At this time it was thought that individual Councils would not have to merge budgets. Setting up any such body would involve public consultation on its governance and decision making. A Devolution White Paper was expected shortly with further discussions taking place. Parish Councils would not be directly involved in the work of a Combined Authority but could be a consultee on project delivery.

There were no further issues raised.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Forum Meeting was scheduled for either 19th or 26th February 2025, subject to availability of the Wiltshire Police Chief Constable, at a venue to be determined.