

Report on the Meeting of the South West Wiltshire Area Board

The quarterly meeting was held on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at Dinton Village Hall. Nabil Najjar was re-elected as Chair and Nick Errington was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Board over the last 2 years, particularly in the area of health and Wellbeing.

Local Plan

The new Local Plan will be going to Cabinet on 11th July and Full Council on 18th July after which it will go out to general consultation.

Police Report

- Solstice went off peacefully.
- Fish poaching and plant theft was currently prevalent in the area. Residents were encouraged to report anything to 101.
- Local Policing Team will be re-instating drop-ins and parishes will be notified of dates and locations.
- Current areas of focus are: burglaries, safer public spaces, violence against women and girls.

SSEN

A brief report was given by a rep from SSEN on the priority service available in times of power cuts to people who were considered to be vulnerable. People can sign up either online or by post and no data is shared for marketing purposes.

If SSEN are made aware of people then they can prioritise an area for reinstatement where vulnerable people are located. A nominated contact can be given for those with dementia.

Customers can sign up to Yes Energy which will provide them with options on how to reduce bills and cut their energy costs.

She also advised about the Resilient Community Fund to which parishes could submit applications for items to improve their community's resilience. The deadline was end of July and a £10k limit which included supply and maintenance of defibrillators.

New Woodland Officer

A presentation was given by Naomi Styles, the Council's new Woodland Officer who introduced the work of the new woodland team and how parishes and members of the public can get involved in tree planting. She also advised that the tree warden scheme was being rejuvenated. The purpose of the team is to plant more trees across the county.

Other Presentations

Further presentations were given by the Wiltshire Towns Team advising that there will be a further £5k for the identified larger parishes (including Tisbury) in this financial year, on the 'Explore Wiltshire' App which had been launched recently and the Annual Report for the Area Board providing information on work completed and

successful engagement with the community between May 2021 to May 2023. I gave a summary of the LHFIG project to install the 'Keep Clear' sign outside Coffee Angels and the difficulties for Tisbury Fire Station's vehicles.

Two new events will be held in September:

- A digital engagement pilot lasting 6 weeks to help older and vulnerable people to operate their ipads, online banking etc and to make them more digitally aware.
- A youth employment event at which there will be 40 employers. This will be available to residents of 60 parishes and young people between the ages of 15-21.

Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group

A brief discussion was held on Councillor Wayman's suggestion that towns and parishes be asked to contribute a higher percentage contribution to projects above the current 25 percent. The comments were mixed with the concern that the small and low precepting parishes would not be able to afford it and others stating that if they wished to complete projects in their parish, precepts should be increased. Councillors will discuss and take feedback before September and make a decision at the next meeting.

Recommendations for highway projects were approved including the Extension to Tisbury 20mph Speed Limit at the LHFIG cost £13,593.75. TPC will pay £4k or 25 percent of that figure.

Grants

Grants were awarded to Langford Parish Hall, Kilmington and Stourton Cricket Club and Compton Chamberlayne community council.

A grant request from Nadder Community Energy for £750 towards its 'Warmer at Home Tisbury' pilot project was deferred for clarification on whether it duplicated the existing 'Warm and Safe Wiltshire' initiative.

Bev Cornish
29th June 2023