

Town and Parish Annual Report for Marlborough East – May 2023

This month, Annual meetings will take place for Parishes, Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council – they are great opportunities for coming together as a community to reflect on the previous year and discuss the opportunities, ahead. Some of the highlights from Wiltshire Council, and my own work to support residents in Marlborough East are below.

Wiltshire Council's budget for 2023/24, which is underpinned by the council's 10-year Business Plan, is £466m. This includes an additional £69m to cover inflation and increased demand for services and is broken down as follows:

- Whole life pathway (mental health, autism spectrum conditions and learning disabilities support services) - £96m, an increase of £11m
- Living and aging well (adult care) - £83m, an increase of £15m
- Families and children - £63m, an increase of £2m
- Environment (which includes waste and recycling services)- £48m, an increase of £4m
- Highways and transport - £41m, an increase of £3m
- Education and skills - £29m, an increase of £6m

Last November, Wiltshire Council invited the **Local Government Association to carry out a Corporate Peer Challenge** – the review found that the council's Business Plan provides a clear set of objectives and that focus on improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable in the community is none more evident than in children's services. It was also noted that the council is excelling in work to address climate change.

In addition to funding of £22.9m from the Government's **Highways Maintenance** Fund, an additional £3.6m was received from the Department for Transport's Pothole Fund which will be used to target pothole hotspots around the county. Anyone who spots a highways issue must report it using the MyWilts app or via the website – and if it doesn't get fixed, please email me at caroline.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk (nb we know there is a system glitch at the moment where feedback on cases is not working as it should. Even if the case is shown 'closed', it will have been received and fed into the system for consideration).

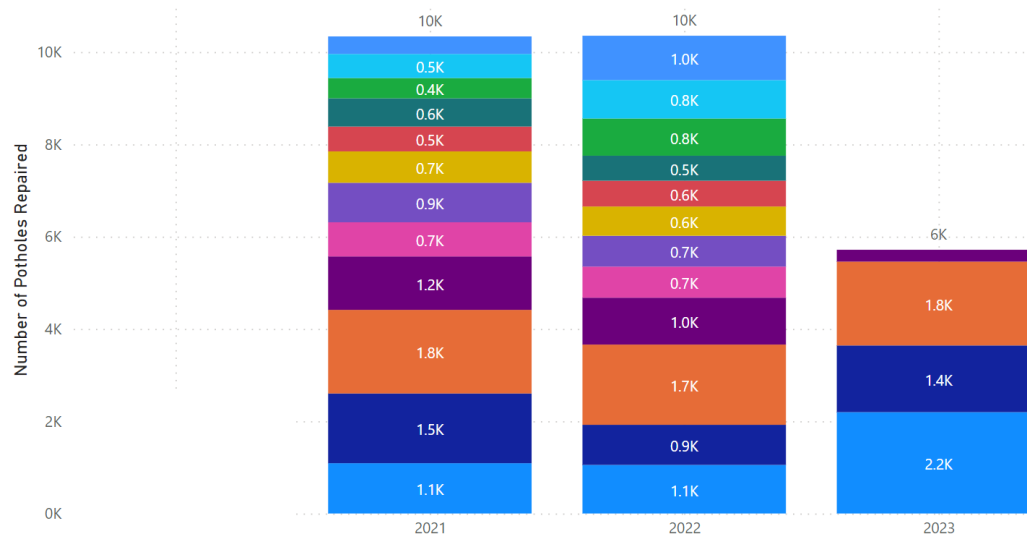
You might be interested in the table below showing the significantly greater work load across the county this winter (to early April) compared with 2021 and 2022 (2020 is partial data only) as the long hot summer followed by cycles of high rain volumes and freezing temperatures took their toll on our road surfaces.

In the Marlborough Area the top most reported sites are listed below with the planned treatment:

Location	Repairs	Reports	Road Name	Max Speed	Strategic Network	Plans
SWINDON ROAD, WINTERBOURNE MONKTON	45	82	A4361	50	Y	Surfacing 23/24
FROM ROAD TO GROVE FARM STICHCOMBE TO WHITES HILL	35	17	C6	30	N	Surface Treatment 24/25
A346 PORT HILL NORTH TO MAIN ROAD OGBOURNE MAIZEY	31	40	A346	40	Y	Surface Treatment 25/26
B4192 PARISH BOUNDARY EAST TO HUNGERFORD ROAD AND BRIDGE IN CHILTON FOLIAT	28	36	B4192	60	N	Surfacing 24/25
CHISELDON ROAD	26	9	C3	60	N	

Number of Potholes Repaired by Calendar Year and Month

Month ● January ● February ● March ● April ● May ● June ● July ● August ● September ● October ● November ● December



Over the last year I have worked on a project to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the specific purpose of employing a Youth Worker. The **Marlborough Area Youth Forum** was established in July and in March we recruited a Youth Worker – Kevin Robinson using grant funding from the Marlborough Area Board. Kevin will do much of his work linked to the Marlborough Youth Club at St Margaret’s Mead but is also available to support youth work in the wider Community Area – the 17 villages and hamlets around the town. To make a difference, Kevin really needs volunteers able to support him run activities. If you would like to get involved, please contact me.

Housing is often an issue raised with me by local residents. There isn’t enough social housing for those who need it locally and quality can be an issue too. With other local Cllrs, I have met with representatives from Aster and Stonewater Housing Associations to discuss the issues and now have direct means of contact. I will look to have such sessions with our other Housing Associations this year.

Since January I have been part of Wiltshire Council’s cabinet, responsible for **Highways, Transport and Street Scene**. So, I have been busy 😊 but it has given me significant insight to help me better support Parish Councils, community groups and residents with a whole

host of local issues including flooding, road safety, footpaths and planning matters with direct access to cabinet members and senior officers. If there is a local issue that you are concerned about, please do get in touch and I will do my very best to help.

Don't forget – the **Marlborough Area Board** exist to work alongside organisations to make things happen in the community. It provides grants to community groups - community capital grants, youth grants and older and vulnerable adults' grants as well as for highways and footpath improvements. If you have a project or activity that needs funding, then please get in contact and I can help you with the process.

Finally, I would like to say a huge **thank you** to all the Parish Councils across Marlborough East – Savernake, Mildenhall and Marlborough – who along with many other local organisations help ensure we have brilliant places to live.

Caroline Thomas

Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough East

Tel: 07525 934626

Email: caroline.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk