



Meeting	Full Council
Date	21 June 2023
Report Title	Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum - Request for Chippenham Town Councillor representation
Authors	Heather Rae, Head of Democratic Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider whether to nominate a Town Councillor to act as a representative on the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum, an informal group where parish councils surrounding Chippenham meet to share and discuss mutual interests.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Town Council has received background information from the organisers which explains the purpose of the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum and is summarised below:
- 2.2 The forum was originally set up via a motion to the Wiltshire Council Area Board to enable discussion of ideas that were more pertinent to the rural community and parishes and to become a conduit to report to the Area Board. Meetings stopped during the pandemic and there is desire to restart meetings now.
- 2.2 The forum has acted as an information sharing session, a previous example of work is the issue of Chinese lanterns alighting in the rural community and either catching light to crops, or injury to cattle. It is as a result of the work on of the forum on this that Wiltshire Council have banned Chinese lanterns from Wiltshire council owned land.
- 2.3 Other examples peculiar to the rural parishes covered sheep worrying, hare coursing, theft of quad bikes from farmyards etc. A police officer reflected that he could come to a forum meeting and pick up all the intelligence needed over such crimes by attending one venue rather than sending an officer to each parish council meeting.
- 2.4 The forum brings the villages together to network and there are opportunities for presentations on request, previous presentations were received from former Planning Enforcement Officers and Wiltshire Police Cyber Crime.
- 2.5 The Forum has been well attended in the past, with between 25 and 30 attendees from the villages. Meetings are being considered monthly on the third Wednesday evening of the month.

3.0 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE

- 3.1 On 11 May 2023 the Chief Executive of Chippenham Town Council was contacted requesting whether Chippenham would like to be involved in the Forum.

3.2 The Chief Executive and the Head of Democratic Services advised this would be an outside body representation for a Chippenham Town Councillor to attend as a representative if supported by Council.

3.3 If supported, this nomination to an outside body will be considered each year at the annual Council meeting.

4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

4.1 The appointment of a Town Councillor to act as a representative on the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum will contribute to the following corporate priority;

- Play an active role in the future development of the town through collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and our community.

5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no staffing implications.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Councillors to determine whether they wish to appoint a Councillor representative to this outside body.

8.2 If supported, Councillors to nominate a Councillor to this outside body.