Parish Council Unitary Councillor's Report – November 2025

Financial Pressures continue.

The Council reported a forecast overspend of £6.6 million for the 2025/26 financial year, representing about 1.3% of its £527 million net revenue budget. The main pressures continue to be in adult and children's social care, driven by complex care needs and inflationary costs. Additional challenges include changes to Employers' National Insurance rates, impacting short-term and emergency care contracts. To address this, the council is implementing the following measures:

- Managing staff vacancies and restricting non-essential spending.
- Accelerating savings planned for future years.
- Using earmarked reserves, including funds from Public Health and Adult Social Care grants.

The council is legally obliged to deliver a balanced budget and is implementing rigorous cost-control measures.

Council leaders have been engaging residents through consultations on spending priorities, acknowledging the tough choices ahead. Positive highlights include income from leisure services and garden waste collection, which help offset pressures.

Focus on Area Boards

Youth work, nature conservation, and digital skills events are among the many community projects being supported by Area Boards across the county.

One of the schemes supported by the BoA Area Board (bradford-on-Avon, Winsley and Westwood, and Holt), is a partnership with 'Mighty Girls' to reintroduce street-based youth work. Youth workers engage with young people aged 11 to 18 to learn about their needs and how they use public spaces. Their feedback is shared with community partners and guides future planning by the local Youth Network.

I am also delighted that we have been able to support the Freshford Community Farm project with a grant.

Here is the latest report from the BoA Area Board **-** Bradford on Avon Area Board Grants - Wiltshire Council - 19.11.2025

Transport and Infrastructure Updates

Several temporary traffic orders and roadworks have been announced for December, including resurfacing and utility upgrades across the county. Resurfacing work on Winsley Hill and the repainting of signage under Limpley Stoke bridge will begin on December 1st.

Flood Defence Investment

Wiltshire Council approved a £800,000 increase in funding for the Chippenham Avon Project, raising its contribution from £1 million to £1.8 million. Though the focus is on Chippenham, it is expected to benefit communities along the Avon downstream. This project aims to reduce flood risk by replacing ageing infrastructure with rock weirs. The project also aims to unlock up to £16.2 million in central government funding through match-funding rules.

Campaign to give local residents greater say in the setting of speed limits.

As part of this campaign, I submitted a question to the November 13th, Environment and Select Committee. The response from David Bullock, Head of Highways Projects was very encouraging indeed. My follow-up question and the subsequent response is at the link below at 5.20 minutes - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBEckl9yGcw

Season's Greetings everyone!

Nigel White, Unitary Councillor for Winsley and Westwood ward

November 27th, 2025